

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Committee on Undergraduate Education
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, September 28, 2023
10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., via Zoom

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

Passcode: 849464

Present: Gary Blanchard, Michael Callahan, Allyson Dean (for Patty West), Kathleen Gallo, Nicole Geske, Ebony Green, Alissa Hakim, Amanda Idema, Andrea Kelly, Marissa King, Mark Largent, Emilia Marcyk-Taylor, Stacia Moroski,-Rigney, Helen Mayer, Jairahel Price, Vashti Sawtelle, Linda Sayed, Steve Shablin, Robin Silbergleid, Joy Speas, Thomas Summerhill, Antoinette Tessmer, Ethan Voss, Antonio White

Absent: Julie Beaty, Glenn Chambers, Steven Gray, Patty West

The agenda was approved as amended by correcting item #11 to read:

Course Equivalency for semester Abroad Experiences
Marissa King, College of Arts & Humanities
Spring Semester Calendar Review
Thomas Summerhill

The minutes were approved for September 7, 2023. Lynne Frechen asked members to verify the attendance section of the minutes and let her know if a correction is needed.

Comments from the Chairperson

Chairperson Tessmer shared UCUE's annual report from 2022 – 23 which shows the curriculum items that UCUE approved last academic year, the committees that were created, and items that were discussed with recommendations.

Chairperson Tessmer shared that as UCUE chair, she represents UCUE at University Council, Steering Committee, and Faculty Senate meetings. Chairperson Tessmer indicated that a resolution was voted on at Faculty Senate indicating the qualities they would like to see in a new President and the link for the resolution was shared.

Chairperson Tessmer also reported that Marlon Lynch, Vice President and Chief Security Officer gave a presentation on campus safety and security at the University Council meeting. Sixty-five percent of classroom doors have had locks installed. A security operations center is being set up and will provide 24-hour surveillance. A new online safety training will be available in October.

Comments from the Vice for Undergraduate Education

Vice Provost Largent thanked members for their service to academic governance. He acknowledged UCUE's accomplishments over the last year and is looking forward to this coming year. He let members know he is available for questions throughout the year and welcomes discussion with members.

Vice Provost Largent encouraged members to follow the developments online around the Presidential Search.

Request for a New Minor in Environmental Soil Science (Action Item)

Dorcia Chaison, Assistant Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Barret Wessel, Asst. Professor of Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The committee granted voice to Assistant Dean Chaison and Dr. Wessel.

Dr. Wessel reported that this Minor has been created to serve students who plan to pursue careers in soil science, soil health, or related agricultural sciences. The curricular requirements have been designed so students have the option to meet the soil science coursework requirement of 15 credits in soil sciences for Federal and state employment as soil scientists. They would like the major to be very diverse and open to students in a variety of majors outside of the Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences.

A brief discussion was held regarding enrollment and the enthusiasm from across campus for the new Minor.

Voice was removed from Assistant Dean Chaison and Dr. Wessel.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the Request for a New Minor in Environmental Soil Science.

Request for a New Bachelor of Arts Degree in French Education (Action Item)

Anne Violin-Wigent, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters

The Request for a New Bachelor of Arts Degree in French Education and the Request for a New Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish Education are very similar and will be discussed together, however they will be voted on separately.

The committee granted voice to Dr. Violin-Wigent.

Dr. Violin-Wigent stated that her department worked with the College of Education on the Request. The department is creating a teaching major for French Education to allow for clarity around the requirements for teaching certification. The Program combines the existing French Bachelor's requirements with the new PK-12 education certification courses required for teacher certification. The French Education major provides PK-12 teaching certification for classroom instruction.

The New Bachelor of Arts Degrees in French Education and Spanish Education will provide clarity to students since the requirements are now combined into one program. Previously, students had requirements in the College of Education and requirements in French and Spanish. The regular Spanish and French majors will remain for students who are not pursuing teaching certification.

