UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Tuesday Nov 28, 2017        2 – 3 p.m.  Wilson 2-257

Council in Attendance:
John Borkowski (Sciences)   James Becker (Health & Human Development)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)  Robert Rydell (Letters)
Dennis Aig (Arts)    Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)
Kathryn Bills (Student Representative)  Marc Giullian (Business)
Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)   Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)   Tena Versland (Education)
Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

Also in Attendance:
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)   Amanda Brown (Graduate School)

Absent:

Meeting started at 2:02 pm

October 31, 2017 minutes
• Livingston Moves, Menalled second, unanimous approval

Announcements
• Update: Faculty Senate (Babcock)
  o Doctoral Program Prioritization is on FS agenda tomorrow (11/29/17)
• Student Rep Bills: letter writing event today to write letters to Senator Daines regarding the proposed tax plan; also a walk-out planned for tomorrow when students will walk downtown to deliver the letters to Senator Daines’ Office
• Dean Hoo: send Provost Award choices to Dean Hoo

Old Business
• Review PhD Enhancement announcement for clarity (Al-Kaisy)
  o Item #2 in the announcement mentions recruitment—this award is not to be used for recruitment; announcement will be revised
• Committee Co-Chair policy proposal (Hoo), handout
  o Dean Hoo asking to revise policy to reflect co-chairs as equals rather than having a chair and co-chair
  o Multiple co-chairs possible (min of two if no chair)
  o Q: Who makes the decision about composition?
    ▪ In theory, faculty on committee and student make decisions together
  o Concern raised about removing possibility of chair and co-chair together
    ▪ Concern about “credit” for chairing committees
    ▪ More seasoned faculty members assist younger faculty members by co-chairing; the younger faculty member chairs the committee
Q: Have you heard instances where the co-chair is doing the “heavy lifting” while chair does less?
   ▪ Yes, when co-chair is the research faculty and student is supported from their grant
Q: Concern: if interpersonal issues come up with the committee, having co-chairs could hold up the student because there is no clear “leader”?
Q: What is drawback of keeping both options: 2 co-chairs or chair plus co-chair?
Could be faculty resistance to new policy if there is elimination of chair plus co-chair option
   ▪ The discussion showed support for multiple options
Student Rep Bills notes that some of her ESCI peers would benefit from having two co-chairs but echoes concern of being guided by more than one person if they are not in agreement
As MSU moves toward more interdisciplinary programs, this issue needs to be addressed—finding a mechanism that provides most flexibility is important
Suggestion: keep existing option in policy (chair or chair & co-chair) and add option for multiple co-chairs w/o explicit chair
   ▪ General agreement from Council
   ▪ Giullian moves, Rydell second, unanimous pass
   ▪ Effective spring 2018

**MAT proposal (Livingston)**
- Education's written responses to UGC's questions given to Council
- Does Council have additional questions/concerns/comments?
  ▪ Concerned about creating a program that is NTT-based/driven; not in the best interest of students or MSU in general (potential loss of tenure lines)
  ▪ Concerned about resources
    - Suggestion—resource conversation is better left to upper administration
  ▪ Classroom/face to face time while student-teaching in the presence of other pre-service teachers is a concern
  ▪ Master of Arts in English Education proposal entered into CIM today; potential duplication of programs? Might want to review new proposal before moving MAT Education proposal forward
  ▪ Structure seems similar, both online
  ▪ Dean Hoo asks to take both proposals to the deans of L&S and EHHD, if they think they are unique and different enough to proceed, then UGC will proceed
  ▪ Q: What is the total reach/overlap of this program/content areas and which Deans need to be involved?
    ▪ Aig moves that Dean Hoo takes two proposals to deans of L&S and EHHD, Rydell second, unanimous approval
    ▪ Comment: Education's plans to educate people who are already tied to these rural/underserved communities is a real merit to the program

**Graduate Faculty Status (Borkowski)**
- Graduate School Dean and staff left the room so Council could perform private vote on whether or not to continue pursuing the issue.

Adjourned at 3:03pm

*Next scheduled meeting – spring 2018 TBD*