

## University Committee on Graduate Studies

October 16, 2023

3:00pm-5:00pm

In-Person and Via Zoom

Attendees: Kyonghee Kim, Melissa Del Rio, Kate Metz, Pero Dagbovie, Jeremy Francis, Andre Lee, AJ Robison, Aakash Khandelwal, Kyoo Kim, Beau Zhang, Teresa Dunn, Rob Fowkes, Rita Strakousky, Gregory Fink, Samara Chamoun, Beth Herbel-Eisenmann, G. Tomas Hult, Lorraine Robbins, Tom Sharkey, Maria Claudia Lopez, Rebecca Jacobson, Harkirat Kaur, Sarah Long, Aaron McCright, Daniel Bergan, Mohmoodul Haq, Derrick Fox

### Meeting was called to order at 3:05pm

#### 1. Agenda Approval:

- a. Kyonghee asked for a motion to approve:
  - Samara Chamoun moved to approve.
  - Jeremy Francis seconded.
  - All in favor, no one opposed, no one abstained.
  - Agenda was approved as is.

#### 2. Minutes from October 16, 2023, were approved as is.

- a. Kyonghee asked for a motion to approve:
  - Lorraine Robbins moved to approve.
  - Jeremy Francis seconded.
  - All in favor, no one opposed, no one abstained.
  - Minutes were approved as is.

#### 3. Remarks from the Chairperson (Trixie Smith)

- a. None, Trixie was not in attendance.
- a) Kyonghee Kim filled in for Trixie.
- b) There was a faculty Senate meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> where a resolution was passed. Hard copies were distributed around the room. It is available online in the Oct 17<sup>th</sup> folder. It is about the presidential selection. The key takeaways from the resolution were related to faculty representation in, and being informed about, the presidential search process.

#### 4. Remarks from the Dean of the Graduate School (Pero Dagbovie)

- a. Welcome and thank you to all members who serve on UCGS and continue to work toward the cause of graduate student success.
- b. Please log into the institutional research website to review the data for Fall 2023 for graduate students.
- c. Fall 2023 has 10833 total graduate students. 31% of which are PhD students.
- d. There is an academic affairs meeting this week to talk about PhD education at MSU.

**5. Remarks from the COGS Vice President for Internal Affairs (Samara Chamoun)**

- a. COGS ad full council meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>
- Legislations passed supporting the release of 6,000 Nassar documents.
  - Approved final COGS budget and funding for various programs (such as HIVES, WILD, and GSO events).
  - Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> is second full council meeting.
    - They will vote for the new COGS secretary.
  - Many students are in distress with the wars coming close to home for them. They are advertising resources for students to help support them during these conflicts.

**6. Introductions from Committee Members (All participants)**

- a. Since introductions were done at the last meeting, Kyonghee opted to skip them in favor of getting through the meeting in a timely manner.

**7. UCGS Opening Business (~~Trixie Smith~~ Kyonghee Kim)**

- Committees: several people volunteered for committees, however there are still some openings that need to be filled.
  - 2 subcommittee members for Curriculum and Program Review.
  - 1 chairperson for Graduate Instruction, Employment, & Mentoring subcommittee.
  - UCGS Secretary – whose job it is to prepare the minutes for meetings
- Reminder that everyone must sign up for at least 1 committee. If you haven't signed up for any yet, you will be contacted individually.
- Dean Dagbovie suggested that if no one volunteers for secretary, that the role will rotate through UCGS members each meeting until the position is filled.

**8. University Committee on Graduate Studies Subcommittee Reports:**

- a. Academic Research Policy Subcommittee (Tomas Hult):
- Still need 2 COGS members. They have 5 faculty. Tomas Hult and Lorraine Robbins are co-chairs.
  - COGS members for the subcommittee: Harkirat Kaur and Samara Chamoun
- b. Graduate Instruction, Employment, & Mentoring Subcommittee (TBD):
- No chair yet, previous chair will serve until this position is filled
  - Beau Zhang: the subcommittee did not meet. No report.
- c. Curriculum and Program Review Committee (Tom Sharkey):
- They met via email, considered 2 requests (items 9 and 10 on the agenda) and determined they didn't need anyone from those requests to present. The committee will present information related to those item numbers.

9. **\*\*Request for a moratorium on admission to the Graduate Specialization in Forensic Science in the College of Social Science**
  - a. Tom Sharkey: the program has been abandoned by Social Science and being picked up by Chemistry.
  
10. **\*\*Request for extension on the moratorium granted on admission to the Master of Science degree in Management Studies in the College of Business.**
  - a. Tom Sharkey: this program has been in moratorium since 2020 and it has been removed from the books at this point.
  - b. Kyonghee asked for a motion.
    - Tom Sharkey moved to approve agenda items 9-10.
    - Jeremy Francis seconded.
    - All in favor, no one opposed, no one abstained.
    - Motion passed for items 9 and 10.
  
11. **\*Request to delete the curriculum and degree requirements for the Graduate Specialization in Animal Studies: Social Science and Humanities Perspective in the Department of Sociology.**
  - a. This item was skipped briefly to get to item 12 as Daniel Bergan had another meeting to get to.
  
