

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, April 11, 2019

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

Board Room, 4th Floor Administration Building

Attending: Rich Bellon, Andrew Corner, Jan Eberle, Kathy Forrest, Mark Largent, Gina Leininger, Helen Mayer, Norbert Mueller, Steve Shablin, Emily Tabuteau, Antoinette Tessmer, Colleen Tremonte, Scot Yoder, Matt Zierler, Matt Raven for Robert Richardson, Leah Morin for Elizabeth Webster

Absent: Stephanie Cohen, Deb Dotterer, Katie Gray, China Gross, Sheng-Mei Ma, Salim Nuhu, Katie Ruger

The agenda was approved as amended to switch item numbers 8 and 6.

The minutes were approved for March 14, 2019.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Bellon referenced an email he had received from Philip Strong, interim Dean of Students. A student had complained about being required to be a research participant for one of their professors.

A discussion followed on ways in which students can volunteer to be research participants by self selecting into a research study, if it is acceptable for faculty to require students to be research participants, and how informed consent is utilized for students involved in research.

It was agreed that this topic would be carried over as an agenda item into the 2019-20 academic year.

A UCUE member brought up the fact that the library is open 24 hours however there is no parking on campus between 2:00am – 6:00 am. Chairperson Bellon indicated he is on the University Committee for Libraries and would bring this issue up to the committee for discussion.

Comments from the Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Interim Associate Provost Largent indicated the SIS implementation is moving forward. Steve Shablin reminded members that MSU has chosen Oracle People Soft for the new SIS and is working with Sierra Cedar as its implementation partner. Sierra Cedar is currently working with various departments determining how to map software into existing business practices.

Nominate UCUE representative to Athletic Council

A brief discussion was held on the responsibilities of the representative to the Athletic Council. Although Andrew Corner has held this position the last two years, he was nominated and accepted to continue in this capacity. Seven Athletic Council meetings are held during the academic year on Thursdays from noon - 1:30pm. It was noted that the Athletic Council Bylaws are currently under review.

Request to Change the Admission Requirement for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology (Action Item)

George Harnick, Professor, College of Education

The committee granted voice to Dr. Harnick.

Dr. Harnick stated this change is to move KIN 173 into the admission requirements in order to provide students with a strong knowledge base before they are admitted into Kinesiology.

Voice was removed from Dr. Harnick.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Change the Admission Requirement for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology.

Request for a Moratorium Extension on Admission to the Italian Disciplinary Teaching Minor for Secondary Education (Action Item)

Carmen De Lorenzo, Professor, College of Arts and Letters

The committee granted voice to Dr. De Lorenzo.

Dr. De Lorenzo is requesting the extension for additional time to study data from the Italian consulate and MSU's College of Education to determine the feasibility for this minor.

Emily Tabuteau suggested the State Department of Education no longer recognizes this minor and it should be discontinued. It was agreed to Table the minor in order to give Dr. DeLorenzo time to determine if the State of Michigan has discontinued it. UCUE asks that she report back at the next meeting being held on April 25.

Voice was removed from Dr. De Lorenzo.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education Tabled the request for a Moratorium Extension on Admission to the Italian Disciplinary Teaching Minor for Secondary Education.

Request to Change the Graduation Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degrees in the College of Natural Science (Action Item)

Janae Lawler, Director of Academic Advising, College of Natural Science

The committee granted voice to Ms. Lawler.

Ms. Lawler stated the request is to eliminate a redundant college graduate requirement. Under the heading, "Graduation Requirements," a request is being made to remove the following, "the following credit distribution requirements: A maximum of 67 credits in courses offered in a single curriculum division of the college., i.e., Biological Science or Mathematical Science or Physical Science." Ms. Lawler explained that CNS students meet this requirement by fulfilling other graduation requirements so there is no need to specify it.

Voice was removed from Ms. Lawler.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Change the Graduation Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degrees in the College of Natural Science.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Charge to Hub

Interim Associate Provost Largent stated that Provost Youatt and ASMSU has requested that faculty governance discuss a replacement for the Student Information Rating System (SIRS) instrument.

Jeff Grabill, Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning, and Technology spoke with UCUE regarding best practices for the evaluation of undergraduate teaching and referenced that this is a faculty issue whether or not they would like to discuss a replacement for SIRS. If faculty decide they would like to move forward to find a replacement for SIRS, the Hub will support their decision and assist in finding a replacement. Interim Associate Provost Largent suggested the Hub could forward recommendations to academic governance after working with content professionals and doing literature reviews. A lengthy discussion including the following items:

- Although most of MSU uses the SIRS tool, many other evaluation tools are used across campus, therefore creating inconsistent results;
- Associate Provost Grabill suggested that there should be more than one tool used to evaluate teaching and there is no one perfect instrument;
- Students want to access SIRS data. It is personnel data and not classroom data, therefore students cannot have access to it;
- Implications of SIRS being part of a tenure review;
- Different colleges have different evaluation needs;
- Could a uniform evaluation tool be used and additions made based on each college?
- The purpose of evaluating teaching is to make teachers better.

A motion was made stating:

UCUE endorses a University level examination of Student Rating of Instruction and recommends the participation from relevant government bodies including the University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE), the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS), the University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA), and the University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT) to participate in this examination and asks for recommendations from this examination.

The motion was approved with 1 abstention from Colleen Tremonte, James Madison College.

Change to University's Policy on Repeating Courses

Interim Associate Provost Largent discussed the University's policy on repeating courses. Currently, MSU has a Pass/Repeatable system. This is defined as the following: students pass a class, students pass and then repeat a class, or students fail a class. If a student receives a grade of 2.0 or above, they are currently not allowed to repeat the course. A discussion was held regarding the issues involved with

students failing a class on purpose in order to receive a grade below a 2.0 in order to be allowed to retake the class and be admitted to a secondary college that requires a higher grade than a 2.0 for certain colleges.

A discussion was held on the following points:

- Seat availability for classes with a high repeat rate;
- Retaking courses under the Flat Rate Tuition policy;
- Segregating students who want to retake a class vs. the students who are taking the class for the first time;
- Students with limited financial resources repeating classes.

It was stated that another reason for the current policy is because SIS is not able to distinguish between a student enrolling in the class for a second time vs. a student taking the class for the first time. Discussion continued on the capabilities of the new SIS and the need for complex programming.

It was determined that interim Associate Provost Largent will ask campus analysts to determine what students are repeating courses and what courses are being repeated in order to better understand possible changes to the existing pass/repeatable policy.

A motion was made stating:

UCUE endorses the investigation of reforms to policies on repeating courses as part of the SIS modernization.

Open Conversation for UCUE officers for 2019 – 20 academic officers

Chairperson Bellon reminded members that a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will need to be elected at the next UCUE meeting being held on April 25.

Roundtable

There were no items discussed at Roundtable.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.