

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**University Committee on Undergraduate Education**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, February 2, 2023  
10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., via Zoom

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

Passcode: 849464

Present: Gary Blanchard, Kathleen Gallo, Nicole Geske, Aaron Iturralde, Chris Kaiser, Marissa King, Sandeep Kulkarni for Rich Enbody, Soja Kureekkattil, Mark Largent, Emilia Marcyk-Taylor, Helen Mayer, Vashti Sawtelle, Linda Sayed, Steve Shablin, Robin Silbergleid, Joy Speas, Thomas Summerhill, Antoinette Tessmer, Tyler Silvestri, Alexandra Thrubis Stanley, Patty West, Matthew Zierler

Absent: Rich Enbody, Jonelle Golding, Steven Gray, Ebony Green, Knick Laux, Tyler Silvestri, Tiffany Wahl, Grace Weber, Brandon Webster  
Mike Callahan, College of Music is on leave spring, 2023.

The agenda was approved by adding the names below as department representatives for the curriculum requests:

Agenda item #5 Dorcia Chaison  
Agenda item #6 Kristine Bowman  
Agenda item #7 Robin Silbergleid

**Comments from the Chairperson**

Chairperson Tessmer reported the following:

1. At the recent Faculty Senate and University Council meetings, it was announced that proposed procedures have been developed for faculty and student involvement in the next presidential search. Past searches can be viewed at [acadgov.msu.edu](http://acadgov.msu.edu).
2. If you wish to get involved in the next Presidential search, reach out to Chairperson Tessmer and she will put your name forward if and when the opportunity presents itself.
3. You will be receiving information via email related to agenda item #9 asking for your feedback with a deadline of Friday, February 10.
4. Mark your calendar for UCUE's next meeting on February 16.

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

Associate Provost Largent commented on state appropriations indicating that in comparison to other publicly funded Universities in Michigan, MSU is underfunded. We may have an opportunity through the Governor's office to increase our state appropriations.

Associate Provost Largent commented on the current, critical work being done on student persistence. Work is being done in regard to why students leave MSU and what we can do to retain students. He suggested Paul Goldblatt possibly be invited to speak to UCUE. It is clear that students need a sense of belonging and a pathway to explore their purposes and passions to persist in College.

**Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Minor in Forestry Field Applications (Action Item)**

Dorcia Chaison, Assistant Dean, Academic Advising and Student Success, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The committee granted voice to Assistant Dean Chaison.

There are currently no students in this Minor. The department is restructuring some of its offerings and wanting to fulfill more critical student needs, therefore requesting this Moratorium.

Voice was removed from Assistant Dean Chaison.

The following motion passed unanimously.

***The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Minor in Forestry Field Applications.***

**Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Mathematics-Elementary Available for Elementary Teacher Certification (Action Item)**

Kristine Bowman, Associate Dean, College of Education

The committee granted voice to Associate Dean Bowman.

Associate Dean Bowman stated that due to changes within the State of Michigan licensing and certifications, teaching minors are no longer being recognized. This Request originated in the College of Natural Science however the College of Education is the coordinator for teacher preparation.

Voice was removed from Associate Dean Bowman.

The following motion passed unanimously.

***The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Mathematics-Elementary Available for Elementary Teacher Certification.***

**Request for a New Minor in Literature and Cultural Studies (Action Item)**

Robin Silbergleid, Professor, College of Arts and Letters

The committee granted voice to Dr. Silbergleid.

Dr. Silbergleid stated the Minor is being requested to allow students to take additional coursework in English without having to do a complete major in English. The Minor is designed to be a focused exploration of cultural studies.

The three required foundational courses for the Minor are Introduction to Literary Studies, Introduction to Literary Theory, and a Diversity Literature course however students can design a curriculum that meets their own needs and interests.

Members asked for clarifications on the following:

- about whether students could take creative writing and film studies courses as part of their 9 elective credits; they may but are not likely to do so given current prerequisites for CW and film courses. A question was also raised about whether students could take literature courses in foreign language departments.
- about the current title of the minor, and the extent to which students can take cultural theory and cultural studies courses; students receive some of this theory in the required English 280 course. There is no other existing coursework currently beyond courses that focus on "cultures" such as the diversity literature courses.
- whether "one" referred to a course or a credit at the 300-level; the intent was to be "one course" (there are no 1-credit Eng courses at the 300 level).

Voice was removed from Dr. Silbergleid.

The following motion passed unanimously.

**The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the Request for a New Minor in Literature and Cultural Studies.**

**Committee Report: Course Equivalency for Semester Abroad Experiences**

Matt Zierler, Chairperson

Chairperson Zierler reported that the committee will meet next Thursday. This committee is made up of representatives from UCUE, the Registrar's office, Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education (APUE), and ASMSU. He plans to report back in a couple of weeks.

**Committee Report: Presence, Absence, and Short Leaves**

Tom Summerhill, Chairperson

Chairperson Summerhill reminded UCUE members that this subcommittee includes himself, Aaron Iturralde, Rich Enbody, Chris Kaiser, Ebony Green, and Marrissa King. He stated the committee has met twice and plan to meet two more times prior to the March 2 UCUE meeting.

Chairperson Summerhill provided an update stating that the Committee has studied the current short-term and absence policies and has concluded that there is no centralized place where these policies are listed together. There has been a lot of discussion among advisors and students about the issues of the wide range of absence policies in classes. University policy is that it is up to individual faculty to set attendance policies. The Committee is trying to decide how they can bring individualized policies into better alignment among the more detailed policies on grief absence, religious observance, final exam policies, and short-term leave policies. The Committee is trying to sort what type of recommendation they could make while respecting the fact that different classes have different needs and recognize that there is not a one size fits all kind of policy that they could develop.

**Committee Report: SIRS Replacement Task Force**

Chairperson: to be named

Patty West provided a subcommittee update and stated that Chairperson Tessmer and Kathy Gallo make up this team. UCUE's recommendations from the January 19 meeting have been applied to the Student Perceptions of Learning Environments Policy and Procedures Document. The updated document was submitted to UCGS on January 23 and both UCUE and UCGS approved the Policy and Procedures document. This document now presides with the Provost and the Governance Steering Committee for next steps.

This subcommittee recently met with Explorance Blue and discussed drafts of University level questions. An email will be sent regarding the proposed University level questions asking for your and your stakeholders' review and comments by February 10. UCUE'S feedback will be compiled and shared with the Task Force. UCUE will approve the final list of questions at a future date.

**Roundtable**

There were no items shared at Roundtable.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.