

University Graduate Council  
March 24, 2008  
Minutes

**Present:** K. Klomparens (TGS), S. Cendrowski (BLD Program), L. Keilman (Nursing), C. Zhang (COGS), M. Boyer (COGS), D. Roth-for Jarrod Morrice (COGS), M. Li (CANR), G. Dummer (ED), K. Louerre (MUS), J. Lonstein (Psych), J. Lindquist (RW/CAL), D. Garling (FW), E. Outslay (BUS), F. Rauscher (CAL), C. Petty (ENG), S. Dilley (BUS), M. Chavez (COMM ART SCI), M. Noel (CHM), J. Rowen (COM)

**Guests:** T. Berding (Art & Art History), C. Atkins & M. Barkman (Communications)

1. Approval of Agenda

- Unanimously approved and moved up curricular items as guests arrive

2. Approval of February 25 Minutes. (Attachment)

- Approved without change.
- January Minutes: add name, Connie Zheng (COGS)

3. Remarks from the Chairperson. (Noel)

Faculty Voice 1 Report:

- Matthew Boyer from COGS will serve on a task force
- “Final” proposal will go to April meeting of Faculty Council.
- “Steering Committee” is a new committee
  - No more ECAC starting fall 2008.
  - Different names of University committees
  - Different reporting mechanism for standing committees
  - There will be 1 graduate and 1 undergraduate student on the steering committee.
  - COGS wondering about the “voice” of students

ECAC copyright task force

- Task force will come up with better understanding of copyright issues following recent Cornell University case.
- Anyone wanting to serve on task force, let Noel and/or Klomparens know.

4. Remarks from the Graduate School. (Klomparens)

FYI - \*Request to change the Option in Management of Information Technology to a Graduate Specialization in Management of Information Technology. (February Meeting) – Only went to UCC originally.

- Role on Curriculum includes:
  - Critical mass of faculty
  - Faculty capacity
  - Placement for students
  - Rigor of program
  - Completion rate

5. Remarks from the COGS Representative. (Dan Roth)

- NAGPS Midwest Conference @ MSU last weekend. A good meeting, plus COGS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- New E-Board and elections

6. \*Request to change the requirements for the **Master of Arts** degree in **Communication** in the Department of Communication.

- **Unanimously approved with deletion of one sentence about admissions process**

7. \*Request to phase out and discontinue the **Master of Arts** degree in **History of Art** in the Department of Art and Art History. (Move Up)

- Comment from graduate student voicing hope that things will change in the future, especially with new MSU museum.
- **Unanimously approved**

8. Reports of the University Graduate Council Subcommittees.

#### **Curriculum and Program Review Committee**

#### **Academic Research Policy Subcommittee**

Gail Dummer update on MSU misconduct procedure

- University Counsel raised some issues, so subcommittee meeting on 4/7 will look at revised language
- Anyone interested may attend

#### **Graduate Instruction, Employment, Mentoring Subcommittee**

\*As members of the University Graduate Council we value the contributions made by graduate research assistants (RAs) and graduate teaching-excluded assistants (TEs) to the intellectual environment and scholarly work of MSU. For this reason, we recommend increasing stipends for RA and TE appointments by 2% or the percent increase recommended for faculty, whichever is higher.

In addition, we would like to address the historical discrepancy between

the increase in the minimum monthly stipends awarded from levels 1 to 2, and from levels 2 to 3. For example, in 2007-08, advancing from level 1 to 2 in a half-time position resulted in an increase in minimum stipend of \$127, while moving from level 2 to level 3 resulted in a gain of only \$64.

Since changes made last year, graduate students with seniority and experience are required to pass their comprehensive exams in order to qualify for level 3 positions. We consider this an appropriate time to recommend increasing the change in minimum stipend from level 2 to level 3 to match (\$127 in the example above), in addition to a percentage increase in stipends across the board for RAs and TEs.

- Kathryn Lowerre reported – non GEU students
- **Unanimously approved**

9. UCC and UGC curricular review general discussion (Klomprens)

10. Roundtable

- Zheng – 42 year old COGS student died recently
- Rowan - COM looking to improve research in COM and how to best do that. Any suggestions in creating interdisciplinary research are welcomed.
- Dilley – Concern about proposed organizational chart for faculty governance and how committee structures and purpose will change.
  - a. If bylaws are changed President and Board need to approve.
  - b. How will majority of faculty get to have input or vote?
  - c. Karen will get more info and email everyone. Send thoughts to Mary Noel or Karen.
- Noel – With the expansions MSU will be largest set of medical schools in U.S.
- Potential new med schools in state:
  - 1) Oakland/Beaumont
  - 2) Central Michigan
  - 3) Western Michigan

11. Adjournment. (at 16:20)