

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 5, 2020
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, Deb Dotterer, Corey Drake, Jan Eberle, Richard Enbody, Kathleen Gallo, David Gilstrap, Sejuti Das Gupta, Aubrey Hanes, Aaron Iturralde, Nick Knowles, Mark Largent, Gina Leinninger, Dan Manville, Sheng-Mei Ma, Chloe Majzel, Helen Mayer, Justin Micomonaco, Steve Shablin, Tyler Silvestri, Emily Tabuteau, Antoinette Tessmer, Elizabeth Webster, Patty West, Scot Yoder

Absent:

The agenda was approved as amended with the request to defer item #11 to the next meeting.

The minutes were approved for October 15, 2020 with minor corrections on those present and absent.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Corner stated that the Zoom webcam issue is being reopened and noted RCPD is reviewing the policy for possible revisions. UCUE voted to implement NRC for Fall, 2020, however many groups on campus think this option should be considered past fall.

Comments from the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Associate Provost Largent thanked UCUE members for their service to the University. He acknowledged the pressures everyone is facing such as the election, ongoing social injustices, working from home, children at home instead of a classroom, and other difficulties that families are facing. The “Thank an Educator” effort is being launched by Jeff Grabill’s office and Associate Provost Largent encouraged members to nominate educators for this award.

Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the BS Degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (Action Item)

Lynmarie Posey, Associate Dean, College of Natural Science

The committee granted voice to Associate Dean Posey.

Associate Dean Posey stated this degree has been in moratorium since summer, 2018 and no students have been admitted since spring, 2018. All students in the program have graduated. It has been replaced by the Medical Laboratory Science BS degree which started in fall, 2019. As with the outgoing program, the Medical Laboratory Science degree offers clinical laboratory placements and meets the requirements of a national accrediting body for clinical laboratory sciences.

Voice was removed from Associate Dean Posey.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Phase Out and Discontinue the BS Degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

Request to Delete the Admission Requirement for the BS Degree in Kinesiology (Action Item)

George Harnick, Kinesiology, College of Education
Kristine Bowman, Associate Dean, College of Education

The committee granted voice to Dr. Harnick and Associate Dean Bowman.

Dr. Harnick stated this request to remove the admission requirement is to help reduce barriers for admittance to larger programs and to improve transparency and enrollment flexibility for high demand courses within the department. This change will provide easier access to transfer students and possibly reduce time to degree. Associate Dean Bowman stated that this request removes the secondary admission requirement and the College of Education is in full support of this.

Voice was removed from Dr. Harnick and Associate Dean Bowman.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Delete the Admission Requirement for the BS Degree in Kinesiology.

Request to Exceed 120 Credits Required for the BS Degree in Applied Engineering Sciences (Action Item)

Amanda Idema, Acting Associate Dean, College of Engineering
Laura Genik, Director, Applied Engineering Sciences, College of Engineering

The committee granted voice to Associate Dean Idema and Dr. Genik.

Dr. Genik stated that this request is about a new concentration to Applied Engineering Sciences (AES) and is a broad based engineering degree with a business complement. The department would like to add in a business analytics option to review big data. The business analytics option was delayed since CSME was forming. The department developed a new concentration within AES and now have a choice of six concentrations. The department plans to eliminate a media and information concentration and add in a business analytics concentration which will include a data science minor. One other addition to the curriculum is a 100 level introduction to AES as a profession that is being piloted this semester.

Although a student can graduate with 120 credits, the new addition of a freshman course could push the degree requirements to 121. Credit is generated by the freshman level class and the number of electives students take depends on the concentration they choose.

Voice was removed from Associate Dean Idema and Dr. Genik.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Exceed 120 Credits Required for the BS Degree in Applied Engineering Sciences.

Transcript Substitutions (Action Item)

Chairperson Corner stated that the request that will be coming to UCUE is to concur with the Provost's position that the grade substitution for satisfactory/not satisfactory (S/NS) be implemented for Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021. The rationale for this is that faculty are asking for a type of pass/fail option on SIRS scores and other elements that relate to the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure (RPT)

process. Faculty are feeling pressured due to the burden of the remote environment and challenges in completing their research and are concerned SIRS scores may unfairly affect their RPT status.

