UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Monday, April 8, 2019  2-3pm  ABB 145

Council in Attendance:
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)
Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Sobia Anjum (Student Representative)
Nicolas Yunes (Letters & Science)
Yujian Wang (International Programs)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Tena Versland (Education)
James Becker (Health & Human Development)
Susan Cohen (Letters & Science)
Leila Sterman (Library)

Also in Attendance:
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Emily Peters (Graduate School)
Donna Negaard (Graduate School)

Absent:
Robert Rydell (Letters & Science)
Ron Larsen (Interim Dean of The Graduate School)
Sara Mannheimer (Library)
Eric Austin (Faculty Senate)

Meeting started at 2:05 pm

March 25, 2019 minutes
• Motion to approve made by Aig, 2nd by Yunes, unanimously passed

Announcements
• Faculty Senate update (Austin): absent
• Graduate School update
  o Graduation update: one-credit extension students able to walk; full-term summer students with certain extenuating circumstances (i.e. international) able to walk
  o New Dean announced: Craig Ogilvie, starting August 1st

Old Business
• Reporting of Comprehensive Exams requirement, proposal revisions (Larsen)
  o Edits in progress – new version hopefully up for vote at next meeting
Q: Separate dissertation document – deadline for student to submit thesis to committee?
   • A: two weeks prior to defense

- IIP Proposals
  • 3 completions, all positive; waiting for 1 last review

New Business
- Strategic Planning
  • All units on campus tasked with aligning strategic plan with MSU
  • Grad School is asking for input from UGC
  • Q: Goal 1.1. addresses undergraduate education?
    • Many graduate students teaching undergrads – relates to stipends
  • Q: More professional master's and doctoral offerings – what is meant by the doctoral programs? Not the conventional research based degree?
  • Send comments/questions to Dean Larsen

- Graduate Certificate in Climate Science Teaching Program Proposal (Livingston)
  • Review of proposal
    • Certificate built around existing courses (some changed from 591)
    • Note: all courses (listed on page 4) have gone through the Courseleaf system
    • Some course review comments date back to October 2016 – courses have been vetted and strengthen by these comments/questions
  • Open discussion:
    • Faculty Senate has been discussing some concerns of new programs that come from existing courses with no added resources
    • Try to make the most out of existing resources – don’t see harm in that; certificate that improves professional resume, advancement
    • This certificate came from a demand/interest
    • Good point that administering all of these certificates could gradually lead to need for additional resources – hard to later advocate for resources
    • Suggestion: maybe projected increase in enrollment and additional faculty/administrative time predicted should be made part of the proposals
    • MSSE unique program – all online; trying to do stackable credentials, increasing in popularity
    • Q: Is a certificate a recognizable credential for these students?
      • Already teachers, broaden expertise – more marketable
      • Teaching certs: can count credits into a master’s degree
      • K-12 salary systems based on credits – so certificate helps with raises
      • More demand, same resources; administratively more work adds up, and there is a potential reallocation of demand (i.e. more students enrolling in certain classes)
      • This program is shared between MSSE and ATO
      • Easier to get approved if don’t ask for resources, until it builds up – long term consequence to consider
  • Livingston will add resource concern and write a letter to forward to faculty senate

- Full Time Equivalency (Negaard)
  • Graduate School policy for full-time graduate student is 9 credits
A question that frequently comes up is: how many credits required for full-time?

- Answer always depends on “for what”?
- Different entities have different requirements (e.g. veteran status, loan repayments, family housing, fellowships, Fulbright, international, departments)

- Idea is to add full-time equivalency language to Graduate School policy
  - Example: international student in 6 credits plus a TA/RA appointment is equivalent to full-time

- Will try to draft policy over the summer—would like UGC’s input before summer

- Many students go over the minimum requirements
  - Example from Anjum (a Fulbright student): enrolled in 3 additional credits each semester to meet 9 credit minimum, but now Fulbright doesn’t want to continue paying because she’s already reached the 60 credit minimum in her 4th year

- Blue form – exception: health concerns, graduating, appointed as a TA or RA

- Policy as flexible as possible to meet the different funding sources, etc.

- Suggestion: add clause for Fulbright students doing research like an RA

- Q: What do other campuses do?
  - A: Plans to research policies on other campuses

- Goal is a policy that other entities can refer to – outlines Graduate School definition of full-time equivalency

Adjourned at 2:50 pm

Next scheduled meeting – Monday, April 22, 2019. 2:00 – 3:00 PM in ABB 145.