

MICHIGAN STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y

Minutes of the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) Meeting 11 15 21

Present:

William Anderson (COGS)
Nancy Costello (LAW),
Cathy Ernst (CANR),
Assaf Gilad (CHM),
Anne-Lise Halvorsen (EDU),
Beth Herbel-Eisenmann (EDU),
Denise Soltow Hershey (NURS),
Gary Hoppenstand (CAL),
Sara Hugentobler (COGS),
Tomas Hult (BUS),
Kyonghee Kim (BUS),
Rajesh Kulkarni (CNS),
Bethany Laursen (GRAD),
Adam Moeser (CVM),
Joanne Riebschleger (CSS),
Tom Sharkey (CNS),
Tyler Silvestry (Academic Governance- James Madison – AG-JM),
Kirsten Tollefson for Thomas Jeitschko (GRAD),
Lily Yan (CSS),
Ben Van Dyke (CAL),
Lorraine Weatherspoon (CANR), and
Tian Zhou (MUS)

Additional:

Taylor Thursh standing in for Tyler Silvestri (AG-JM)

Absent:

Mamoodal Haq (ENG),
Donna Koslowsky (COM),
Bethany Laursen (GRAD),
Alice Puchalsky (COGS), and
Bruno Takahasi (CCAS),

1. Preliminary Matters: The full regular UCGS Zoom 11-15-21 meeting was called to order at 3 PM by Chair Denise Hershey.
2. Approval of Agenda – Agenda was approved.
3. Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2021 (See D2L) – Minutes were approved.
4. Remarks from the Chairperson (Denise Hershey):

- a. Update on the search for the Dean of the Graduate School –Gary Hoppenstand has been appointed to the search committee. He will send draft of the position announcement by January 2022.
 - b. Change in Vice Chair for Spring 2021 – Ben Van Dyke is unable to attend UCGS in spring 2022 as he is teaching during meeting times. Motion by Denise Hershey to nominate Gary Hoppenstand to serve as Vice Chair for UCGS in spring 2022. Motion approved.
 - c. Committee chair, vice chair, and secretary elections for 2022-23 – Reminder that we will need to nominate and vote on UCGS officer positions in Spring 2022 for the 22-23 school year.
5. Remarks from the Dean of the Graduate School Kristen Tollefson for Thomas Jeitschko
- a. The Dean will be looking to UCGS to assess the extent that the current grade policy is sufficient for spring 2022.
 - b. Faculty will be asked to engage in grace, empathy, and leniency in grading as students are still being impacted by Co-Vid 19 continuation stressors.
 - c. The Graduate School will continue to work through coding challenges and other in person or online situations, e.g., coding challenges, graduation applications, university fellowship processing,
6. Remarks from the COGS President: Sara Hugentobler and colleagues said the fall break was appreciated. The group is building a plan for topics to particularly address this year, e.g., academic policies. Noted intra student support as important for having a better experience in graduate education. Denise Hershey and Nancy Costello spoke briefly about mentoring graduate students and the usefulness of mentoring was supported by COGS students attending the meeting.
7. Update from the Academic Dishonesty Policies Task Force: No updated other than to say our current policies seems to be effective. We will likely be looking at this further in the future.
8. University Committee on Graduate Studies Subcommittees Reports
- Academic Research Policy Subcommittee – No actions reported.
 Graduate Instruction, Employment, & Mentoring Subcommittee No actions reported
 Curriculum and Program Review Committee – Tom Sharkey said the committee looked at program changes and recommended the ones that looked minor for blanket approval.
- 9-15. Motion by Hoppenstand approve items 9-15 below. All were approved by a vote of the UCGS members.
9. *****Request to Change the Requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Computer Science***
 10. *****Request to Change the Requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Computer Science***
 11. *****Request to Change the Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree in Health and Risk Communication***
 12. *****Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Graduate Specialization in Judicial Administration***

13. *****Request to Change the Name of the Master of Science Degree in Physiology to Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology***
14. *****Request to Change the Requirements of the Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience and the Law***
15. *****Request to Change the Requirements for the Graduate Specialization in Nonprofit Fundraising***
16. Roundtable discussion included topics of:
 - a. Grading: Discussion items included further affirmation for grace, empathy, and compassion for student grading based Co-Vid associated grief and loss. This means taking this into consideration student circumstances; it does not mean lowering our expectations of student learning outcomes.
 - b. Racism: Discussion of the impact of racism in our society and our need to be vigilant to create a more just society, including within our institution.
 - c. Fall Break: Members said that the fall break seemed to help reduce student stress levels and was “helpful to our students.”
 - d. UCGS Appreciation: Numerous members expressed thanks and gratitude for the effectiveness of the UCGS committee, including continuing collaboration among the members.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at



Joanne Riebschleger, UCGS Secretary

Approved: January 24, 2022