

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 7, 2019

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

Board Room, 4th Floor Administration Building

Attending: Brianna Aiello, Alyssa Dunn for Alexandra Allweiss, Glenn Chambers, Andrew Corner, Deb Dotterer, Jan Eberle, Bridget Ertl, Matt Syal for David Gilstrap, Mark Largent, Michelle Mazei-Robison for Gina Leininger, Sheng-Mei Ma, Helen Mayer, Norbert Mueller, Shawna-Marie Nantais, Steve Shablin, Emily Tabuteau, Elizabeth Webster, Patty West, Scot Yoder, Matt Zierler

Absent: Stephanie Cohen, Sejuti Das Gupta, Aubrey Hanes, Tim Morris, Antoinette Tessmer

The agenda was approved with the following changes: replace Kelly Millenbah with Susan DeRosa

The minutes were approved for October 17, 2019.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Corner reported that the Steering Committee met Monday and have circulated revisions to the MSU Bylaws. If you would like to review a copy, contact Chairperson Corner. The revised Bylaws will circulate to University Council in two weeks. President Stanley has named a Provost Search Committee and has hired a search firm. Nominations are encouraged. The Law School will be integrated into MSU effective January 1, 2020. It is unclear how their tuition structure will work in comparison to MSU's existing structure.

Comments from the Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Interim Associate Provost Largent reported on changes being made to the Spartan Advantage program. Currently, the Spartan Advantage program provides institutional aid to approximately 2,800 Pell eligible students who come from the least advantaged families. It was noted that any changes made to the Spartan Advantage program will not affect current students, only new students. A UCUE member pointed out that he has known of Spartan Advantage recipients who send all or part of their award home to their family for their expenses while they couch surf. Discussion continued on interventions to keep the Spartan Advantage money focused on students and their success. It was suggested that the University move to monthly distributions opposed to by semester.

It was suggested that some students may move off campus after their first year because they do not feel a sense of community nor do they feel safe based on their identity and ongoing racist incidents. Identity conscious work was discussed that is currently being done on campus through the Neighborhoods to help students feel a sense of belonging.

It was noted that students who lived off campus their sophomore year vs. students who lived on campus their sophomore year had very different persistence in graduation rates, however their grade point averages were about the same. This could be an indicator that this is not about academics, but more about housing and food security. Discussion continued on how a student's sense of belonging and community affect their success and persistence rate.

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

Ann Hoffman, Assistant Dean, College of Communication Arts and Sciences

The committee granted voice to Assistant Dean Hoffman.

Assistant Dean Hoffman provided background stating that this program was put in moratorium in 2016. Contact was made with all individuals who had left the University without completing the degree to inform them the program will eventually be discontinued. Four students will graduate in December and one student will graduate in the spring. It was noted that students returning to the University after next summer to complete this degree will be moved into the BA in Media and Information and they will not lose credits already earned.

Voice was removed from Assistant Dean Hoffman.

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 Media and Information.

Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Bachelor of Science Degree in Global and Area Studies-Social Science (Action Item) (21)

A representative from the College of Social Science was unable to attend. Chairperson Corner asked for a motion to defer the request until the next meeting. It was noted by Interim Associate Provost Largent that this program has been in moratorium for 2.5 years with no new students in it. After a brief conversation and comments from Emily Tabuteau regarding deferring the request or not, it was agreed to move forward on a vote.

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 Global and Area Studies-Social Science.

Request to Revise the Admission as a Junior requirement to Admission as a Sophomore for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interior Design (Action Item)

Susan DeRosa, School of Planning, Design, and Construction, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The committee granted voice to Susan DeRosa.

Ms. DeRosa provided background on the BA degree in Interior Design stating that is a limited admission program and that currently, students must complete two years of classes encompassing eight specific courses before they can apply. The department is feeling this may be burdensome for the students due to the fact that the courses are very specialized and do not apply to any other program. By moving to admission at 28 credits, this may ease the burden on students having to wait two full years before being able to apply. This Request will change the required courses from eight to five and a student could complete the courses in one year.

A Motion was made stating: In Section 1.a.1., remove item number 1 stating “Completed at least 28 credits” because it didn’t seem necessary. Additionally, renumber items 2 and 3 to reflect items 1 and 2.

Voice was removed from Susan DeRosa.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to revise the admission as a junior requirement to Admission as a Sophomore for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interior Design.

Note, follow up after the UCUE meeting held on 11/7/19: Per a conversation with Joy Speas regarding removing the statement, “Completed at least 28 credits,” Joy stated that the 28 credit statement is a University standard and in order to keep documents consistent, this phrase should remain as is. Susan DeRosa agreed.

Request to Remove the Admission as a Junior requirement for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning (Action Item)

Susan DeRosa, School of Planning, Design, and Construction

The committee granted voice to Susan DeRosa.

UCUE noted that this request comes out of the College of Social Science (CSS), however there was not a representative from CSS in attendance. Ms. DeRosa is an advisor in the College of Social Science and after a brief conversation about tabling the Request or moving it forward, UCUE decided to move forward with the Request and direct questions to Ms. DeRosa. It was noted that the CSS did indeed sign off on the Request. The Request makes this major less restrictive and more accessible to students in order to increase enrollment.

Ms. DeRosa stated that there is no change requested to the content of the degree, however since enrollment has decreased, the College wants to remove requirements including admission as a Junior and secondary admission requirements. It was noted that the College is developing a recruiting strategy to increase enrollment.

Voice was removed from Susan DeRosa.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to remove the admission as a junior requirement for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

Roundtable

Chairperson Corner reminded members of UCUE’s charge regarding the “Adverse Impact of Some Faculty’s Implementation of University-Approved Missed Class Policy” was to review, provide feedback, and forward to the University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA). Chairperson Corner is not yet aware of the outcome and will report back to UCUE when he is informed.

Brianna Aiello stated that ASMSU is hosting the “First Generation Appreciation Week” and the following week Mental Health Awareness week. Ms. Aiello also stated that a bill may be going through University committees this week with ASMSU advocating for mandatory Inclusion Training for faculty, staff, and students on campus.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.