

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023
10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., via Zoom

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

Passcode: 849464

Present: Gary Blanchard, Richard Enbody, Kathleen Gallo, Nicole Geske, Jonelle Golding, Steven Gray, Ebony Green, Aaron Iturralde, Mark Largent, Helen Mayer, Linda Sayed, Chris Scales, Robin Silbergleid, Joy Speas, Thomas Summerhill, Antoinette Tessmer, Alexandra Thrubis Stanley, Patty West

Absent: Cece Branson, Lauren Bullard, Joshua Ennis, Chris Kaiser, Marissa King, Soja Kureekkattil, Emilia Marcyk-Taylor, Vashti Sawtelle, Steve Shablin, Tyler Silvestri, Brandon Webster, Matthew Zierler

Mike Callahan is on leave, Spring, 2023.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes were approved for March 2, 2023.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Tessmer reminded members that our two remaining meetings are scheduled for April 6 and 20. Note that the April 20th meeting will be held in person and more information will be sent as it becomes available.

Comments from the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Associate Provost Largent spoke about findings from a recent Pulse Survey. These are usually three or four questions and provide a snapshot of what students are thinking. A recent Survey with approximately 4,000 respondents indicated that students are very appreciative of the flexibility that faculty are showing in the classroom and students are very glad about the C/NC grading policy. These Surveys can provide opportunities for policy implementable changes.

Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Minor in Forestry Field Applications (Action Item)

Dorcia Chaison, Assistant Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The committee granted voice to Assistant Dean Chaison.

Assistant Dean Chaison reported that no students have been enrolled in the Minor for a significant period of time and the department has decided to focus more on the Forestry Major. The department is updating the Forestry Major and has already submitted major changes.

Voice was removed from Assistant Dean Chaison.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Minor in Forestry Field Applications.

Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Early Childhood – General and Special Education Disciplinary Teaching Minor Available for Elementary Teacher Certification (Action Item)

Holly Brophy-Herb, Professor, Human Development & Family Studies

The committee granted voice to Dr. Brophy-Herb.

Dr. Brophy-Herb reported that due to the State of Michigan’s revised teaching certifications, the state has requested that MSU phase out this Minor because it is no longer needed.

Voice was removed from Dr. Brophy-Herb.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Early Childhood – General and Special Education Disciplinary Teaching Minor Available for Elementary Teacher Certification.

Referred from Interim Provost Jeitschko: What principles should guide the interpretations of existing policies given the campus shootings and the aftermath? (Discussion Item)

Mark Largent, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Associate Provost Largent led a discussion on “what principles should guide the interpretations of existing policies given the campus shootings and aftermath?” This question was referred to UCUE from Interim Provost Jeitschko and has also been shared with UGAAD, CUED, and UCGS.

Associate Provost Largent shared that consultants from the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime meet with campus leaders who have experienced a shooting and/or campus violence. The consultants visited MSU and met with various groups and shared the following: 1) a set of recommendations based on the experience of other institutions that have experienced a shooting, and 2) an interview with key people on campus to determine what additional costs the University may have encumbered as a result of the shooting. The DOJ will help write a grant for MSU to cover some of the immediate expenses such as new doors.

The DOJ consultants shared a key recommendation: “Do not make new policies to respond to immediate needs. You have policies in place that are based on certain fundamental principles that you not only hold dear but have long operated on. You probably have all of the policies that you need already in place. Instead, think about how you would adapt the practice of those policies to serve the immediate needs. Policies that are made in a tragic situation become trauma-informed and are not necessarily good policies.”

UCUE members shared their thoughts and experiences on what principles should guide the interpretations of existing policies in the wake of the campus shooting:

- Think about long term effects of altering grading options:
- Continue C/NC or a variation of it should be continued;
- Students need to be informed that there are exceptions to existing policies;
- Indicating who faculty can speak with regarding switching teaching modality – what is the pathway to make this decision?;
- Burden of deciding on whether an exception can be offered falls on the faculty;
- Faculty need guidelines on how to be open to exceptions;
- Faculty need guidelines on how to bring students back to the classroom;

- Teaching in an ultra-flex mode is not sustainable and faculty need guidelines on this;
- How to handle students who do not communicate regarding their return to class;
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Associate Provost Largent encouraged UCUE members to email him with other ideas and thoughts.

Committee Report: Course Equivalency for Semester Abroad Experiences

Matt Zierler: Chairperson

There were no new items to share from this committee.

Committee Report: Presence Absence, and Short Leaves

Tom Summerhill, Chairperson

Chairperson Summerhill reported that the committee will have a document to share at the next UCUE meeting.

Committee Report: SIRS Replacement Task Force

Patty West, Kathy Gallo, Antoinette Tessmer

Dr. West reported that the committee received a thank you from Dr. Amey and Interim Provost Woodruff in regard to the work that UCUE has done to come up with the eight institutional questions that were approved by the Provost this week.

Roundtable

There were no items shared at Roundtable.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.