

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

May 2, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WEBEX

Council in Attendance:

Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Michael Brody (Faculty Senate)
Jane Mangold (Agriculture)
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Hannah McKelvey (Library)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Eric Austin (Political Science)

Absent:

Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)
Math and science representative (Letters & Science)

Meeting started at 10:02 am on WebEx

April 18th, 2022 minutes

- Motion to approve by Aig, 2nd by Windchief, motion passes: 8 pass, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

Announcements

• **Update from the Dean**

- 3MT competition on 4/27; 2 winners from 3 colleges who held competitions in the fall competed; students did wonderfully
- Research doctorates
 - 78 new students matriculating, 38% of offers (205 offered of 654 applicants). Ratios are lower than historical numbers
- Master's
 - 304 matriculating, 59% of offers (511 offered of 1182 applicants)
- Q: Is there any data about faculty attrition over the last two years? Could inform ratio issue?
 - Could be. Dean Ogilvie doesn't have easy access to that data, but may explain lower offer rate. Doesn't explain acceptance rate—more likely housing.

- Dean sending survey out to declined offers to find reasons
 - Jason Carter, VPR, announced investment in GS appointments \$500,000
 - Adding to base for PhD Enhancement Funds and to Completion Grants
 - Funding delta grants—if faculty money runs out and student must GTA to complete, Carter will fund difference between GRA and GTA
 - Will put extra weight on humanities and social sciences in these areas
 - Q: Do you think that will ease some of the housing issue?
 - Unclear, but any effect will be 10s of students, not 100s of students
 - Discussing housing design with Dean of AA that would house faculty and students (with private spaces but “collision” points as well)
 - Thank you to Chair Livingston for his many years of service on UGC as a member, Vice Chair, and Chair
 - Thank you to member Dennis Aig for his many years of service.
- **Faculty Senate update (Brody)**
 - Jennifer Thomson (Agriculture) chair-elect for FS

Old Business

- Age of courses (& time related policies handout connected)
 - Removed 590/690 separate time limit
 - Removed phrase “terminal masters” and used “MFA” instead as the MFA is our only terminal master’s at this time
 - Slated to start, if approved, in 2024—gives students two years to complete program before new Age of Courses is enforced
 - Time related policies (comps)
 - Removed online doctorate language because we don’t have one at this time
 - Changed timing comp completion is required to counting by semesters (8th semester deadline)
 - Added language to require comps for research doctorates (missing policy)
 - This negates current Age of Defense policy which states time between comps and defense cannot exceed 5 years
 - Q: Is the comps validity timing (valid 4 years from completion) in conflict with the 7 years for age of courses? (adds up to 8 if complete in 8th semester then valid for 4 years)
 - Age of Courses is course-based so courses can “age out” one by one
 - Q: is the comps age open to appeal?
 - Yes
 - Q: Does the comps policy have language about appeals?
 - Lists birth of a child or military service. Doesn’t have other appeal language.
 - Should add it?
 - All policies can be appealed
 - Should we send out annual reminders about Graduate Policy and knowing they can appeal?
 - Chair Livingston calls for motion

- Motion to approve by Wittie, Mangold 2nd. Motion passes: 8 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. Moves to Faculty Senate/JAGS
- Certificate in Indigenous Food Systems program proposal
 - Livingston sent UGC questions to proposers and they updated CiM entry
 - Letter of support from College of EHHD attached, when receive letter from College of Ag, will add it
 - Addressed UMontana's graduate certificate in indigenous knowledge and environmental sustainability. Connected ideas but Indigenous food systems is distinct topic.
 - Q: Are there other examples of certs that stretch across so many colleges? The management of the certificate?
 - HHD rep: foundation between these ideas is already built because of undergraduate program in sustainable foods (collab between Ag and EHHD)
 - Will be housed in NAS
 - Chair Livingston calls for motion, noting waiting for a letter of support for CoAg
 - Motion to approve pending letter of CoA from Tarabochia, Dunlop 2nd. Motion passes, 8 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain
- Certificate in non-profit leadership and administration program proposal
 - Livingston sent UGC comments to proposer and edits uploaded to CiM last night (Council doesn't have revisions for this meeting)
 - Eric Austin, proposer from Political Science, in attendance
 - Austin has reached out to local nonprofits (HRDC, Montana Conservation Corps, Haven) and all three have been willing to write letters of support indicating that the content and approach for the cert is appropriate and consistent for workforce/meets their staff needs
 - Working to bolster course offerings, identifying courses around campus (e.g. Ag Ed program planning course, Industrial Systems Management rubric program management course) that fit with the program but would help distinguish it from certificate at UMontana
 - Meeting scheduled with counterpart at UMontana to talk over proposal next week
 - Q: is program still delivered online?
 - It is a mix. About half of the courses delivered during the regular academic year in person, summer courses online.
 - Q: Can you speak to overlap with UMontana?
 - Market will not be saturated by two certificate programs in this topic
 - Their cert is structured around 2 credit courses, which doesn't fit into master's programs as easily.
 - Proposed MSU cert is built to fit into existing MPA program at MSU
 - UMontana is trying to use online offerings and MSU proposal is not
 - Q: Proposal was uploaded yesterday. Do you anticipate any other changes?
 - Adding in courses, letters from local non profits
 - Substantively, nothing else envisioned
 - Dean Ogilvie: timing doesn't work for a vote at UGC today, but wouldn't be on FS agenda until fall. UGC can plan to vote at first meeting in fall.
 - Thanks to proposer Austin for all his work on the proposal

New Business

- Grad Policy Approval Process revision with Provost input (flowchart document); informational item
 - Main changes: some UGC items might need Academic Council approval before reaching Graduate Policies and some UGC items might be reviewed by entire Faculty Senate, not just subcommittee JAGS
 - Comment from Faculty Senate: was involved in these revisions and want to review the process after approx. 6 items have gone through this procedure; expect to put these items (from UGC votes) into the process in the fall and reevaluate midway next academic year
 - Q: Is this workflow similar to those used at other research universities?
 - Dean Ogilvie: perhaps not. Conversations at WAGS about it, got the sense most Grad Councils had broad autonomy
 - Follow up to faculty senate: do you know if committee looked at workflow at other universities?
 - FS: Doesn't know.
 - Could we ask for that to be examined?
 - Dean: yes
 - Q/comment: Possibly the cost of this workflow is autonomy but if we look at other universities, is their autonomy more on paper or in action? Are their policies messier? What does it mean for UGC to have autonomy? This is just the nature of interconnectedness of a graduate school. Maybe this gives the opportunity to insist on speed of working through the process or requiring better justifications. Should shared governance flow both ways? Could be good outcomes.
 - Comment: could be seen as overly prescriptive but benefit could be more communication with campus about changes. If process doesn't take too long, could be great exercise in shared governance.
 - Q: What's the frequency of JAGS and Academic Council meetings?
 - JAGS once a month
 - Academic Council once a month
 - Follow up: are their agendas so full that they don't make it through their items?
 - FS: JAGS agenda gets very full with policies in spring semester— faculty handbook policies have scheduled reviews
- Catherine Dunlop new UGC Chair in fall 2022
 - Vice Chair needed and will be addressed at start of fall semester

Adjourned at 11:31 am

Next scheduled meeting – Fall 2022 TBD