

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

Attending: Rich Bellon, Andrew Corner, Deb Dotterer, Jan Eberle, Kathy Forrest, Katie Gray, Traci Gulick for Steve Shablin, Mark Largent, Richard Miksicek for Gina Leininger, Sheng-Mei Ma, Norbert Mueller, Salim Nuhu, India Plough, Robert Richardson, Katie Ruger, Jiahao She, Emily Tabuteau, Antoinette Tessmer, Elizabeth Webster

Absent: Stephanie Cohen, Mary Juzwik, Mary Ann Laboe, Gina Leininger, Steve Shablin, Janette Vani

The agenda was approved as amended by switching agenda item numbers 7 and 8.

The minutes were approved for September 6, 2018.

The minutes were approved as amended for October 4, 2018 to indicate Benjamin Oberdick attended for Elizabeth Webster.

Comments from Chairperson Bellon

- There is interest in revisiting the academic calendar, a fall break, and a three-week term before the start of Spring semester are under consideration.
- The targeted start date for block tuition is Fall, 2019. There are currently three committees working on block tuition called Academics, Data/Research, and Students. Open meetings will be held in Kedzie hall allowing for input to the committees. It was noted that lifelong learners, Nursing, and Agriculture Technology credits are not included in block tuition.
- The University Committee on Academic Governance has been reviewing the bylaws for academic governance. A minor proposed change to UCUE's bylaws will replace "consult with the Provost" "advise the Provost." Another proposed change to the bylaws addresses the process to adjudicate disagreement between UCUE and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Current bylaws give the committee and the Dean shared responsibility to advise the Provost. If the Dean and the Provost do not agree with UCUE, the proposed new language mandates UCUE to seek the advice of Faculty Senate.
- The College of Arts and Letters requesting the establishment a Department of African American and African Studies to replace the existing Program in African American and African Studies (AAAS).

Block Tuition Update, Rich Bellon, UCUE Chairperson (Information Item)

Chairperson Bellon stated that he has been in consult with Renata Opoczynski, UIA fellow and project leader for block tuition. Chairperson Bellon stated that items will be coming through UCUE for advisement and approval, such as the drop/add policy and the repeat credit policy. There was confusion over the number of repeat credits allowed and Deb Dotterer volunteered to follow up with Dr. Opoczynski to make sure the correct number is being used in documentation. Chairperson Bellon stated Dr. Opoczynski will attend UCUE in the coming months to provide updates regarding block tuition.

Comments from the Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Largent:

- Benefits and timeline of block tuition were discussed. It was noted that all other Big 10 Universities are using block tuition except MSU and Nebraska. More than half of the public universities in Michigan are using block tuition.
- The University is moving forward with implementation of a new Student Information System (SIS). Two vendors were given serious consideration: Workday (cloud based), and Oracle (mainframe). Due to limitations from Workday, Oracle was chosen as the vendor who will provide MSU with a new SIS. Consultants as well as existing MSU employees will be used for implementation with an effective date of January 1, 2019.

Request to Change the Graduation Requirements (CORE) for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Lyman Briggs College (Action Item)

Rob LaDuca, Chair, Educational Policy Committee, Lyman Briggs

The committee granted voice to Dr. LaDuca.

Dr. LaDuca stated that the Physics Department wants to ensure that every physics course has a laboratory component with it. A loophole currently exists allowing students to graduate without this and approval of the Request will close the loophole.

Voice was removed from Dr. LaDuca.

The following motion was approved as amended.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Change the Graduation Requirements (CORE) for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Lyman Briggs College and requested that Item #19 on Program Request form be completed.

Request for a New Minor in Race and Ethnicity in the United States (Action Item)

Walter Hawthorne, Associate Dean, College of Social Science

Mindy Moran, Associate Professor, College of Social Science

The committee granted voice to Associate Dean Hawthorne and Associate Professor Moran.

Associate Dean Hawthorne indicated the College of Social Science is requiring every student to complete an approved 15-credit interdisciplinary minor and 3 credits of experiential learning. Each minor must include 9 credits in Social Science and 6 credits outside of the College. The new minor would be administered by the Department of Anthropology in collaboration with the Department of Sociology.

A discussion took place regarding the choice of ENG 350, 352, and 354 being offered opposed to 351, 356, or 360. Associate Dean Hawthorne indicated that the College does not want to replicate other programs such as Chicano, Latino, and Jewish studies. This minor is meant to be distinct from other minors with a broad focus on race and ethnicity, rather than a particular track. Seat availability was also considered when choosing courses to offer.

It was noted on page 3, item #4 that the capstone course, ANP 330 was listed as “Race, Ethnicity and Nation”. However the same course on page 18 was listed as “Race, Ethnicity, and Nation; Anthropological Approaches to Collective Identity.”

Voice was removed from Associate Dean Hawthorne and Associate Professor Moran.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request for a New Minor in Race and Ethnicity in the United States.

ASMSU Research: Can Economics be a STEM major? (Discussion Item)

Jiahao She, ASMSU Representative

Katherine Gray, ASMSU Representative

Mr. She and Ms. Gray indicated that they are asking for feedback regarding if Economics could be considered a STEM major. They indicated that economics focuses on the systemic study of math and statistical analysis of economic problems. Also, international students with non-STEM degrees can work in the US with OPT (optional practical training) for one year; with STEM degrees, they have an additional two years. These two extra years make international students more competitive for H-1B skilled worker visas as well as give them a leg up in the process of work authorization.

A discussion took place with some UCUE members in agreement that Economics could be investigated to be considered a STEM major. Interim Associate Provost Largent indicated this request should come to UCUE from the academic department.

If a change such as Economics becoming a part of a STEM major, the following items were noted:

- Coding for majors can affect reports required by the federal government as well as financial aid;
- A report could indicate that MSU is graduating more STEM majors and less Social Science majors;
- How would this change affect international students?
- If approved for Economics students, what about Business students?

It was determined that the Office of Planning and Budgets (OPB) needs to work with the Department of Economics for further consideration. Interim Associate Provost Largent agreed to contact the Department of Economics and the OPB to consider this change for Economics. It was noted that Steve Hanson, Dean, International Studies and Programs, should also be included in this discussion since this change would affect international students.

Roundtable

Jan Eberle stated that the addition for the College of Music is underway.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.