Chairperson Corner stated that the Provost's office is likely to give faculty a pass/fail type of option and if the University is implementing this option for faculty, the same should be done for students since they are facing some of the same challenges. ASMSU recently passed legislation that S/NS be implemented as Chairperson Corner has described.

As background, Chairperson Corner explained that the NRC designation takes care of students at the bottom end of the grading scale. This option allows students the option to substitute the designation NRC for a grade of 1.5 or 1.0. The substitution would remove the grade from the student's cumulative gpa, but also eliminate the earned credits. A 0.0 would automatically switch to NRC. The substitution of NRC for any grade would thus be as if the student had not taken the class at all. Last spring, UCUE implemented the S/NS system where students were given the option to elect a transcript designation of "S" instead of a grade anything 4.0 to 1.0, and to elect an "NS" instead of a 0. Under S/NS, grades of 1.5 or 1.0 can be replaced with S, and the credits count toward graduation. That is the system that is being considered to be reimplemented this entire academic year.

A discussion regarding transcript substitutions was held among UCUE members that included these points:

- The University cannot go back to summer 2020 to change grading options.
- There are too many factors inhibiting students to reach their full potential.
- Pre-Med supports this basic idea, however, must think about unintended consequences for higher achieving students who are opting for a pass/fail. Could that be looked upon poorly by the medical community? How will these students be evaluated when applying to professional schools?
- How to verify core competencies are met?
- Faculty will still submit a numerical grade, and this can be used if a student does not want to use the S/NS option.
- A competency flows from a set of courses and not one specific course.
- Detailed guidance is needed for advisors so grading options are used in a student's best interests.
- Equity and consistency is a concern.
- Concerns regarding a grade being changed in error due to a student receiving an Academic Dishonesty Report.
- Due to financial reasons, not all students can afford to retake a course.
- For consistency the Registrar recommends either convert all 0.0s to NS or give the students' the ability to keep the 0.0. From a consistency basis he recommends not using NRC at all.
- Concern re how to relay grading options to students – notification on D2L, emails, FAQ document, social media campaign?

An informal vote was held and there was unanimous concurrence with the Provost's decision.

Military Leave Policy (Draft) (Action Item)

Jim Lucas, Assistant Dean, Global Education, APUE

Patrick Forystek, Coordinator of Veterans Affairs

Assistant Dean Lucas provided a brief overview stating that it has been recognized that MSU's current Military Leave Policy is very vague and leads to confusion between faculty, students, and advisors about what the options are should a student need to leave their studies due to military service. Dr. Forystek reviewed other institutions' policies and determined that most of them are much more robust.

Dr. Forystek referenced a handout and MSU's current one sentence policy. The draft policy that has been presented details short- and long-term orders and provides formal guidelines for accommodating absences. This policy gives students the opportunity to work through different options using the Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) as a mediator in the process.

UCUE unanimously approved the draft policy as presented.

Code of Conduct for Academic Advising (Discussion Item)

Nikunj Agarwal, Environmental Economics & Management student
Shannon Burton, University Ombudsperson
Justin St. Charles, Advisor, Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative
Brianna Aiello, ASMSU

Dr. Burton, Brianna Aiello, and Justin St. Charles provided background and re-introduced a proposal for a Code of Conduct for Academic Advising. The issue was initially brought up five years ago because of disparities in how advising is conducted across campus and the power dynamics that exist between professors and students. It was noted that this issue belongs with UCUE because under University bylaws we have a shared responsibility with the Dean of Undergraduate Studies to consult with the Provost on advising and counseling for undergraduate students and programs.

Due to time limitations, this issue was deferred to the next meeting.

SIRS Replacement (Subcommittee Report)

Scot Yoder, Associate Dean, Residential College in Arts & Humanities

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

Roundtable

There were no items shared at Roundtable.

Submitted by Lynne Frechen.