

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, February 18, 2021
10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., via Zoom

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/96531712347>

Passcode: 849464

Present: Brianna Aiello, Rich Bellon, Glenn Chambers, Andy Corner, Corey Drake, Jan Eberle, Richard Enbody, Kathleen Gallo, David Gilstrap, Jonelle Golding, Sejuti Das Gupta, Aubrey Hanes, Kionna Henderson, Aaron Iturralde, Nick Knowles, Mark Largent, Gina Leininger, Sheng-Mei Ma, Chloe Majzel, Dan Manville, Helen Mayer, Justin Micomonaco, Steve Shablin, Tyler Silvestri, Emily Tabuteau, Antoinette Tessmer, Elizabeth Webster, Patty West, Scot Yoder

Absent: Chloe Majzel

The agenda was approved.

The minutes were approved for February 4, 2021.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Corner gave brief comments:

- At the Faculty Senate meeting, President Stanley announced the new Chief of Police will begin on April 1;
- The covid positivity rate on campus continues to decline;
- Many events are happening virtually this month in support of Black history month and women in research;
- Faculty Senate meetings are now being live streamed.

Comments from the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Associate Provost Largent discussed details of the in-person graduation ceremonies that are being planned for April 30, May 1 and 2 that Vennie Gore's office is coordinating. Graduation ceremonies are being designed around current health guidelines. There will be approximately 45 undergraduate ceremonies being held over three days in four different locations, which include Breslin Center, Spartan Stadium, Erickson Hall, and the parking lot between Snyder Philips and the Auditorium. Ceremonies will be held simultaneously in all four locations, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. The Stadium and Breslin Center will have a maximum capacity of 500 people.

Associate Provost Largent reported that MSU is planning to have at least as many courses in person for Sumer, 2021 as have been held during Spring, 2021. Associate Provost Largent stated that he is working with Assistant and Associate Deans within Council of Undergraduate Deans (CUED) to help determine which classes will be held in person, online, and hybrid for Fall, 2021. It is possible that the start of fall classes could be delayed. September 1 is the current start date for Fall semester.

Associate Provost Largent announced the posting of a new position for the Dean of Students. Phil Strong has served as the interim Dean of Students for two years. This position reports to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services. The Dean of Students will manage on and off campus student conduct and academic misconduct. Amy Martin will serve as Chair of the search committee.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Fall calendar and the possible pilot of a fall break. It's possible the calendar committee may be asked to reconvene.

Request for a New Minor in Writing (Action Item)

Casey McArdle, Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies, WRAC, College of Arts and Letters

Kate Fedewa, Assistant Director, Undergraduate Programs, WRAC, College of Arts and Letters

The committee granted voice to Drs. McArdle and Fedewa.

Dr. Fedewa stated that the Request is meant to provide a rhetorical tool kit for undergraduate students across campus and the hope is that this minor will support students interested in sharpening their writing skills and as a result, increase their employability.

The Minor will build on courses already in the professional and public writing major and will add three new courses meant to help students specifically in STEM, business, or public relations examine the rhetoric in their own disciplines. A comment was shared to include in the description that the Minor could also be of interest for students in the performing arts.

A brief conversation was held to indicate in the description that the minor is not available to students in the Writing major.

Voice was removed from Drs. McArdle and Fedewa.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the Request for a New Minor in Writing.

Code of Conduct for Academic Advising Subcommittee Report (Discussion Item)

Justin Micomonaco, Emily Tabuteau

Dr. Micomonaco reported that the subcommittee has met a couple of times and have identified groups to assist in outlining expectations for relationships between students and advisors. The Subcommittee plans to have a draft of a document in a month or so to share with UCUE. The Subcommittee's challenge is to develop appropriate expectations that apply across the eco systems of advising representing diversity of roles and infrastructures within units.

Roundtable

Elizabeth Webster stated that the library has opened another study space in west wing. Social distancing and masking is still required. Also, students must have books paged; you cannot get them from the shelves yourself.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.