A discussion was held regarding credit totals and there were concerns for credit counts in area 3A for both Requests. It was noted that the credit count would be reviewed and corrected at the next University Curriculum Council (UCC) meeting. It was also noted that certain college-level requirements may contain language indicating a range of credits.

Chairperson Tessmer reminded members that UCUE's role for each Request is to discuss and vote on the actual Request itself and not focus on credit totals because that task is handled through another University committee.

A brief discussion was held on the required internships for the degrees.

Voice was removed from Dr. Violin-Wigent.

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request for a New Bachelor of Arts Degree in French Education.

Request for a New Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish Education (Action Item)

Anne Violin-Wigent, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters

The following motion passed unanimously.

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education duly considered and endorsed the request for a New Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish Education.

UCUE's Role in Academic Governance (Information Item)

Tyler Silvestri, Secretary for Academic Governance

Tyler shared a PowerPoint showing the history of Academic Governance. UCUE's various names and the committee's function as it evolved through the years was also shown. He briefly discussed delegated authority, advisory roles, shared responsibility, and the consulting role of Academic Governance. Organizational charts of the Steering Committee and University Council were shared.

Update on Subcommittee for new Student Perceptions of Learning Survey (SPLS)

Antoinette Tessmer, UCUE Chairperson

Chairperson Tessmer reminded members that this subcommittee was carried forward from the previous academic year. Patty West volunteered to remain on the subcommittee along with Chairperson Tessmer. Kathleen Gallo filled in for a UCUE member who was on sabbatical last year and is unable to remain on the committee for this year. Chairperson Tessmer reported that this subcommittee meets Monday mornings from 9:00 – 10:00am. Chairperson Tessmer asked members to consider volunteering to be on the subcommittee and let her know if interested.

Bachelor of General Studies – proposed new degree program

Jim Lucas, Assistant Dean, Global Education & Curriculum, Undergraduate Education

Assistant Dean Lucas provided an overview of a proposed Bachelor's of General Studies (BGS) at MSU. Topics covered included the national landscape of what a BGS is, curricula, purpose of the degree, timeline to develop, and best practices. It was noted that a BGS degree fits into the student success sustainability and DEI aspect of MSU's strategic plan. A BGS degree is broadly flexible and for students whose interests do not align with a set major or college curriculum. A BGS degree also helps students with some college and no degree find a pathway to degree completion. It was noted that MSU is the only institution in the Big 10 that does not have a BGS degree. The curriculum would involve at least three disciplines with an emphasis on transferrable skills.

Assistant Dean Lucas requested volunteers for a working committee to determine the best design for the degree. Volunteers are Antoinette Tessmer, Amanda Idema, and Kathleen Gallo.

Subcommittee Reports:

Course Equivalency for Semester Abroad Experiences

Marissa King, Chairperson

Dr. King stated this subcommittee will meet next Tuesday.

Committee Report: Spring Semester Calendar Review

Thomas Summerhill, Chairperson

Dr. Summerhill stated the subcommittee of himself, Patty West, and Amanda Idema met on Tuesday and began discussions on how changes in the spring calendar will impact undergraduate programs and students. He has been in communication with representatives on the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) to form a joint committee. Dr. Summerhill asked members to email him within 7 – 10 days if they have concerns about the spring calendar starting a week later than usual.

Roundtable

Emilia Marcyk-Taylor informed members about the Library's Peer Research Assistant Program which assists students on how to use the library effectively including finding and citing information.

Mike Callahan shared concerns about the lack of availability of textbooks in bookstores. A discussion was held on possible solutions. It was noted that most students purchase their books online as opposed to local bookstores. Emilia indicated that the Library has a textbook bank available to students as well as an E-reserve system where students can use the book online for two hours at a time. Chairperson Tessmer asked Mike to summarize the concern regarding the lack of availability of textbooks in a one-page description. This issue will be shared with Jeremy Van Hof, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation. Jeremy will be scheduled to speak at UCUE's next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Frechen.