

Approved March 13, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the University Committee on Graduate Studies
February 6, 2017, Chittenden Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room

Participants: I. Wichman (EGR), J. Bradburn (COGS), A. Contreras (CVM), R. Hallgren (COM), T. Hammond (CSS), C. Hogan (BUS), D. Jordan (COGS), A. Kravchenko (CNS), M. Morgan (CSS), A. Nair (BUS), D. Nguyen (COGS), U. Okeke (COGS), K. Poindexter (NUR), L. Schwartzman (CAL), J. Stoddart (TGS), K. Tollefson (CNS), D. Weliky (CNS), G. Wittenbaum (CAS), E. Wong (CED), A. Yadav (CED)

Guests: Blake Williams, Jennifer Gradecki, Rick Horan, Michael Stamm, Christopher Melde, Swarnaval Pillai, Kristi Bowman, Carolyn Loeb, Karen Kangas-Preston

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda as distributed: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
2. Approval of January 9, 2017 Minutes: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
3. Remarks from the Chairperson (Hogan):

No remarks other than noting Terry Curry and Bill Beekman will join us at some point during the meeting to discuss the review of the Research Integrity Officer.

4. Remarks from the Dean of the Graduate School (Stoddart):

Dr. Stoddart noted there have been several questions from students and faculty related to executive orders on immigration. Students should be advised to refer to the latest information on the MSU Office for International Students and Scholars' (OISS) website.

5. Remarks from the COGS Representative (Jordan):

COGS received a significant number of abstract submissions for the 9th annual Graduate Academic Conference to be held Saturday, February 25th. The theme is "The Intersections of Inclusion and Interdisciplinary Research." It will be held in the MSU Union, and Dr. Eva L. Evans, History Maker and former Lansing Public Schools Superintendent, will deliver the Keynote address. Saturday, March 18th, is the 3rd Annual Diversity and Sensitivity Workshop: "Diversity isn't just Black and White." It will be held in the International Center, Room 115. It includes a diverse panel of faculty and staff around MSU. Dr. Chezare Warren will deliver the Keynote address, and the Transforming Theater Ensemble will perform a play on implicit/unconscious bias.

6. University Committee on Graduate Studies Subcommittees

Curriculum and Program Review Committee (Wittenbaum on behalf of Reed):

The subcommittee approved the three curricular items: 7, 8 and 9. The full committee then also voted to approve. Dr. Wittenbaum then presented the current and proposed language related to MSU's policy on transfer of credits from graduate certificate to graduate degree programs. The committee discussed, and the subcommittee will bring back a final proposal to the full committee at the next meeting.

Academic Research Policy Subcommittee (Nair)

The subcommittee has been tasked with considering the process for approval of graduate committee members who are either outside of MSU or are not “regular” MSU faculty members. There was discussion among the full committee about whether there is a need to obtain letters of recommendations for these outside committee members, as is currently required by MSU policy. The subcommittee will consider the input from UCGS to draft a recommendation for our next meeting. The subcommittee has also been tasked with considering whether outside committee members should be required to make conflict of interest disclosures (currently not required under MSU policy). The subcommittee would first like to meet with legal counsel before they discuss further.

Graduate Instruction, Employment, Mentoring Subcommittee (Poindexter)

The GIEM subcommittee also discussed the process for approval of graduate committee members who are outside of MSU or are not “regular” MSU faculty members. GIEM will summarize its discussions and recommendations and provide that summary to the Academic Research Policy subcommittee, which will then bring forth a recommendation.

7. Request to change the requirements for the **Master of Science** degree in **Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics** in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics: *Motion to approve as part of slate recommended by the Curriculum and Program Review Committee, seconded, and carried.*
8. Request to change the requirements for the **Masters of Art** degree in **Literature in English** in the Department of English: *Motion to approve as part of slate recommended by the Curriculum and Program Review Committee, seconded, and carried.*
9. Request to change the requirements for the **Doctor of Philosophy** degree in **Special Education** in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Special Education: *Motion to approve as part of slate recommended by the Curriculum and Program Review Committee, seconded, and carried.*
10. Request to change the requirements for the **Master of Fine Arts** degree in **Studio Art** in the Department of Art, Art History, and Design: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
11. Update on RIO Review: Terry Curry and Bill Beekman
Dr. Curry communicated the results of the 5-year review of RIO officer Jim Pivarnik. Consistent with the semi-annual reviews performed by UCGS, comments overall were positive. Dr. Curry also asked whether a 5-year review process should be formalized and included in the policy, consistent with the approach used for other similar positions and for Department Chairs and Deans.
12. Request to change the requirements **for the Doctor of Philosophy** degree in **Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics** in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
13. Request to establish a **Graduate Certificate in American Studies** in the Department of History: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
14. Request to change the requirements for the **Doctor of Philosophy** degree in **Criminal Justice** in the School of Criminal Justice: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*

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15. Request to change the requirements for the **Doctor of Philosophy** degree in **English** in the Department of English: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
16. Request to the change the requirements for the **Graduate Specialization in Hospitality Business** in the School of Hospitality Business: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
17. Request to establish in the **Residential College in the Arts and Humanities**, in collaboration with the MSU College of Law, a 3 + 3 Option for selected Residential College in the Arts and Humanities students to earn a baccalaureate degree: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
18. Request to change the requirements for the **Master of Fine Arts** degree in **Theatre** in the Department of Theatre: *Motion to approve, seconded, and carried.*
19. Roundtable: The committee briefly discussed the issue of quantity versus quality of doctoral students. The suggestion was made that this issue could be conveyed to Faculty Senate or Steering Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.