

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, January 5, 2023
10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., via Zoom

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/96531712347>

Passcode: 849464

Present: Richard Enbody, Kathleen Gallo, Nicole Geske, Jonelle Golding, Marissa King, Soja Kureekkattil, Mark Largent, Emilia Marcyk-Taylor, Helen Mayer, Vashti Sawtelle, Linda Sayed, Steve Shablin, Robin Silbergleid, Joy Speas, Thomas Summerhill, Antoinette Tessmer, Alexandra Thrubis Stanley, Grace Weber, Brandon Webster, Patty West, Matthew Zierler

Absent: Gary Blanchard, Joshua Ennis, Steven Gray, Ebony Green, Aaron Iturralde, Chris Kaiser, Knick Laux, Taylor Thrush for Tyler Silvestri, Grace Weber, Brandon Webster
Mike Callahan, College of Music on leave spring, 2023

The agenda was approved as amended by adding a discussion item, UCUE Representation of the SIRS Replacement Committee.

The minutes were approved for November 10, 2022.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Tessmer mentioned UCUE's accomplishments from fall 2022:

- 8 curriculum requests were approved;
- 3 referrals were received from the Steering Committee resulting in the following subcommittees: (1) SIRS Replacement, and (2) Presence, Absence and Short Leaves.
- UCUE discussed developing boilerplate syllabus language.

UCUE's next meeting will be held on January 19.

Comments from the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Associate Provost Largent welcomed members back to campus after the break.

Associate Provost Largent informed members that one current focus is on improving fall persistence rates and facilitating students' return to class who would otherwise be leaving MSU. The effects of the pandemic are being noticed in incoming students. The spring academic calendar is being reviewed in order to possibly start spring semester a week later than in the past. Advantages to starting spring semester later are to increase opportunities for study abroad that could count toward spring credits and to provide a more robust spring orientation. A later spring start date would also give some colleges additional time for spring admissions. One issue to starting later in the semester is the distribution schedule for financial aid. Students generally need their financial aid for rent, etc., prior to the start of spring semester.

Request to Add an Admission Requirement for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning (*UCUE originally reviewed at 3/31/22 UCUE meeting and returned to department asking for clarifications re the secondary admit policy; UCUE again reviewed at 9/29/22 UCUE meeting*) (Action Item)

Zenia Kotval, Program Director, Urban and Regional Planning

The committee granted voice to Dr. Kotval.

UCUE reviewed and approved the informal version of this Request in November, 2022. Admission requirements were corrected, and STEM requirements were clarified as requested by the College of Social Science. No additional revisions have been requested.

Voice was removed from Dr. Kotval.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request to Add an Admission Requirement for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

Course equivalencies for semesters abroad (Discussion Item)

George Khamis, Honors Economics and Business junior

Chairperson Tessmer spoke about study abroad, specifically the step requiring that course equivalencies be established prior to departure. She introduced George Khamis who completed a semester abroad at the University of Cambridge in summer, 2022. Mr. Khamis shared a presentation indicating courses taken, study time, and cost.

Mr. Khamis discovered numerous barriers within the system that is currently established to determine if his credits taken abroad would transfer back to MSU. He felt there was a lack of transparency in the system and the process disincentivized him from wanting to pursue study abroad. Mr. Khamis sent numerous emails to deans, advisors, directors, and the Office of the Study Abroad and stated classmates had similar negative experiences trying to plan a study abroad. Mr. Khamis asked what a better system would look like to support students?

UCUE members shared their experience with study abroad and felt that it is probably not unique to MSU however, if MSU wants to be a leader in study abroad, changes are necessary. It was noted this could be a failure of the infrastructure within a college, not necessarily a policy issue. It is mostly an issue for the direct enroll programs opposed to a “prepackaged” set of courses.

The process for establishing course equivalencies and what central administration can do to help the student with study abroad course equivalencies was discussed.

A motion was made to form an ad hoc subcommittee that would start a process that would lead to changes in the system that would not create any more barriers to study abroad. A UCUE member suggested Mr. Khamis let ASMSU know of his experience to help elevate the issue and create a student push.

Associate Provost Largent suggested that, opposed to creating a subcommittee, Chairperson Tessmer work with Beth Judge, Steve Shablin and Opal Bartiz to determine where the problems exist and work within existing structures to solve the delays that departments/college experience in approving Course Action Forms (CAF).

UCUE Representation on the SIRS replacement committee:

Chairperson Tessmer reported that during Fall, 2022, this subcommittee consisted of Patty West, Tiffany Wahl, and Michael Callahan. Tiffany was on UCUE only through the Fall and Michael is on leave this semester. Kathy Gallo volunteered to join this subcommittee and Chairperson Tessmer asked members to contact her if they would like to volunteer.

Roundtable

No items were shared during Roundtable.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.