

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

April 18, 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)

Absent:

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

Meeting started at 10:02 am on WebEx

April 4th, 2022 minutes

- Motion to approve by Tarabochia, 2nd by Wittie, motion passes: 7 pass, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

Announcements

- **Update from the Dean**
 - Concern about research doctorates due to recent recruiting cycle—information not yet complete
 - 547 apps, 65 (or 12%) joining campus in fall
 - This small number will jeopardize future R1 ranking
 - Two factors
 - Reduction in number of offers, 59% of research doctorate applicants were denied admission
 - Reduction in acceptance of offers, currently at 35%
 - Two years ago, about 25% of research doctoral students who applied would join the campus in the fall; 50% were offered admission and 50% accepted.
 - Dean Ogilvie will investigate this further with departments

- Comment from member: Seems like Grad School has had trouble convincing higher admin of housing/etc barriers to grad admissions. Without focus on infrastructure, these numbers would be hard to change.
 - Dean Ogilvie plans to continue to work on increasing stipends and working with administration on housing and other avenues to increase admissions acceptance rates
 - MSU looking to lease a number of rooms from private apartment complex Stadium View Apartments (would be 200 beds/
 - Would like to survey students who turned us down
- **Faculty Senate update (Brody)**
 - Vote on faculty responsibilities on Wednesday. Will go into faculty handbook. Not many changes
 - Office hours non-negotiable: 3 hours in office with door open every week
 - Q: what is this hourly requirement based on?
 - Provost Office originally wanted 2 hours per course offered
 - Three hours motivated by experience, input from faculty
 - Dept heads have complained to Provost that faculty are not coming into the office
 - Q: What does non-negotiable mean?
 - If voted into the handbook, it will become policy
 - Q: College of Ag has faculty with TT extension appointments. Does this apply regardless of appointment?
 - If TT faculty, this applies
 - Popular course offered by Honor's College under review re: can course be offered in the future due to discipline? Should it be offered in department instead? Art-focused course. Art department feels course is below 100-level and Honor's College offers at 400-level.
 - Public comment is always available if a faculty member wants to give feedback

Old Business

- Age of courses
 - Tabled for now. Working to simplify before presenting to Grad School; plan to be ready for next meeting on 5/2/22
 - Feedback: computer science faculty received most recent proposed policy well
- Certificate in Indigenous Food Systems program proposal
 - Livingston sent UGC questions to proposers and they responded
 - Courses used toward master's at MSU? NAS faculty concerned online offerings might reduce enrollment in their in-person classes in NAS program. Or it could be a pathway to increase enrollment in master's programs. —ongoing discussion and nothing concrete yet
 - No mention of other master's program
 - Support for proposals from tribal communities? Info included in new sections on page 10 & 11 (process leading to submission)
 - Credits of courses and how to distribute? Included page 7 & 8 program details. Proposal shows two options after meeting with Registrar, Grad School, and Grad Council:
 - 3 cr spring, 3 cr summer, 6 credit fall

- 6 credit fall, 6 credit spring—this option more complicated with start/end dates, N grades, financial aid
 - How graduates with this cert might engage with Native American and other rural communities? Included in needs section pg 4 & pg 5 institutional fit
- Q from Faculty Senate: Cert is proposed as collaborative between three colleges and cites a growing focus on indigenous foods. Is it appropriate to ask for letters of support and explanations of collaboration?
 - Yes, requesting letters would follow usual practices
 - Would they need expert help from other depts/colleges? If yes, is that available?
 - Other responses to question: the model they are trying to use is innovative and cert is tapping into land knowledge external to university, so perhaps not the kind of knowledge the College of Ag courses would typically offer. Causes hesitation to ask for letters because perhaps not pertinent to this particular proposal
 - Letters could say just that: that they are not the experts in this model
 - Buffalo Nations Food System Initiative is housed in College of EHHD
- Q from Educ: are tuition waivers available (Montana Indian Waiver)? This proposal is built on WINHEC (World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium) accreditation NAS just went through—only predominantly white university with this accreditation
 - Not sure there are tuition waivers but there was discussion about waiving extra registration cost if it ends up being 3 courses instead of 2
 - Any waivers a student qualifies for could be used
- Q from FS: UMontana may be concerned because of their MS in Environmental Studies with a focus in Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Sustainability
 - Because this is a level I, not level II, it does not go to Board of Regents
 - BoR in CiM workflow—may be an FYI in workflow and not an approval step?
- Q from FS: Have budget concerns been sorted out? Comment from approver David Eitle on 10/21/21 when he rolled it back.
 - May have been a position change since then
 - Michelle Miley approved for CLS in February 2022—took over from Eitle in that role
- Q: Has College of Ag had discussion about this?
 - Ag rep: have not heard any
- Livingston will send feedback to proposers
- Certificate in non-profit leadership and administration program proposal
 - Livingston sent UGC comments to proposer and they are working on it

New Business

- Not discussed

Adjourned at 11:02 am

Next scheduled meeting – May 2, 2022