

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**University Committee on Undergraduate Education**  
**Draft Minutes**

September 24, 2020  
10:15am to 12:00pm, 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, Mark Largent, Gina Leininger, Dan Manville, Sheng-Mei Ma, Chloe Majzel, Justin Micomonaco, Steve Shablin, Tyler Silvestri, Elizabeth Tabuteau, Antoinette Tessmer, Elizabeth Webster, Patty West, Scot Yoder,

Absent:

The agenda was approved as amended to defer approval of the September 3, 2020 UCUE minutes to the next UCUE meeting.

**Comments from the Chairperson**

Chairperson Corner reported on results of the Academic Calendar Task Force's recommendations for Spring 2021. The recommendations were well received by President Stanley.

Task Force recommendations, as reported, are:

1. Start spring semester on Jan. 11 as scheduled (due to concerns about financial aid disbursement)
2. First two weeks 100% online (until after MLK Day)
3. Instruction in person thereafter if it's safe
4. No spring break
5. Build in several 1-day "study breaks" throughout the semester for mental health
6. End one week earlier than scheduled
7. Allow a full week for graduation ceremonies so they can be small enough to be in person

**Comments from the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education**

Associate Provost Largent reported that the Ingham County infection has dropped to 1.16 from 1.58 early last week. Discussion included how Covid-19 cases are tabulated and reported. It was noted that privacy laws can be problematic to different reporting structures.

Associate Provost Largent stated that the Deans have been asked to prioritize their top three items that need to be in person for spring semester. This is based on students' needs and their academic pathways. It was noted that a good data source regarding the coronavirus pandemic is covidactnow.org which includes county level data and New York times data.

Associate Provost Largent indicated that the University is struggling with an intersection of competing values - privacy and transparency. Although the University wants to hold people accountable for their actions in regard to COVID-19, it is recognized that young people will make decisions not in line with public health needs.

## **SIRS Replacement (Subcommittee Report)**

Scot Yoder provided an update from the SIRS Replacement subcommittee referencing that the five supplementary questions that were added to the Spring 2021 SIRS focused on the transition to remote learning. The subcommittee felt that supplemental questions for Fall 2021 should refer to remote learning and not the transition. Subcommittee members include David Gilstrap, Antoinette Tessmer, Scot Yoder, Corey Drake, and Sejuti Das Gupta.

**A motion was made and approved stating, “UCUE requests that the Office for Teaching, Learning, and Technology reformulate the questions so they are not focused on transition.”**

A discussion was held referencing the urgent need for a replacement for SIRS. Explorance Blue is one system being considered by the Hub.

**A motion was made and approved stating, “UCUE requests that the Office for Teaching, Learning, and Technology seek input from the University Committee on Graduate Studies before adding any supplemental questions to SIRS.”**

## **No Grade-Covid Transcript Substitution (Subcommittee Report)**

Steve Shablin provided an update from the No Grade-Covid Transcript Substitution Subcommittee and referenced a handout describing the alternate grade process, pros, cons, tasks, and a recommendation. Subcommittee members include Steve Shablin, Bri Aiello, Andy Corner, and Kathy Gallo. The subcommittee will be reviewing data on Summer 2019 and Summer 2020 as well as reviewing EASE reports to look at student experiences as it relates to academic process in a remote learning environment and plan to report back to UCUE by mid semester.

## **Zoom/Videoconference Policies for Camera Use**

Associate Provost Largent referenced a memo from interim Provost Sullivan that is a restatement of an existing policy regarding Zoom/Videoconference Policies for Camera Use. The memo was sent as a reminder to the campus community

Although there are times when having the camera on is necessary for assessment reasons, the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) document states that for reasons of equity and privacy, it is inappropriate for a faculty member to force a student to turn on their camera during a class being taught via Zoom.

Associate Provost Largent expects that this policy will be referred to UCUE from the Steering Committee for review and comment. A Subcommittee of Rich Bellon, Aubrey Hanes, and Chloe Majzel was formed in the event the policy is referred to UCUE.

A discussion took place regarding a professor’s intellectual property when a student posts an online lecture without a professor’s permission.

## **Roundtable**

Elizabeth Webster stated that the main library will be open from 9am to 5pm starting Monday, September 28. Check the library’s website for up to date information.

David Gilstrap reported that the help line for IT Services continues to have very long hold times.