12. **\*Request to change the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Communication in the Department of Communications.**
  - a. Daniel Bergan: There are two tracks the degree can take. For the career track, they want to add a new concentration for communication analytics and research methods. The requirements would include research methods research data, survey analysis, and neuro behavior communication.
  - b. COM804 (survey design for comm research) would be expanded into a full semester course.
  - c. The topic was opened for questions:
    - Tom Sharkey: will this be something that appears on a transcript? Can you give a one sentence summary?
      - Daniel Bergan: Yes, it will appear on a transcript. This is taking MA students on a track for a more intense exposure to research methods.
  - d. Kyonghee asked for a motion.
    - Tom Sharkey moved to approve.
    - Jeremy Francis seconded.
    - All in favor, no one opposed, no one abstained.
    - Motion passed.
  
11. **\*Request to delete the curriculum and degree requirements for the Graduate Specialization in Animal Studies: Social Science and Humanities Perspective in the Department of Sociology.**
  - a. Aaron McCright: this graduate specialization was started over 10 years ago and most of the faculty who were here to start the program have left or retired.

Sociology does not have the resources to maintain this all in-person specialization and would like to transition it to an online course which would then be available to any bachelorette student.

- b. The on-campus/in-person specialization only had 5-12 people enrolled at a time.
- c. There are only 2 remaining students of which one is set to graduate in December.
- d. Topic was opened for questions:
  - Samara Chamoun: what is the plan for the other enrolled student who is not graduating in December?
    - Aaron McCright: they might be on track to finish up this spring, but they are not needing any more coursework.
  - AJ Robinson: This change will not affect the current students in the program and they will be able to finish up their degree without issues related to the change?
    - Aaron McCright: Yes. This will not impact the remaining students.
  - Lorraine Robbins: is there interest in the online specialization?
    - Aaron McCright: the interest mostly comes from students enrolled in other institutions.
  - Tom Sharkey: has this program been in moratorium?
    - Aaron McCright: Yes, two years ago for about a year.
  - Dean Dagbovie: has the online certificate program been approved/completed?
    - Aaron McCright: Yes, it was ready to start in the fall, but issues with coding caused a delay. They need to complete the RBI profile and then it can be listed online.
- e. Kyonghee asked for a motion.
  - Tom Sharkey moved to approve.
  - Jeremy Francis seconded.
  - All in favor, no one opposed, no one abstained.
  - Motion passed.

**13. \*Request to change the requirements for the **Master of Arts** degree in **Musicology** in the College of Music**

- a. Derrick Fox: they are looking to rebalance musicology versus non-musicology classes.
- b. Students will gain an enhanced competitiveness in the field, eliminate the performance requirement, and clean up existing language in the catalog to make requirements more clear.
- c. Topic was opened for questions:
  - Tom Sharkey: It says Plan B research project must be similar in scope to a thesis. Why is it a plan B then?
    - Sarah Long: there are 2 tracks, a performance track and a thesis track. This leaves room for something other than a written document, but it must be within the same scope of a thesis.
  - Tom Sharkey: Plan A, written thesis?
    - Derrick Fox: Yes.
  - Jeremy Francis: how do you assess the language requirement?

- Sarah Long: personally runs the French exam. Students must be able to read and translate an academic article in the language. Tests are done with a moderator present.
- Tom Sharkey: New number 7, they must attend all lectures. How do you protect the students' time?
  - Sarah Long: we only have 3 lecturers a semester, three hours total.
  - Jeremy Francis: what if the student is sick or something happens and they can't make a lecture?
  - Sarah Long: they need to reach out to the department so arrangements can be made.
  - Tom Sharkey: would it be worth limiting it to 5 lectures a semester?
  - Sarah Long: we don't have the resources for more than 3 a semester.
  - Derrick Fox: the idea of having the flexibility to do more is not, but they are protective of their time and the students' time.
  - Andre Lee: from a document perspective, would it be worth adding "attend all guest lectures as approved by the faculty"?
  - Sarah Long/ Derrick Fox: that would be a good amendment.
- d. Kyonghee asked for a motion to approve or deny.
  - Tom Sharkey moved to approve.
  - Jeremy Francis seconded.
  - All in favor, no one opposed, no one abstained.
  - Motion passed.

**14. Request to change requirements for the **Master of Music in Music Theory** in the College of Music.**

- a. Derrick Fox: MUS830 removed from theory gives space to add two more courses. There are other courses similar to MUS830 already offered to cover the material.
- b. This adjustment is to help make it easier for students to get through the program with greater knowledge. It opens the students up for more robust coursework.
- c. Topic was opened for questions:
  - Dean Dagbovie: point 5: the 400 level courses are open to undergrad students, yes?
    - Sarah Long: Yes, the undergrads take a 2 credit and masters take a 3 credit version. Masters students also meet an extra time each week to allow for the work of an additional credit.
  - Dean Dagbovie: point 7: whatever area the student is in, how is it determined who observes/evaluates them?
    - Sarah Long: students have input on who observes them. They have a committee or 3. 2 from music theory and 1 from outside music theory.
  - Jeremy Francis: MUS873, is that still taught in other programs?
  - AJ Robinson: the exam in 876, is it the same as the one being dropped in 830?

- Derrick Fox: it is not the same exam, but it is still the same skill set.
- d. Kyonghee asked for a motion to approve or deny.
  - AJ Robison moved to approve.
  - Samara Chamoun seconded.
  - All in favor, no one opposed, no one abstained.
  - Motion passed.

**15. Roundtable:**

- a. AJ Robinson: many students were having issues signing up for health insurance due to switching to Blue Water, but it sounds like problems have been resolved. Thank you to everyone who helped students get this sorted out.

**16. Adjournment:**

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm