

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, December 21, 2023
10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., via Zoom

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

Passcode: 849464

Present: Julie Beaty, Gary Blanchard, Kathleen Gallo, Nicole Geske, Jonelle Golding (sub for Ebony Green), Traci Gulick (sub for Steve Shablin), Andrea Kelly, Mark Largent, Emilia Marcyk-Taylor, Helen Mayer, Jairahel Price, Vashti Sawtelle, Linda Sayed, Robin Silbergleid, Thomas Summerhill, Antoinette Tessmer, Pat Walton (sub for Amanda Idema), Patty West, Matt Zierler (sub for Marissa King)

Absent: Michael Callahan, Steven Gray, Ebony Green, Amanda Idema, Alissa Hakim, Marissa King, Justin Micomonaco, Steve Shablin, Joy Speas, Ethan Voss, Antonio White

The agenda was approved.

The minutes were approved for November 30, 2023.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Tessmer thanked members for their work during fall semester and reminded members that UCUE's next meeting will be held on January 11, 2024. She reminded members that UCUE will need to elect a vice chairperson for spring semester since Mike Callahan will be on leave spring semester.

Comments from the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Vice Provost Largent wished UCUE members a happy and restful break and thanked members for their commitment to academic governance.

Charge by Steering Committee on "Posthumous Degrees Policy" (Att. B) (Information Item)

Brandon Gross, Director of Strategic Engagement, Office of the President/Provost
Judy Whipple, Interim Dean, Broad College of Business
Mary Finn, Professor, School of Criminal Justice
Allyn Shaw, Assistant Vice President, Student Involvement & Leadership

Brandon reported on a charge by the Steering Committee to review MSU's posthumous policy. The charge was created due to inconsistencies across units and the challenges that existed with the decision-making process of awarding a posthumous degree. The committee consisted of Judy Whipple, Steve Shablin, Mark Largent, Mary Finn, Allyn Shaw, and Brandon Gross. The committee reviewed policies at other institutions and what made sense to MSU. Brandon referenced Addendum B that had been shared with UCUE members which states MSU may grant Marks of Achievement, Posthumous Degrees or, in extraordinary or rare situations, Degrees Granted under Special Circumstances. The committee's goal was to create a standardized process for a policy that could be applied equitably and consistently.

Vice Provost Largent reminded members that the consistency issue is very important when awarding posthumous degrees and Deans are looking for guidance and clarity on what is appropriate.

A brief discussion was held on timing issues related to awarding degrees such as students being close to the end of their degree program who are facing a terminal illness, and how the posthumous degree policy would apply for transfer students.

Charge by Steering Committee on "Pregnancy, Childbirth and Pregnancy-Related Conditions for Students and Employees Policy" (Att. C) (Information Item)

Nicole Schmidtke, Interim Senior Deputy Title IX Coordinator and Director
Eltaro Hooper, Executive Director, and Senior Deputy Title IX Coordinators

Dr. Schmidtke provided information on the current policy on Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Pregnancy-Related Conditions for Students and Employees. She highlighted the part of the policy that applies to students and employees and indicated this is not a new policy, however it is a policy that is already in effect. Dr. Schmidtke referenced Attachment C that had also been shared with UCUE members. A brief discussion was held regarding the necessary training that will be needed to fairly implement the policy.

Course equivalencies for study abroad (Att. D) (Action Item)

Matt Zierler, Associate Dean, Honors College
Inge Steglitz, Associate Director, Office for Education Abroad

Associate Dean Zierler provided a brief background on the issue of course equivalencies for study abroad. He reported on a set of recommendations stemming from a charge made by UCUE last spring in reference to a student who had numerous challenges determining how his study abroad would be applied to his degree program. Associate Dean Zierler stated that although he is currently on leave, he has continued to work on this issue.

Associate Dean Zierler clarified that this issue does not apply to faculty-led study abroad MSU programs. This policy applies to direct enrollment programs, which are defined as when a student physically travels to another university and takes that university's courses. The other type of program this policy refers to is a provider-sponsored program, where a student completes a program that has been fully developed through a third-party provider.

It was determined that the current process for applying credits to direct enrollment study abroad programs is very inconsistent, confusing, and not transparent. A set of recommendations was shared as determined by a committee made up of members of UCUE and members of the offices of the Registrar, ASMSU, advising and education abroad. Associate Dean Zierler provided information on the main recommendations which are: achieve greater transparency, reduce time to course approval, report international credits on transcript, and support a culture change.

A motion was made and approved that UCUE supports the recommendation made by the ad hoc committee on course equivalencies for study abroad.

Vice Provost Largent indicated that the next step is for him to speak with interim Provost Jeitschko, Steve Shablin, and Dave Weatherspoon to be sure there are no implementation issues and verify this does not need a broader evaluation.

SPLS feedback after first round (Information Item)

Marilyn Amey, Assistant Provost, Faculty and Academic Staff Development
Nate Clason, Specialist, Faculty and Academic Staff Development

Dr. Clason shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Student Perceptions of Learning Survey (SPLS). Areas highlighted were colleges that have added questions to the SPLS, variable survey periods, administrator access to SPLS data, instructor access to SPLS data, respondent threshold, and current response rates.

Dr. Amey thanked UCUE members for their feedback and suggestions as the SPLS was being developed. It was noted that there are many advantages of having the SPLS work through Campus Solutions. Dr. Clason noted that the new SPLS is a culture shift away from the previous SIRS forms.

Roundtable

No items were shared at Roundtable.

Submitted by Lynne Frechen.