

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS)**  
**Meeting February 20, 2023**

**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)
David Barondess (CHM)	Robert Fowkes (VET)
Gail Vander Stoep for Cathy Ernst (ANR)	Tomas Hult (BUS)
Hannah Jeffery (COGS)	Tom Sharkey (CNS)
Joanne Riebschleger (CSS)	Trixie Smith (CAL)
Kyonghee Kim (BUS)	
Lily Yan (CSS)	

**Absent:** Mahmoodul Haq, Cathy Ernst, Bruno Takahashi, Zhihua Tang

**Guests:** Bethany Laursen, Marilyn Amey, Stefanie Baier, Jim Lucas, Nicole Mason-Wardell, John LaPres, Richard Saouma, Wenona Singel, Brendan Cantwell

**Preliminary matters:** Chair Anne-Lise Halvorsen convened the meeting at 3:04 PM.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Hannah Jeffery. Second by Tom Sharkey. Motion passed.
2. **Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2023:** Motion to approve the January 23, 2023 minutes by Rajesh Kulkarni. Second by Kyonghee Kim. Motion passed.
3. **Remarks from the Chairperson:** Anne-Lise Halvorsen thanked UCGS members for their work on behalf of graduate students. The faculty senate is participating in the Presidential search; students are encouraged to participate. The shooting of students on 2/13/23 was traumatizing; students are hurting and grieving. Faculty are reminded to engage in grace and flexibility within course interactions and assignments.
4. **Remarks from the Dean of the Graduate School:** Pero Dagbovie acknowledged the trauma associated with the student shooting and described on call resources. He thanked faculty for their support for grieving students and reiterated a need for grace and flexibility as the semester continues. Pero Dagbovie said he looked forward to the discussion of credit/no credit options in item 18 herein.
5. **Remarks from the COGS President:** Hannah Jeffery thanked the Graduate School for their support for students' grief and loss. She described student responses to the tragedy, including a sense of "What do I focus on? Healing or work?" Hannah Jeffery asked for faculty to be accepting and responsible in assigning GA and course assignments at this time.

6. **Discussion of University Questions on Proposed SIRS Replacement Instrument:** Marilyn Amey, Stefanie Baier, & Jim Lucas reviewed the work to date to develop a SIRS replacement instrument comprised of set of student end of course evaluation questions that could be utilized across the many diverse university units. They asked for feedback on the questions. There was a supportive discussion of the draft questions and how they would be administered.

7. **University Committee on Graduate Studies Subcommittees Reports:**

*Academic Research Policy Subcommittee:* Tomas Hult was unable to attend at the time of the subcommittee meeting discussion. Chair Anne-Lise Halvorsen noted he told her the subcommittee members are ready to work.

*Graduate Instruction, Employment, & Mentoring Subcommittee:* Beth Herbel-Eisenmann said that TA and GA wage negotiations will begin in March. She will update UCGS members at the March meeting.

*Curriculum and Program Review Committee:* Tom Sharkey noted that there were ten program requests to discuss. Items 8 and 9 below proposed minor changes and were existing programs. The subcommittee recommended approving items 8 and 9.

8. **Request to Change the Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Journalism:**

Motion by Beth Herbel-Eisenmann to support the change requirements for item 8 -Graduate Certificate in Journalism and item 9 – Master of Arts Degree in Student Affairs Administration. Support by David Barondess. Motion was approved.

9. **Request to Change the Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree in Student Affairs Administration:**

Motion by Beth Herbel-Eisenmann to support the change requirements for item 8 -Graduate Certificate in Journalism and item 9 – Master of Arts Degree in Student Affairs Administration. Support by David Barondess. Motion was approved.

10. **Request to Change the Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics:**

Nicole Mason-Wardell described changes intended to reduce time to degree completion toward increased program market competitiveness, including added courses and course assignment outcomes to substitute for qualifying exam. Motion by Tom Sharkey to support the revised requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Agriculture, Food, and Resource Economics. Second by Lorraine Robbins. Discussion. Motion passed.

11. **Request for a New Dual Major Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental and Integrative Toxicological Sciences:**

John LaPres provided clarifying information regarding this program request for consistency across the programs included in the proposed new dual major. Motion by Rajesh Kulkarni to approve the request for a New Dual Major Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental and Integrative Toxicological Science. Support by Tom Sharkey. Motion passed.

12. **Request for a New Graduate Certificate in Elements of Global Supply Chain Management:**

Richard Saouma discussed the request for this new one-year, online graduate certificate. He said that students (with three or more years of field experience) can gain further knowledge of global supply

chain management to keep up with changes in the industry. Motion by Beth Herbel-Eisenmann to support the request for a New Graduate Certificate in Elements of Global Supply Chain Management. Support by Hannah Jeffery. Discussion, including editorial suggestions. Motion passed.

13. **Request for a New Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Compliance:** Richard Saouma noted that the certificate can be useful for those who desire stand-alone evidence of increased study in health care compliance, or it can be part of a Master of Science Degree in Health Care Management. Motion by Kyunghye Kim to support the Request for a New Graduate Certificate in Health Care Compliance. Second by Rajesh Kulkarni. Discussion, including editorial suggestions. Motion passed.
14. **Request for a New Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Leadership:** Richard Saouma noted that the certificate can be useful for those who desire stand-alone evidence of increased study in health care compliance, or it can be part of the Master of Science Degree in Health Care Management. Motion by Gail Vander Stoep to approve the New Certificate in Health Care Leadership. Second by Tom Sharkey. Discussion, including editorial suggestions. Motion Passed.
15. **Request to Change the Requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Healthcare Management:**

Richard Saouma discussed proposed changes for the MS in Healthcare Management, including options for including new graduate certificates. Changes proposed are intended to keep the degree up to date with emerging industry skills and regulations. Motion by Tomas Hult to support the request for changes to the requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Healthcare Management. Second by Kyonghee Kim. Discussion. Motion passed.

16. **Request to Change the Requirements for the Juris Doctor in Law:**

Wenona Singel explained the proposed changes to requirements for the Juris Doctor in Law degree. They include updated courses for students completing an Indigenous Law certificate. They include advanced courses in applicable federal laws. Motion by Noga Morag-Levine to support the changes to the requirements for the Juris Doctor in Law. Support by Beth Herbel-Eisenmann. Discussion. Motion passed.

17. **Request for a New Doctor of Education Degree in Leadership for Equity-Minded Change in Postsecondary Education:**

Brendan Cantwell described the need for further development of student skills in policy and practice of organizational, equity-based changes in post-secondary education. Motion by Gail Vander Stoep to support the request for a new Doctor of Education Degree in Leadership for Equity-Minded Change in Postsecondary Education. Support by Beth Herbel-Eisenmann. Discussion. Motion approved.

18. **Discussion of credit/no credit or satisfactory/not satisfactory grading system for graduate courses in Spring 2023:**

There was a lengthy discussion among the UCGS members about offering increased flexibility in course credit and grading options for spring 2023. It was noted that due to the trauma associated with the mass shooting at MSU, undergraduate students taking Spring 2023 courses shall be offered the option to take their courses as credit or no credit. The guiding question was whether this policy should be extended to include graduate students. Student input was especially appreciated as the members explored the potential benefits and challenges of credit or no credit spring 2023 course options for

graduate students. Motion by Tomas Hult to support the following statement: “*UCGS recommends a version of Credit/No Credit for graduate courses in Spring 2023, but the decision needs to be made in careful consultation with students' local units and with flexibility.*” Support by Hannah Jeffery. Motion passed.

19. **Roundtable:** No items for this meeting.

20. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Riebschleger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joanne Riebschleger  
Secretary, University Committee on Graduate Studies

**Approved:**

DRAFT