

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**
April 19, 2011

Present: Chair William Ruff (EDUC), Vice Chair Warren Jones (ENGR), Bonita Peterson (BUS), Carl Fox (GS), Jane Scharff (NURS), Chris Livingston (A&A), Robert Bennett (L&S-Letters), Yves Idzerda (L&S- Science), Steve Cherry (Faculty Senate). Also in attendance was Donna Negaard (GS).

Meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. in 114 Sherrick Hall.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for March 1, 2011 – moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Open Campus Forum

None

UGC Committee Reports

None

Graduate School Staff Reports-Doctoral Degree Production

- a. While we've increased our doctoral degree enrollment, we haven't improved our degree production.
 - a. There has been some speculation that our research production remains on the rise due to the amount of post-doctoral positions on campus, but that's not necessarily true.
- b. The reasons for this perceived gap are varied.
 - a. Funding is always an issue.
 - b. Other issues include faculty advising and student's personal issues outside of academics.
- c. The university has a great need for data, specifically data for PhD students that don't complete their degrees and leave MSU entirely. These students are the hardest to track.
- d. Departments should have a better idea of which students fall out of continuous enrollment and why.
- e. The program of study deadline may need to be moved up to the student's second semester in attendance.
- f. It will also be beneficial to change students' status to degree candidates once they pass their comprehensive exams.
- g. As a university we should also evaluate our recruitment efforts to bring in top students that are more likely to complete their degrees.
- h. Departmental orientations could also be an opportunity to warn our graduate students of what is expected of them in order to receive their degrees.

WAGS Topics

- a. Ethics training and research was an important topic, especially for grant funded research.
- b. Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning has an NSF research center that is funding teaching assistants to try different techniques in classrooms based on research proposals for modifying teaching techniques. Essentially they're integrating research, teaching, and learning, but they have plenty of funding to do this.
- c. GRE exams are changing.
- d. ETS is marketing a Personality Profile Indicator Index.
 - a. Centralized mechanism for completing letters of recommendation.
- e. Post-Doctoral RCR training at MSU may be lacking in comparison to other universities, but we are satisfying the requirements.
- f. Professional Science Master's degrees
 - a. Master's students in a science field would be able to blend their science degree requirements with professional/business coursework.
 - b. Programs like this generate employees for industry.

Dissertation Credit Requirements

- a. When a student starts a PHD program and has already obtained a Master's degree should they be able to use 28 dissertation credits on their program?
- b. Dissertation credits may vary across departments and the Graduate School is responsible for determining what is appropriate for the degree requirements of each department.

Course and Program Approval Pathways

- a. A variety of structural changes have occurred across campus concerning various committees.
- b. A major role of Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs in particular is reviewing new programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
 - a. One consideration that Academic Affairs is charged with making is that proposals take university resources into account.
- c. How will UGC and Faculty Senate's role change in terms of graduate program approval, as well as new course requests at the graduate level with the university's restructuring?
- d. UGC is immensely beneficial for the graduate office and for all graduate education on campus.

Adjourned 1:58 p.m.

Catherine Dale, UGC Secretary
Division of Graduate Education