

## UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

March 23, 2023

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

President's Conference Room

### Council in Attendance:

Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)  
Jennifer Thomson (Faculty Senate)  
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)  
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)  
Amy Reines (Sciences)  
Sweeney Windchief (Education)  
Heidi Koenig (Student Representative)  
Michael Everts (Architecture)  
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)  
Jane Mangold (Agriculture)  
Marc Giullian (Business)

### Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

### Absent

Arts Representative  
Brian Rossmann (Library)  
Wade Hill (Nursing)  
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)

Meeting started at 10:05 a.m.

### **March 9, 2023 minutes**

- Motion to approve by Warnat, Giullian 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 pass, unanimous pass

### **Announcements**

- **Update from the Dean**
  - April 24<sup>th</sup> GradCat Spring Summit—half-day professional development event hosted by Grad School. Concurrent sessions and a keynote from Bozeman Commissioner Christopher Coburn
  - May 2 Research Celebration, led by Allison Harmon, interim VPRED
    - 3MT (3-minute thesis) competition
    - Research Hero nomination, form on VPR website
  - Dean Ogilvie working with university housing re: where Bozeman rental market is going. Consultants predict annual percentage increase of 2-3% in monthly rent in off-campus apartments immediately surrounding campus
    - University Housing is about half the cost
    - Hopeful the report from the consultants encourages the university to expand university housing

- Off-campus vacancy rates are currently about 2%, the report predicts an increase to 5% when apartments that are currently being built are finished. That the vacancy rate is expected to stay near or below 5% is why the off-campus rent prices are not predicted to decrease
    - Q: What is the current process for determining who gets into university housing?
      - There are waitlists. Dean Ogilvie working for graduate students to get some level of priority on the list
  - Concerned about our LGBTQ+ graduate students
    - Reached out to QSA (Queer Straight Alliance student group) to see if there is anything Grad School can do. Offered them to apply for community-building mini grants
    - Meeting with Graduate Student Leadership Council tomorrow
    - Grad School printing inclusive posters adapted from Library's design to hang in offices—"Grad School is for Everyone"
    - Concerned about campus climate
    - Q: Can we adapt posters for departments?
      - Will connect council with library contact
    - Teach-in 4-10pm tomorrow, ASMSU is the contact
- **Faculty Senate update (Thomson)**
  - Considered text for a resolution on solidarity or speaking out against threats
    - Text was crafted with assistance from President's Office, Legal, and Communications Director
    - Statement on behalf of the faculty of MSU
  - Received updates on Sustainability Plan

## Old Business

- Appeal policy language (policy committee update)
  - Plan to have a document to vote on at next meeting
  - Working on flow charts based on OIE charts
- Learning outcomes for credits such as professional paper, thesis/dissertation credits (curriculum committee update)
  - Starting document soon
- Non-Profit Certificate, level I proposal
  - A lot of communication with department proposer and new draft of proposal presented
  - Warnat moves to vote, Windchief seconds
    - Discussion ensues:
    - Q: What was result of overlap with Univ Montana concern?
      - No longer a concern
    - 7 approve, unanimous pass
- Draft policy on doctoral qualifier exams, new draft (Ogilvie)
  - Some departments are vocal that they need a way to dismiss if student isn't doing well in the program
    - Draft policy states cannot dismiss *solely* on the basis of the exam but can be used as one data point in a dismissal

- Policy revised to provide more procedure and clarification regarding Academic Warning, dismissal, change from PhD to master's, and notifications
- Q: Are retention and graduation rates part of the strategic plan?
  - Not exactly, number of total degrees awarded are.
- Q: Text in preamble includes suggestion of holistic process for examination. Could that be added in the policy language?
  - Departments are concerned about their autonomy not being encroached upon, adding that language might step into that line
- Q: Should Council add text to page 1 policy unsatisfactory progress “as deemed by the student’s graduate committee” ?
  - Subcommittee will do this
- Q: Has the qualifying exam been defined?
  - No, but language included in proposed policy that states “No student can be suspended from their program [...] based solely on an exam taken between admission and a program’s comprehensive exam.”
- Likely ready to vote at next meeting but may wait to share with graduate coordinators once final draft is ready
- Draft Guidelines in Changing Advisor (new draft)
  - Added/moved privacy statement to top of draft
  - Added links to e.g. Title IX office
  - Dean Ogilvie ready to post to GS website—does not require vote because it is guidelines, not policy

### **New Business**

- Open floor
  - Counseling query why must master’s students wait 6 months to retake comp exam?
    - Time set to protect student
    - Can always appeal

### **Update from Subcommittees**

Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting – April 6, 2023

### Subcommittees

- Policy and Procedures Committee (Hill, Mangold, Everts, Rossman)
- Curriculum Committee (Reines, Warnat, Thomson, Reeves)
- Governance Committee (Dunlop, Giullian, Franklin, Sweeney)
  - Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee