

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Rm. 155, Administration Building

Attending: Rich Bellon, Joanna Bosse, Sekhar Chivukula, Andrew Corner, Jan Eberle, Andrew Finley, Louise Jezierski, Richard Miksicek, Matt Pontifex, Traci Gulick for Steve Shablin, Jiahao She, Emily Tabuteau, Antoinette Tessmer, Janette Vani

Absent: Ewurama Appiagyei-Dankah, Giles Brereton, Marcos Caballero, Kathy Forrest, Anna Krupka, Sheng-Mei Ma, Louis Rolland, Steve Shablin, Elizabeth Webster

The agenda was approved.

The minutes were approved for March 15, 2018.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Miksicek reported on a decision by the University Steering Committee and University Council to impanel an Ad Hoc committee to review and revise the Bylaws of MSU Academic Governance, with the goal of greater empowerment of University standing committees and increasing the nimbleness with which academic governance can respond to internal and external challenges confronted by the University. Chairperson Miksicek also reminded committee members that UCUE would be welcoming next year's members to the committee and selecting committee leadership for the upcoming academic year. Chairperson Miksicek and Vice-Chair Pontifex will be rotating off the committee at the end of the current semester; therefore, he invited and encouraged members to submit nominations for each of the leadership roles.

Comments from the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Associate Provost Chivukula provided updates on various initiatives. The target first-year enrollment for Fall, 2018 is 8,200. We are working with colleges and departments to provide enough seats for needed courses. The new "Go Green, Go 15" campaign has begun, targeting summer and Fall, 2018 enrollment. The "SERU" has been deployed – student experience at a research university survey, and would appreciate help in encouraging students to respond. As part of preparation for a new Student Information System, we will be undertaking a review of academic policies to see whether there are some that we should consider revising in light of "best practice."

Request to Change the Admission Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Actuarial Science (Action Item)

Keith Promislow, Chairperson, Mathematics, College of Natural Science
Vince Melfi, Associate Chair, Statistics, College of Natural Science

The committee granted voice to Drs. Promislow and Melfi.

Drs. Promislow and Melfi presented information regarding the request to Change the Admission Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Actuarial Science.

After a lengthy discussion, UCUE detailed the following concerns:

- The first item included the two questions above regarding the math entrance requirement (MTH 132, MTH 133, +/- MTH 234, and minimum grade in each course or minimum grade point average in all courses).
- We would make the same suggestion to change “ ... or equivalent for transfer students.” to “ ... or equivalent course.”
- We would recommend clarifying the timing of completion of the Actuarial exams by saying “ ... before August *prior* to the year of admission into the degree program.” [Item 1.a and 1.b of “additional criteria”] “August of the year of admission” could be the August before, or the August after being admitted to the program.
- Consider changing “Passing an MSU screening which involves satisfactory performance in an interview with the Director ...” to “Satisfactory completion of an oral examination.” [or something comparable describing the screening protocol that is currently in practice]
- Under Item 8 (Source of Budget), strike out “New Funds” in Internal reallocation, College reallocation, ~~New Funds~~” so that this is consistent with “No new funds will be necessary for the implementation of this change.”
- On page 4 of 9 of the PDF, in the parenthetical remark, consider the following strike out: “ ... the new criteria in this proposal ~~for the second screening~~ are reinforced compared to current criteria.” [does the AS program in fact perform a “second screening?”]
- since the AS program requires completion of LB 220 or MTH 234 or MTH 254H [page 6 of 9 of the PDF], this would be another reason to justify the language “... a minimum grade of 3.0 in MTH 132 and MTH 133 and MTH 234 or equivalent course” within the admissions requirements.
- since CSE 131 is no longer an option [page 7 of 9 of the PDF], CSE 231 can be moved into course grouping k: "All of the following courses (19 Cr) ... ", permitting you to drop course grouping l (which previously included CSE 131 or CSE 231).

Voice was removed from Drs. Promislow and Melfi.

This request was tabled by UCUE (4/12/18) for the Department of Mathematics to consider the above suggestions.

