

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Wednesday April 12, 2017

10:10 – 11:10 a.m.

ABB 145

Council in Attendance:

John Borkowski (Sciences)

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Robert Rydell (Letters)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Kristin Smith (Student Representative)

Franke Wilmer (Faculty Senate)

Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)

Tena Versland (Education)

Marc Giullian (Business)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

Megan Prettyman (International Programs)

Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)

Absent:

Dennis Aig (Arts)

Meeting started at 10:11am

March 29, 2017 minutes

- Livingston moves, Giullian second, unanimous pass

Announcements

- **Update: Faculty Senate (Wilmer)**
 - All new graduate course proposals have been processed
 - Working on BA in Computer Science proposal currently
- **Update: Degree Programs & Certificates (Brown/Cerretti)**
 - April 18 deadline for graduating students (May 2017 commencement)
 - Reached out for dissertation titles. Check in with your PhD students.
 - ~50 PhD candidates for spring 2017; 14 DNP
 - (Hoo) April 21, 3-5 pm Grad School celebratory event for PhD students, hooding demonstration; Fireplace lounge in the SUB
 - (Hoo) Summer graduates currently invited to walk in fall, but should they be invited to spring? Asks Council to consider and weigh in at next meeting.
- **PhD Enhancement Funds (Hoo)**
 - Nine out of sixteen requests were funded.
 - Asks UGC to help revise the RFP. Consider changing language to reflect that programs can apply, that the award is for experienced TAs, and that the student recipient should be named and tracked starting one year from the award to completion.
 - Dean Hoo will provide draft from Graduate School and then Chair Borkowski can send to UGC sub committee
- **Graduate Assessment Rubric (Hoo) handout**

- Dean Hoo thinks the Provost's office is using this rubric for assessment of graduate programs; discussion ensues
- Rubric has three parts: Subject Content Knowledge, Written Communication, and Oral Communication
- Most committee members did not object to the first two parts
- Objection was raised for the third part. Concerns raised by Council regarding international students, videoconferencing students (Nursing), or students with disabilities who might not be comfortable with or able to make eye contact, typical body language
- Dean Hoo assures Council that these rubrics are modifiable for master's and doctoral levels to fit program needs and values
- Can Council find a core set of values to create a foundation? Then departments can build off of that
- Rubrics can also be used to give feedback rather than be used to judge during a major event (e.g., comp or defense)
- Rubric including narrow, definitive definitions of "acceptable" oral delivery (eye contact, pronunciation, etc) may be counter to MSU's diversity initiatives
- Dean Hoo asks to table issue or send to committee
- Chair Borkowski tables

Old Business

- **Implementation plan for the graduate education task force recommendations (Hoo)**
 - 28 recommendations in the areas of recruitment, admissions, retention and degree completion, building community, and incentives
 - Asked to put together an implementation plan (who is responsible, the goal, and the cost) with priorities
 - Estimated total cost of initiatives (function of the assumptions made) would be a little over 1 million dollars (0.1% of the current operating budget)
 - Asked to create table of ranked initiatives with zero cost (15 of the 28 items)
 - Second table of ranked initiatives that had a cost
 - Dean Hoo is charged to get the "no cost" initiatives started
 - Dean Hoo asked UGC to reconsider assisting with the establishment of Graduate Faculty Status

Committee Reports

- **Policy and Procedures Committee**
- **Curriculum Committee**
- **Governance Committee**

Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting – April 19 at 10:10 a.m. in ABB 138