

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, February 8, 2018
10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Board Room, 4th Floor Administration Building

Attending: Ewurama Appiagyei-Dankah, Rich Bellon, Joanna Bosse, Giles Brereton, Sekhar Chivukula, Andrew Corner, Jan Eberle, Kathy Forrest, Louise Jezierski, Anna Krupka, Richard Miksicek, Matt Pontifex, Louis Rolland, Katherine Ruger, Steve Shablin, Jiahao She, Emily Tabuteau, Antoinette Tessmer, Janette Vani, Elizabeth Webster

Absent: Danny Caballero, Sheng-Mei Ma, Robert Richardson

The agenda was approved.

The minutes were approved for January 25, 2018.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Miksicek had no comments.

Comments from the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Associate Provost Chivukula stated that in response to the current institutional crisis, Deans of the Colleges have met numerous times to help determine how best to move forward to facilitate positive cultural and organizational change at the University. Interim President Engler met with all of the Deans on February 5 voicing dedication to the University and agreed that a cultural change was necessary.

Request for a New Bachelor of Science Degree in Statistics, Advanced (Action Item)

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

The committee granted voice to Dr. Melfi.

Since the two requests are similar for the advanced degrees in Statistics, Chairperson Miksicek stated that the requests would be discussed together, however voted on separately.

Dr. Melfi stated that the Statistics major has been increasing in size and interest. A large number of students are going on to graduate school in Statistics or are preparing for positions requiring more in-depth knowledge in mathematics and computation than what they currently provide. Therefore, a proposal for an advanced degree is being requested.

A discussion took place focusing on the difference between a BA and BS in advanced Statistics and also the difference between a regular bachelor's degree in Statistics versus an advanced degree. There was a suggestion from UCUE to call the program, "Analytical Statistics" opposed to "Advanced Statistics."

Voice was removed from Dr. Melfi.

This request was tabled by UCUE (2/8/18) for the Department of Probability and Statistics to consider the following suggestions:

- a) to amend the introductory section (under section 1a, background information) to clarify differences between the various degrees offered by the Department of Probability and Statistics, in

particular to describe differences between the BS and BA degrees in Statistics, and the differences between the corresponding Statistics and “Advanced” Statistics degrees. The goal is to provide clarity and transparency for students who are deciding between these various options.

b) to clarify the honors/advanced curricular experience that will be part of the advanced degrees. This may be implemented by offering a new course, or senior thesis, among other possibilities, but probably can’t be accomplished by requiring completion of an Honors Course or an H-option by students who are not members of the Honors College.

c) to consider a minor change in the name of the program, such as “Analytical Statistics” rather than “Advanced Statistics” to avoid unintentional denigration of the existing Statistics degrees.

Request for a New Bachelor of Arts Degree in Statistics, Advanced (Action Item)

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

Similar to the BS request, this request was tabled by UCUE (2/8/18) for the Department of Probability and Statistics to address the concerns noted above. In addition, the department is encouraged to consider whether there is need and demand for both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in “Advanced” Statistics.

Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Bachelor of Science Degree in Computational Chemistry (Action Item)

Steve Poullos, Senior Specialist, Chemistry, College of Natural Science

Chrysoula Vasileiou, Senior Specialist, Chemistry, College of Natural Science

The committee granted voice to Drs. Poullos and Vasileiou.

Dr. Poullos stated this program has been in moratorium for four years and he is here today to request the discontinuance. There has been no enrollment in ten years. Dr. Poullos stated that the primary faculty member who taught Computational Chemistry courses has retired.

Voice was removed from Drs. Poullos and Vasileiou.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Bachelor of Science Degree in Computational Chemistry.

Request to Change the Admission to the College Requirements in the College of Engineering (Action Item)

Neeraj Buch, Associate Dean, College of Engineering

Amanda Idema, Director of Undergraduate Affairs, College of Engineering

The committee granted voice to Drs. Buch and Idema.

After a lengthy discussion, this request was tabled by UCUE for the College of Engineering to consider the following concern:

- a) To reconsider the proposed admission requirement for “a minimum grade of 2.0 in all mathematics courses” versus other options (such as minimum grades in specified courses), and how this relates to equivalent credit that is not earned by completing MSU coursework,

such as through dual enrollment programs, calculus advanced placement, and math transfer credit.

Voice was removed from Drs. Buch and Idema.

UCUE members raised concern that such a standard might be applied inconsistently for students pursuing admission to the College of Engineering, advantaging some students and disadvantaging others, and that this might also create a different standard of admission for MSU students compared to transfer students, as well as for MSU students seeking to game the system by finding an easier path towards admission to the College of Engineering. Committee members feel that, in the interest of transparency, criteria for admission need to be clear, precise, and consistent.

Request to Change the Graduation Requirements for All Majors in the College of Engineering (Action Item)

Neeraj Buch, Associate Dean, College of Engineering

Amanda Idema, Director of Undergraduate Affairs, College of Engineering

The committee granted voice to Drs. Buch and Idema.

Dr. Buch stated that this request is not for something that is changing, however it is to align the graduation requirements with the degree requirements.

Voice was removed from Drs. Buch and Idema.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to change the Graduation Requirements for All Majors in the College of Engineering.

Roundtable

There were no items discussed at Roundtable.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.