

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

**Minutes of the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) Meeting 11 21 22**

**Present:**

Anne-Lise Halvorsen (EDU)	Lorraine Robbins (NUR)
Beau Zhang (COGS)	Maria Kloboves (COGS)
Beth Herbel-Eisenmann (EDU)	Noga Morag-Levine (LAW)
Bismarck Amaniampong (COGS)	Pero Dagbovie (GRAD)
Brady Tyburski (COGS)	Rajesh Kulkarni (CNS)
Bruno Takahashi (CAS)	Robert Fowkes (DVM)
Cathy Ernst (ANR)	Tom Sharkey (CNS)
David Barondess (CHM)	Tomas Hult (BUS)
Hannah Jeffery (COGS)	
Joanne Riebschleger (CSS)	
Kyonghee Kim (BUS)	
Liza Potts (CAL)	

**Absent:** Lili Yan (CSS); Mahmoodul Haq (ENG); ANR rep Wynne Wright sent Gail A. Vander Stoep (ANR) as replacement; and Zhihua Tang (MUS).

**Guests:** Aaron McCright (CSS); Bethany Laursen (GRAD); Brian Chadwick (CNS); Emily Durbin (CSS); Gail Vander Stoep, ANR); and Katie Ruger (COM)

**Preliminary Matters:** The full regular UCGS face to face and Zoom hybrid November 21, 2022, meeting was called to order at 3 PM by Chair Anne-Lise Halverson.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Bruno Takahashi to approve the draft agenda. Second by Hannah Jeffery. **Agenda approved.**
2. **Approval of Minutes from 10 17 22:** Motion by Tom Sharkey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hannah Jeffery to approve the minutes. **Motion passed.**
3. **Election of UCGS Chair and Vice-Chair:** With the resignation of Gary Hoppenstand, UCGS needs a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Motion by Joanne Riebschleger to nominate Anne-Lise Halvorsen as Chair and Bruno Takahashi as Vice Chair. **Motion was approved** unanimously.
4. **Remarks from the Chairperson:** Anne-Lise Halvorsen discussed content from the University Council, Faculty Senate, and University Steering committees. The chair recognized changes in the university; with support from academic governance leadership and student leaders, the Board of Trustees appointed Teresa Woodruff as Interim President. Thomas Jeitschko was appointed as Interim Provost Designee.

The *University Council* voted in the Oct meeting to approve amendments to the religious observance policy. Rex LaMore reported on Ethics of University Investments and Sustainability. The Council passed a voting encouragement resolution proposed by Aaron Iturrald, VP for Academic Affairs. Two bylaw amendments passed. There was discussion of Board of Trustee members involvement in day-to-day affairs of the university.

Chair Halvorsen noted that Woodruff and Jeitschko spoke at the *Faculty Senate* meeting in November. The Senate discussed the faculty recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion, and tenure. The Faculty Senate voted to support a request for a new Charles Steward Mott Dept. of Public Health at the College of Human Medicine. There was a report from the University Committee on Curriculum.

The *University Steering Committee* called the Academic Congress into session to consider a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees. This passed 1,719 to 197.

Anne-Lise Halvorsen noted the Academic Governance has been updated with recordings of meetings and related documents.

The Chair thanked members for their work on the UCGS Committee and subcommittees.

5. **Remarks from the Dean of the Graduate School:** Pero Dagbovie noted there had been many recent meetings to deal with the leadership changes across the university. He also thanked everyone at UCGS for their contributions stepping up to leadership positions. He said that the UCGS work is very important.
6. **Remarks from the COGS President:** Hannah Jeffery discussed election of officers at COGS. She also indicated that COGS members expressed complaints of the anti-faculty remarks of MSU Board of Trustee O’Keefe and the racist remarks of Trustee Gaynor.
7. **UCGS Subcommittees Reports:**

*Academic Research Policy Subcommittee:* Subcommittee Chair Tomas Hult discussed communication with the new Research Integrity Officer, Doug Gates and RIO search chair, Charles Cox. He noted that they had asked him to relay their request to meet with the full UCGS committee to work toward stronger partnership.

*Graduate Instruction, Employment, & Mentoring Subcommittee:* Subcommittee chair Beth Herbel-Eisenmann communicated with the attending subcommittee members about the charges and duties of the committee. The chair noted that this group will be working to support pay raises for research and graduate assistants as declared by President Stanley prior to his departure.

*Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee:* Subcommittee chair Tom Sharkey he reviewed and made recommendations for which requested UCGS requested items would be moved to the agenda for the UCGS full committee meeting Nov. 21.

8. **Request to Change the Requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering.** Hannah Jeffery made a motion to approve the minor changes requested. Second by Beau Zhang. **Motion approved.**
9. **Request to Change the Requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Physics** (Brian Chadwick). Brian Chadwick explained admission requirement changes requested. Minor modification is for content shown in item 1.b.2: Replace: “At least 14 credits of 400-level Physics and Astronomy courses...” with the following “A maximum of 14 credits of 400-level Physics and Astronomy courses...” Motion by Tom Sharkey to approve the request with language replacement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hannah Jeffery (with minor revisions to the request). **Motion passed.**
10. **Request to Change the Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Physics** (Brian Chadwick). The UCGS members had questions about course grading, etc. that could not be answered in the meeting. Due to a lack of clarity about this proposal, this request was tabled until the Jan. 2023 meeting. Brian Chadwick with communicate with faculty from Physics that someone from their unit should attend the next UCGS meeting. **Motion tabled.**
11. **Request for a New Master of Science Degree in Basic Medicine Science** (Katie Ruger): Katie Ruger explained that the degree helps those departing the medical school early to qualify for a degree that helps show that they have advanced (graduate) education in basic medicine science. She said that it provides a potential asset for future employment. A capstone assignment is included for the proposed new MS degree. Motion to approve the request was made by David Barondess. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Sharkey. **Motion passed.**
12. **Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Sociology** (Aaron McCright and Emily Durbin). There was a good deal of discussion about this request for a one-year moratorium for admissions to the program. Guests McCright and Durbin said there was a temporary contextual funding issue; the program needs to increase students’ completion of the program that had been delayed by Covid epidemic. Clarification of expectation to run such a plan past UCGS before stopping admissions on SOC website; however, the need to notify potential applicants asap was also noted. Motion by Gail Vander Stoep (replacement for Wynne Wright) to approve the one-year moratorium with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Sharkey (with minor revisions to the request). **Motion passed.**
13. **Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Rhetoric and Writing** (Liza Potts). Liza Potts relayed that the request was for a two-year delay of admissions to the program. She indicated that it was to allow time for major reworking of the curriculum in the 20-year-old program; she called it “time for planning.” UCGS members proposed a modification, saying, “The effective end term should be Summer 2024.” Motion by Beth Herbel-Eisenmann to approve the request with modifications (with minor revisions to the request). **Motion passed.**
14. **Roundtable:** No roundtable discussion items were offered.

15. **Adjournment:** Chair Anne-Lise Halvorson adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Riebschleger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Joanne Riebschleger  
Secretary, University Committee on Graduate Studies

**Approved:** January 23, 2023