

University Graduate Council
May 5, 2008
Minutes

Present: K. Klomparens (TGS), R. Rauscher (CAL), E Outslay (BUS), M Nalla (CSS), W Li (CANR), C Petty (EGR), J Rowan (COM), D Thorne (CNS), J Lonstein (CSS), J Lindquist (CAL), R Campa (CANR), A Segall (ED), M Madan (COGS), G Dummer(ED), M Boyer (COGS), M Chavez (CAS), L Keilman (NUR), S Dilley (BUS), M Noel (CHM), C Zheng (COGS), D Long, (CNS), C. Radcliffe (EGR)

Guest: Jim Pivarnik, MSU Research Integrity Officer

1. Approval of Agenda.
 - Unanimously approved
2. Approval of April 21, 2008 Minutes. (Attachment)
 - Add present: L Keilman (NUR)

Unanimously approved with change
3. Remarks from the Chairperson. (Noel)
 - Thanks for members time and effort
4. Remarks from the Graduate School. (Klomparens)
 - Thanks to everyone for your time
 - Long agenda related to UCAP activities this year. ECAC is asking for UGC input.
 - Clark Radcliff (Engineering)- new UGC member for fall is present
5. Remarks from the COGS Representative. (Boyer)
 - Manish Madan- new COGS president
6. Reports of the University Graduate Council Subcommittees.
 - Curriculum and Program Review Committee**
 - No report
 - Academic Research Policy Subcommittee**
 - No report

Approved 9/15/08

Graduate Instruction, Employment, Mentoring Subcommittee

- No report

7. *ACTION ITEM: voting on officers for UGC 2008-09

Nominees: Ed Outslay for Chair- unanimously approved

Rique Campa for Vice- Chair- unanimously approved

Need: Nominee/volunteer for secretary- will work with new people coming in

8. *Revision of Students' Religious Observance Policy

UGC Input on Proposed Policy:

- KIN - lots of 1 credit courses
 - serious issues related to missing classes
 - so item #3 of proposal specifies that these may count
- Same for lab classes- can't miss!
- Anyone who is "other" required to comply and ID themselves- Christmas not a problem for others –so others get picked on-if another religion
- What counts as "religious observances"? (list can't be exhaustive and include cultural events that are not "religious")
- #3 doesn't recommend one way or the other whether days off for religious observance should or shouldn't count "instructor should use judgment"
- Sekhar (UCAP chair) asked for input by Jan 9, 2009- so there is time to revisit in fall.
- Kim's letter moves towards the UCAP recommendations
- What about similar policies for faculty and staff?
- Any new policy should get to all TAs!
- Not just grades are affected- educational climate may also be impacted (item#1)
- Does this set up an expectation that faculty are required to provide make-up?
Is stated policy strong enough?
- Stronger sentences are 2nd part of each # item
- UGC wait until Fall 2008
 - Maybe an ad hoc group to work on with UCAP?

Approved 9/15/08

- Bring Sekhar to discuss
- Jacob Rowen – motion to approve as written Gail D- second
 - Favor-9
 - Against- 8 (– 9 w/ Mary’s vote)

9. Revision of Policy on the Integrity of Scholarships and Grades

a) input on proposed policy change

- Item #3 New policies- all judicial processes to be report to student’s dean
- Item #5 Hearing board- of college giving course, not student’s college
- Currently no separate grad level hearing/choice (only Assoc Prov for UG hears)

b) should there be an “academic dishonesty grade marker” at grad level?

- “Reduced score” –no, better to use “penalty grade ” as language—it is defined
- Role of dept chair in this process?
- Mandate any and all penalty grade- report to dean?
- Worry about educational implications
 - How do we do learning and let mistakes occur but if not intended- then not accord dishonesty
- Definitions needed for all terms!
- If student accepts penalty grade- can process stop- no need for hearing board?
- Failing grade- different than penalty grade- reportable to dean
- 0.0- doesn’t factor in GPA- if take again! (can give 1.5- goes on record) – or 2.0
- Do we want a penalty grade marker at grad level?
 - Can we hold students accountable if faculty do not understand all the policies?
- Have Sekhar (UCAP chair) come and discuss issues- also invite Stan Soffin in Fall

UGC SUB-COMMITTEE should take up the issue in Fall.

Topics

Where is it covered?

For whom?

Approved 9/15/08

10. UCC “consolidated” proposals for changes in curricula (graduate level)

*Proposal 6 – Allow a maximum of 9 approved credits from the Undergraduate level to be applied to a linked Bachelor’s / Master’s degree program. APPROVED

*Proposal 7 – Redefine the policies and procedures for Graduate Certificates. APPROVED

*Proposal 10 – All a maximum of 9 credits (**AMENDED: 12 in the College of Education) to be transferred from the Graduate Certificate level to a Master’s degree program. APPROVED

*Proposal 11 – Reduce the credits earned in Lifelong Education Status to be transferred to a Master’s degree program from 10 to 9. APPROVED

*Proposal 12 – Allow a combined maximum of 12 credits to be applied to a Master’s degree program from transfer courses, Lifelong Education enrollment status, and the Graduate Certificate enrollment status AMENDED: with no more than 9 credits from each category, except for 12 graduate certificate credits permitted in the College of Education. APPROVED

11. Discussion of the changes on the MSU Procedures for investigating research misconduct (Jim Pivarnik, Research Integrity Officer and Gail Dummer, UGC)

These policy recommendations will be worked on over summer and will be back for a vote in September.

General discussion: from Rauscher: concern that “creative activities” and the word “fabrication” do not mix. Poets and others in the creative disciplines, do “create” documents, dance, music, etc. To make this sound like misconduct treads on academic freedom. Need to focus on plagiarism only for creative arts.

Concern about grad student who bring a complaint....perhaps they should have access to “counsel” to assist them. Not an attorney, but a senior experienced faculty member.

Approved 9/15/08

MSU's broader definition of research misconduct includes serious deviations....good to have higher standards. Some other CIC schools also have this.

12. Roundtable

13. Adjournment.