

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, January 11, 2024
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, Noor Ghazali, Ebony Green, Alissa Hakim, Amanda Idema, Marissa King, Mark Largent, Emilia Marcyk-Taylor, Helen Mayer, Justin Micomonaco, Jairahel Price, Vashti Sawtelle, Linda Sayed, Steve Shablin, Robin Silbergleid, Joy Speas, Alexandria Thrubis Stanley, Emily Tabuteau, Antoinette Tessmer, Ethan Voss, Patty West

Absent: Steven Gray, Andrea Kelly, Antonio White

The agenda was approved as amended to include the names and titles as follows:

Kyle Evered, Associate Professor

Kyle Greenwalt, Associate Director of Teacher Preparation

Laurel Ofstein, Faculty Director, Burgess Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The minutes were approved for December 21, 2023.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Tessmer welcomed members to the new semester and shared UCUE's Mid-Year Report summarizing action items from fall, 2023. She also welcomed new members to UCUE who may be substituting for members on leave this spring. Chairperson Tessmer also reminded members that UCUE's next meeting will be held on January 25, 2024.

Comments from the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Vice Provost Largent thanked members for their work over fall semester. Vice Provost Largent spoke about the graduation rate and spring student return rate.

Vice Provost Largent discussed two concerns/classroom policies that are being mentioned on the MSU parent Facebook page, 1) competitive curbing for grading which allows only a certain number of students to receive a 4.0, a certain number of students to receive a 3.5, etc., and 2) instructors requiring notes from a Dr. to excuse a student from class. Not only is requiring a Drs. note about a medical condition a HIPPA violation, these practices can be inequitable and should be discussed to determine if these systems are aligned with the values of the University.

Vice Provost Largent mentioned that UCUE needs to elect a vice-chair and emphasized the opportunity it brings to contribute a voice to shared governance.

Election of UCUE Vice Chairperson for Spring, 2024 semester

Antoinette Tessmer, UCUE Chairperson

Chairperson Tessmer announced that Michael Callahan, UCUE's Vice Chair, if on leave spring semester and a replacement needs to be named. Alexandria Thrubis Stanley nominated herself. A motion was made and approved that UCUE supports the nomination of Alexandria Thrubis Stanley for UCUE's Vice Chair.

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Economic Geography
Kyle Evered, Associate Professor, College of Social Science (Att B) (Action Item)

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Geographic Information Science
Kyle Evered, Associate Professor, College of Social Science (Att C) (Action Item)

Since the two requests are very similar, the Moratoriums were discussed and voted on together.

Dr. Evered stated that the Moratoriums are being requested due to low enrollment and a lack of interest from students for the Economic Geography and Geographic Information Science programs. The department feels having a regular major in Geography will better serve the students.

The following motions passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the following:

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Economic Geography

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Geographic Information Science

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Economics
Kyle Greenwalt, Associate Director of Teacher Preparation, College of Education (Att D) (Action Item)

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Geography
Kyle Greenwalt, Associate Director of Teacher Preparation, College of Education (Att E) (Action Item)

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in History
Kyle Greenwalt, Associate Director of Teacher Preparation, College of Education (Att F) (Action Item)

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Political Science
Kyle Greenwalt, Associate Director of Teacher Preparation, College of Education (Att G) (Action Item)
Since the four requests are very similar, the Moratoriums were discussed and voted on together.

Dr. Greenwalt provided background for the requests stating that due to the State of Michigan's rule changes, the minors are no longer needed.

The following motions passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the following:

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Economics

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Geography

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in History

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Political Science

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Option
Laurel Ofstein, Faculty Director, Burgess Inst. For Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Eli Broad College of Business (Att H) (Action Item)

There was confusion if the Moratorium was referring to the “Option” or the “Minor.” It was clarified that this request is for the “Option” as stated above. For clarification, it was confirmed that the “Option” is the experience.

After a brief discussion, it was stated that this is not a change in requirements, but a change in the recording mechanism. The department plans to manage the Option within the Burgess Institute, effective fall 2024. This change will decrease confusion among the instructors involved.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Option.

Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Minor in Technology Systems Management
Dorcia Chaison, Assistant Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Att I) (Action Item)

Due to unexpected circumstances, Assistant Dean Chaison was unable to attend the meeting.

Chairperson Tessmer moved forward with the Request since it seemed fairly straight forward. She stated that the reason for this Request is because courses associated with the program are no longer being taught. Two students are in the program, however substitutions for all requirements are possible. There were no concerns or questions from UCUE members.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the Minor in Technology Systems Management.

Roundtable

Patty West provided an update on the SPLS project stating they are seeking faculty and stakeholder feedback from fall semester. Dr. West shared the spls@msu.edu email address for members to provide feedback. Team members are finalizing the variable survey period which will extend the time for students to complete the survey based on how long their course is. The SPLS team is building the instructor dashboard.

Submitted by Lynne Frechen.