Request for a New Bachelor of Science Degree in Quantitative Risk Analytics (Action Item)

Keith Promislow, Chairperson, Mathematics, College of Natural Science

Vince Melfi, Associate Chair, Statistics, College of Natural Science

The committee granted voice to Drs. Promislow and Melfi.

Drs. Promislow and Melfi presented information regarding the request for a new Bachelor of Science program in Quantitative Risk Analytics.

Committee members had the following similar concern regarding admission requirements:

- A minimum average grade of 3.0 in MTH 132 and MTH 133 or equivalent for transfer students.

After discussion, the above concern prompted the following two questions:

- Is the intention to consider grades in two courses (MTH 132 and MTH 133) or three courses (MTH 132, MTH 133, and MTH 234)?
- Is the intention to require a minimum grade of 3.0 in each course, or a minimum grade point average (in all of the courses considered together)?

UCUE's comments included: a) inclusion of MTH 234 could potentially delay admission of some students into the QRA major, especially if an individual minimum grade of 3.0 in this course is required and a student potentially needs to complete the course to hit the 3.0 benchmark. b) requiring minimum grades of 3.0 in three separate courses sets a higher bar than requiring a minimum grade point average in the same three courses, or perhaps a 3.0 average for only MTH 132 and MTH 133.

One member further suggested changing "... or equivalent for transfer students." to "... or equivalent course.", in other words deleting "for transfer students" and adding "course". In the case of transfer students, the arbiter for "equivalence" is ultimately the department, and the transcripts for transfer students who have completed these requirements will show completion of MTH 132 with a grade of (T) on their transcript; it will be up to a program administrator to determine if the (T) grade is 3.0 or above based on the student's scanned transfer transcript. Also, the term "equivalent course" encompasses LBC and HC course equivalents such as LB 118 and MTH 152H, whereas "equivalent for transfer students" would not, necessitating the listing of all Calc I and Calc II equivalent courses if the intention is to accept them all.

Voice was removed from Drs. Promislow and Melfi.

This request was tabled by UCUE (4/12/18) for the Department of Mathematics to consider the above suggestions.

Request to Change Admission to the College in the Eli Broad College of Business (Action Item)

Kathy Petroni, Associate Dean, College of Business

Brittany Frost-Doherty, Administrative Assistant I, College of Business

The committee granted voice to Associate Dean Petroni and Ms. Frost-Doherty.

Associate Dean Petroni presented information regarding proposed changes for admission to the College. Changes include: students must apply for college admission by April 1 for a fall semester admission or by November 1 for a spring semester admission. Discussion for the admission change also included the completion of one course from the University's Tier 1 writing requirement: WRA 101, WRA 195H, LB 133, MC 111, MC 112, or RCAH 111.

Voice was removed from Associate Dean Petroni and Ms. Frost-Doherty.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Change Admission to the College in the Eli Broad College of Business.

Request for a New Minor in Photography (Action Item)

Peter Glendinning, Professor, Department of Art, Art History and Design, College of Arts and Letters

The committee granted voice to Professor Glendinning.

Professor Glendinning stated the reason for the request is to offer students an opportunity to gain foundational knowledge of the concepts, vocabulary, and methods of the discipline of Photography without requiring the upper level studies associated with concentrating in the field as a major.

After discussion, it was agreed that with the approval of the department and college that administers the student's degree program, courses used to satisfy the minor may also be used to satisfy the requirements for the Bachelor's Degree.

Voice was removed from Professor Glendinning.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request for a New Minor in Photography.

**Renaming “No Preference” to ‘Exploratory Preference’ (Discussion Item)
Jim Lucas, Assistant Dean, Global Education**

Assistant Dean Lucas reported that MSU has proposed changing from “no preference” to “exploratory” as the coding for students who come to MSU without a specific major in mind. The name reflects best practice in the field, and mirrors what about half of the Big Ten Academic Alliance are doing. “No preference” carries a potentially negative perception, and the intent is to create a stronger culture around it being okay to “explore” options. Evidence presented at the University Innovation Alliance suggests that students in a strong exploration program leads to fewer major changes. UCUE members expressed support for this change.

Roundtable

Andrew Corner reminded members that he is the Athletic Council representative and invited members to share any relevant concerns with him.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.