

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, October 4, 2018

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

Board Room, 4th Floor Administration Building

Attending: Rich Bellon, Andrew Corner, Jan Eberle, Kathy Forrest, Mary Juzwik, Mark Largent, Gina Leininger, Sheng-Mei Ma, India Plough, Robert Richardson, Emily Tabuteau, Traci Gulick for Steve Shablin, Jiahao She, Antoinette Tessmer

Absent: Stephanie Cohen, Deb Dotterer, Katie Gray, Mary Ann Laboe, Norbert Mueller, Katie Ruger, Janette Vani, Elizabeth Webster

The agenda was approved.

Approval for the September 6, 2018 UCUE meeting will be requested at the next UCUE meeting.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Bellon stated that the next University Council meeting will be held on October 16 at 3:15 pm in the International Center. Candidates for the Board of Trustees have been invited. This is a public meeting and all are welcome to attend.

Comments from the Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Interim Associate Provost Largent referenced a recent email from him explaining that MSU's traditional Academic Orientation Program (AOP) will be transitioning to a New Student Orientation (NSO). Mary Beth Heeder, who oversaw AOP for a number of years has stepped down and will be working on projects with the College of Nursing. A team consisting of Niki Rudolph, Heather Shea, and Kyle Carter have been asked to rebuild academic orientation. Existing AOP team members will continue in their role. After August, 2019, a national search will be done for a Director of Academic Orientation. Part of the new orientation will be to engage faculty in the new orientation. The new team will be working in McDonnell Hall.

Representation from Units during deliberation of agenda items (Procedural Item)

Chairperson Bellon asked UCUE members for comments regarding if a curriculum item is being discontinued, is it necessary for a representative from the department to be present at the UCUE meeting? It was noted that a request for a discontinuance would have already been put into a moratorium.

Comments consisted of the following:

- A department is welcome to send a representative, however it doesn't seem necessary for someone to attend UCUE for an item being discontinued;
- Leave the decision up to the department if they would like to send a representative;
- For discontinuances, ask the department to submit a one paragraph reason for the request. If there are questions, the item would be tabled until the next meeting;
- Some members questioned why a department would not want to send a representative. If their request is tabled unexpectedly, this could affect the timing of an action;
- Some members felt department representatives should attend and engage in the University's governance system;
- Ask the UCUE representative from the department related to the request to answer any questions that may arise about the discontinuance.

After discussion, it was determined that in situations of a discontinuance request and moratoriums driven by changes in state education policies, the UCUE Chairperson would request a brief one paragraph

summary from the department explaining the discontinuance. If questions do arise during discussion, UCUE will table the request and invite the unit to send a representative to the next meeting to address them.

Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Bachelor of Science Degree in Earth Science-Interdepartmental (Action Item)

Chairperson Bellon reported that after consultation with the Associate Dean of Natural Science, the College determined that their attendance was not necessary for a discontinuance.

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 Earth Science-Interdepartmental.

Request for Changes to the Admission Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Veterinary Technology (Action Item)

Julie Funk, Associate Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

The committee granted voice to Associate Dean Funk.

Associate Dean Funk stated that today's Request is being done to bring clarity to students, clean up language, align with changes in the undergraduate mathematics requirement, clarify gpa requirements, and correct course designations.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding catalog language and how math and science grade point averages should be represented. UCUE tabled the Request and specifics follow.

In item 1.a.(3), add language on a 2.5 minimum math and science GPA of 2.5 in accordance to the catalog language on p. 4 of 6. The College will review whether this GPA requirement should cover math and science collectively, or if it wants students to have a 2.5 GPA in science and a 2.5 GPA math.

The College will clarify the mathematics requirements.

The College will work to have the classes which fulfill the Tier II writing requirement designated as "W" (writing intensive)

Voice was removed from Associate Dean Funk.

The following motion was Tabled.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education Tabled the Request for Changes to the Admission Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Veterinary Technology.

Request to Change Grade-Point Requirement for the Core Courses required for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication (Action Item)

Ann Hoffman, Associate Dean, College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Vernon Miller, Coordinator, Communication Program

The committee granted voice to Associate Dean Hoffman and Vernon Miller.

Associate Dean Hoffman stated that the current grade point requirements for the Communication degree state that a minimum grade of a 2.0 in four of four classes is required. In order to benefit students and contribute to student success at the undergraduate level, this Request proposes a 2.0 gpa across the classes be considered, rather than a 2.0 in an individual course. Associate Dean Hoffman expressed concern for students who earn a 1.5 in a class and then have to repeat the class to earn a 2.0.

A discussion took place with Sheng Mei-Ma regarding the rationale and logic for some electives.

Voice was removed from Associate Dean Hoffman and Vernon Miller.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Change Grade-Point Requirement for the Core Courses required for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication.

Jen-nien (Ryan) Yang, Assistant Director, Information Technology (Information Item)

Ryan Yang discussed the new Student Computer Policy, effective Fall, 2019. UCUE members expressed concern for students who may have difficulty affording a laptop. It was stated that the cost of a laptop could be covered in funds from financial aid. Also, the Student Computer policy must be mandated in order for students to receive funds to purchase a laptop. Andrew Corner noted that financial aid will cover one computer purchase, however if a student chooses a major that requires a higher level laptop, such as in some majors in the Advertising department, financial aid will not cover the purchase of a second laptop.

Ryan stated that most students come to MSU with a laptop. It was noted that in some classes, faculty expect students to be able to use a laptop during class. The relationship between the Student Computer Policy and the digital learning strategy throughout campus was discussed.

Matt Zierler, Associate Dean, Academic Operations, Honors College

Request for Honors College Representation at UCUE meetings (Discussion Item)

UCUE unanimously agreed that the Honors College should have a representative on UCUE with voice. University bylaws do not allow us to give that person vote. UCUE will begin the process of a bylaw change.

Roundtable

Jan Eberle announced the groundbreaking for the new Music Pavilion building expansion and renovations.

Antoinette Tessmer asked about the impact of the new block tuition model on study abroad. Mark Largent provided an overview of the new model, its history, its rationale, and ongoing efforts to minimize negative impacts on students.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.