

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**University Committee on Undergraduate Education**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
Thursday, January 19, 2023  
10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., via Zoom

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

Passcode: 849464

Present: Steve Arch for Robin Silbergleid, Gary Blanchard, Richard Enbody, Kathleen Gallo, , Jonelle Golding, Ebony Green, Aaron Iturralde, Chris Kaiser, Marissa King, Soja Kureekkattil, Mark Largent, Emilia Marcyk-Taylor, Helen Mayer, Linda Sayed, Steve Shablin, Joy Speas, Thomas Summerhill, Antoinette Tessmer, Alexandra Thrubis Stanley, Matthew Zierler

Absent: Joshua Ennis, Nicole Geske, Steven Gray, Knick Laux, Vashti Sawtelle, Robin Silbergleid, Tyler Silvestri, Tiffany Wahl, Grace Weber, Brandon Webster, Patty West

The agenda was approved.

**Comments from the Chairperson**

Chairperson Tessmer asked members to mark their calendars for the next UCUE meeting which will be held on February 2.

**Comments from the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education**

Associate Provost Largent provided an update on persistence rates stating that students who do not feel a sense of belonging struggle to return the next semester.

Institutional Research is working to put together seat demand estimates and allocating resources where they are most needed to make students feel supported.

**Note that the following six Requests for Moratoriums will be represented by Lynmarie Posey, Associate Dean, College of Natural Science**

The committee granted voice to Associate Dean Posey.

Associate Dean Posey stated that the College of Natural Science is requesting moratoriums for two science secondary education programs as well as teaching minors in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics. She stated that the programs should be in moratorium because of new standards for the preparation of high school science teachers that was approved by the Michigan Department of Education in February of 2022 as well as the decision of MSU's teacher education program to reduce the length of the program from five to four years.

New state standards require that all new high school science standards have the content knowledge to teach Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, and Physics. The Biological Science Secondary Education and Physical Education Secondary Education degree programs do not need those requirements. The programs being placed in moratorium will be replaced by a new integrative science secondary education BS program which will move to UCC later this month. This program will offer concentrations in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics and that will replace the teaching minors.

Voice was removed from Associate Dean Posey.

All of the following six Motions passed unanimously.

**Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Physics Available for Secondary Certification (Action Item) (Attachment 1)**

**Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Earth Science Available for Secondary Certification (Action Item) (Attachment 2)**

**Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Chemistry Available for Secondary Certification (Action Item) (Attachment 3)**

**Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Biology Available for Secondary Certification (Action Item) (Attachment 4)**

**Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Science Secondary Education (Action Item) (Attachment 5)**

**Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Science Secondary Education (Action Item) (Attachment 6)**

**Request for a New Minor in Physics (Action Item) (Attachment 7)**

Stuart Tessmer, Associate Chair, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, College of Natural Science

The committee granted voice to Associate Chair Tessmer.

Associate Chair Tessmer stated that a Physics minor is becoming in more demand and is attractive to students studying other disciplines related to science and engineering as well as Data Science majors. Many peer institutions have a minor in Physics. A brief discussion was held regarding the curriculum. A computational component has been included which makes this minor different from other minors in Physics.

Voice was removed for Associate Chair Tessmer.

The following motion passed unanimously.

***The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request for a New Minor in Physics.***

**Request for a New Minor in Design Justice (Action Item) (Attachment 8)**

Dylan Miner, Dean, Residential College of Arts and Humanities

Vincent Delgado, Senior Academic Specialist, Director of the Program on Sustainability in Costa Rica and Coordinating Director of the Global Network for Civic Engagement, RCAH

Tim Hinds, Specialist, Engineering

Terese Guinsatao Monberg, Associate Dean, RCAH

The committee granted voice to Dean Miner, Assistant Dean Delgado, Tim Hinds, and Associate Dean Guinsatao Monberg.

Assistant Dean Delgado explained this is a minor that was developed over time with the College of Engineering based on students' requests to study design thinking that incorporates justice.

A discussion took place regarding any barriers of entry for non RCAH students. It was noted that out of the four RCAH pathways, the minor would most appeal to students in the community engagement pathway.

Voice was removed from Dean Miner, Assistant Dean Delgado, Tim Hinds, and Associate Dean Guinsatao Monberg.

The following motion passed unanimously.

**The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request for a New Minor in Design Justice.**

**Course Equivalencies for Semester Abroad Experiences**

Antoinette Tessmer, UCUE Chairperson

Chairperson Tessmer provided follow-up from George Khamis' presentation at the January 5<sup>th</sup> UCUE meeting on his experience related to course equivalencies for a semester abroad. UCUE formed an ad-hoc subcommittee which met on January 11 and will work on proposed guidelines for an improved process. This subcommittee will report to the Provost and is open to representatives from the Office of Study Abroad, Office of the Registrar, ASMSU, and APUE. Volunteers include: Marissa King, Matt Zierler, and Antoinette Tessmer. Aaron Iturralde will forward a representative's name from ASMSU to Chairperson Tessmer. Chairperson Tessmer stated a Chairperson for the ad-hoc subcommittee will be identified and a committee charge will be provided to UCUE members.

**Referral from Steering Committee re SIRS Revision (Action/Discussion Item)**

Marilyn Amey, Assistant Provost for Faculty & Academic Staff Development

Jim Lucas, Assistant Dean, Global Education & Curriculum

- a. MSU Instructional Rating System Policies (Action Item) (Attachment 9)
- b. MSU Instructional Rating System Recommended Implementation (Discussion Item) (Attachment 10)

Assistant Dean Lucas shared a Powerpoint presentation regarding moving from SIRS toward SPLES. A discussion was held on departments being able to tailor SIRS questions to their departmental needs. Discussion also included confidentiality concerns, timelines for completing SIRS, and alternative question parameters.

Concerns were shared regarding potential misuse of data, how data is used and interpreted, and possible training opportunities on how to interpret data as well as student expectations for completing the evaluations and the importance of the roles that students play in this process.

Based on today's conversation, updates will be made to the document and it will be forwarded to the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS).

A vote was called for a motion that UCUE supports the MSU instructional rating system policies. It was noted that UCUE did express concerns about certain parts of this document and asked that the committee address UCUE's concerns that were addressed today as part of the approval. Motion passed.

A discussion was held regarding Attachment 10, MSU Instructional Rating System Policy & Procedures, Recommended Implementation. It was noted that data can be reported at the instructional level as well as at the course level. Discussion continued regarding who has access to SIRS data.

**Roundtable**

There were no items reported at Roundtable.

Submitted by Lynne Frechen.