February 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

**Council in Attendance:**
Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Lisa Davis (Letters & Science)
Tricia Seifert (Education)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Bradford Watson (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Sara Mannheimer (Library)
Que Vo (International Programs)

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

**Absent:**
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)

**Motion to approve:** By Wittie, 2nd by Seifert, unanimously passed

**Announcements**

- **Graduate Dean update**
  - Funded scholarships: 46 food scholarships, 26 childcare scholarships
  - Applications up across the board (40% increase for summer & fall)
  - Memo sent to department heads regarding GRA stipends
    - Feedback that departments appreciate seeing a national measure

- **Faculty Senate update (Watson)**
  - The 3 policies associated with the faculty handbook returned to JAGS for revisions
  - Faculty expressed concern regarding final exam periods: 16-week fall schedule set with no common hour exam periods
    - Can speak to your college representative to share feedback
Old Business

- **Co-convening Policy Discussion**: policy subcommittee reviewing
  - Send any suggestions to the subcommittee

- **Certificates in Crop Breeding & Biotechnology and Plant Disease**
  - Sent feedback and update on co-convening policy to proposer: no response yet
  - Discussion on how to proceed with certificates given co-convening discussion
    - How to balance increasing programs and resources constraints
    - Option to partner with other universities – review of how this is used in existing programs
    - Co-convened courses take an extensive advising effort
  - Dean Ogilvie will request a meeting with the proposer

- **Accelerated Certificates (policy language)**
  - UGC had first reading of draft before winter break
  - Review: updated language of current accelerated process (for master’s) to include certificate programs
  - Key policy question for Council: approved accelerated process for master’s programs allows 12 reserved credits for master’s, should this maximum also be allowed for a certificate?
    - Students could potentially reserve enough credits as an undergraduate to obtain a graduate certificate
  - Q: The proposal says student should elect one term after student completes undergraduate degree to apply to certificate?
    - A: Current student system does not allow a student to be UG and GR at the same time. To apply to be in accelerated program, the application must start one semester after graduate as UG.
    - Certificate would be conferred one semester after they receive bachelor’s degree
  - Q: What if someone meets graduate certificate requirements, but doesn’t finish UG degree?
    - A: The student wouldn’t be admitted to the graduate program if the UG degree isn’t conferred
  - Financial aid implications – important for advisors to discuss
  - Reviewed time to degree benefits of accelerated options
  - Giulian motions that the Graduate Council support the Graduate School’s articulation that students may reserve up to 12 credits for an accelerated graduate certificate
    - Second by Seifert
    - Motion passes: 9 in favor; 0 opposed
  - Graduate School staff will update the accelerated website

New Business

- **MENG-Civil Engineering & MENG-Environmental Engineering, Level II Proposal**
  - Significant change for the department to offer this option: no thesis requirement, coursework only route for students looking for advanced knowledge/career advancement
  - Delivery mode not mentioned
Including a typical program of study might be helpful
Suggest citing data for student demand
Does the MENG degree allow professional certification in Montana?
- Can clarify with proposer, but understanding is that the degree would allow for licensure
- Does this type of degree open or close different professional doors versus MS degree?
These proposals are to add options to an existing MENG degree. Other options exist in mechanical, electrical, etc.
- Proposer could clarify the exact degree title: Master’s of Engineering in Engineering with options in Civil Engineering or Environmental Engineering
Discussion on what leveling courses would entail
- Listing base pre-requisites may be helpful
Will this be ABET accredited?
- Understand ABET accreditation to be mainly for undergraduate programs, but can ask proposer
Learning outcomes could be strengthened: expand upon “understanding”
Opportunity to grow with existing courses, but increased headcount in existing courses does put additional workload on faculty
- These courses are not enrolled at maximum level – have capacity
- What is the current enrollment in these courses?
Where are the students coming from?
- Some MSU undergraduates, various 4-year colleges that don’t have an ABET accredited program but have related science programs, international students
Committee is not clarified – who will advise these students?
Page 4: Independent Study course number should be 592 (not 589; 589 is a prohibited course)

Adjourned at 10:28 am

Next scheduled meeting – February 17, 2021 WEBEX