

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

February 3, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

WEBEX

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)

Meeting started at 9:01 am on WebEx

January 20, 2021 minutes

- 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
 - Giullian 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