



College of Arts & Letters

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

College Graduate Committee Minutes – October 8, 2020

Minutes: 10/8/2020 3:15-5pm via Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97638045948> pwd: 974529

Attendance: Sean Valles, April Baker-Bell, Ben Van Dyke, Ben Lampe, Laura Borchgrevink, Danielle De Voss, Ben Lauren, Justin Wigard, Kiersten Latham, LouAnne Snider, Lynn Wolff, Kristin Mahoney, Shannon Schweitzer, Valentina Denzel, Suzanne Wagner, Bill Hart-Davidson, and Leann Dalimonte.

Meeting started at 3:17pm

1. Approval of the Agenda – Danielle motioned, Sean seconded, agenda approved.
2. Approval of 9/10/2020 Meeting Minutes – Sean motioned, Justin seconded, minutes approved.
3. Associate Dean's Announcements
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Curriculum Freeze lifted for SS21 & US21
 - i. November meeting recommended for FS21 proposed start date
 - ii. Note: Alison Dobbins is our UCC Rep and Ben Van Dyke is the chair for UCGS
 - c. Campus Solutions Processing Substitutions in Degree Audits
 - i. Degree milestone checks for requirements
 - ii. Discussion about upcoming changes with Oracle PeopleSoft and implication to current GradPlan processes
 - Double check routing and requirements for current students
 - d. Commencement – Three pre-recorded ceremonies:
 - i. 12/18: 10:00am Master's Degrees, 2:00pm PhD
 - ii. 12/19: 10:00am Baccalaureate Degrees
 - e. Prospective Doctoral Student Recruitment and Retention Program
 - i. Notice sent out from the Graduate School
 - ii. Bill welcomes draft review and idea sharing
 - f. Update on Grad School Program Assessment Pilot and proposed plan for the semester
 - i. Placement data (not just academic placement)
 - Bill will share data categories when they're shared
 - ii. 4 CAL programs have agreed to participate (data provided)
 - iii. Reports will be sent afterwards so we can discuss feedback as a group
 - g. DCF Updates
 - i. There is additional DCF funding for this academic year
 - ii. Let Bill and Laura know if you have any eligible students
 - iii. Timeline: As soon as possible (grad appointments are going in the system now)
 - h. ACM/MUSM Curriculum Package Update



College of Arts & Letters

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

- i. Minor changes being applied per recommendations before the UCC meeting to recently approved ACM/MUSM package we saw last month
 - ii. Minor edits to highlight the differences between the grad and undergraduate courses and update the prereq. and coreq.
 - iii. Committee agreed with the recommendations and approved the minor changes.
4. Discussion Items
- a. Admissions – Updates from each Unit
 - i. ENG: Grad committee recruitment discussion; success with MUSE program, but want to offer students the full experience and opportunities for success that can't be fully offered right now
 - ii. WRAC: Discussing options while monitoring national impacts; 11/1 date for some program decisions but conversations are fluid; may shift admissions to Jan./Feb.; mindful of GA lines available to current vs. potential students.
 - iii. SLS: Slowing down the admissions process, conducting Zoom interviews with candidates in Jan. and Feb. given the GRE and TOEFL scores are waived this year
 - iv. REL: Developing marketing tools for the program; hoping for first cohort of students in Fall2021, marketing but also tap into current base of undergraduate students who might be interested
 - v. GRM: Diversity in Decolonizing the German Studies Program is a collective in the U.S. and Canada along with another recent conference shed light on the adverse implications of closing or reducing admissions right now across the nation. Hoping to admit 1-2 students to fulfill the sustainability (and opportunities for jobs)
 - vi. L&L; Looking at GAships and courses that need to be taught; waiting for applicant pool and opportunities for international stu.
 - vii. AAHD: Admissions moving forward as program is only 3 years in after redesign; concerned about size of applicant pool
 - viii. PHL: Graduating students still have prospective jobs; concerned about timeline for students in the program and time to degree; wondering what funding and resources will be available for students who have needs and time changes or extensions
 - ix. THR: Admissions moving forward with need for acting cohort
 - x. Admissions and recruitment will be affected for future cohorts
 - xi. RCS: Similar situation to GRM; move forward with recruitment
 - xii. ACM: Without TA lines and certain types of funding they function slightly differently so there are opportunities for more students now; job market is unclear in the arts and museums right now
 - xiii. MAFLT: Seeing fluctuations, but given it's an online program there is still demand; applying some funding to marketing and sustainability
 - xiv. Grad Students: Upper level students supporting the new cohort with resources and to make them feel welcome in this remote space; happy to hear TA lines are being protected as much as possible; job market seems unclear at the



College of Arts & Letters

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

moment; Acknowledgement for TAs teaching 100-200 level courses with additional labor in this environment that could affect progress

- b. Graduate School Initiative
 - i. New faculty service position in College(s) - graduate student mentoring advocate
 - Idea is each college would have one, looking for ways to institutionalize the role across campus
 - Similar to FEA for graduate students
 - Open to faculty or staff
 - Compensation combined between college and GS
 - In CAL this will be parallel to calls for other grad opportunities (communication and decision)
 - c. Masters Plans A & B – Exemptions
 - i. Inquiry on how can a program become exempt from having a thesis or examination requirement for their program of study.
 - A: Thesis
 - B: Exam or Portfolio
 - ii. Flexibility within requirements fulfilling the portfolio/project
 - iii. Discussion about the different examples offered by current CAL grad programs
5. Curricular Items
 - a. Courses:
 - i. MAFLT Courses – Amanda Lanier
 - Removal of override restriction, but still allows for typical MAFLT student enrollments
 - FLT 885
 - FLT 898
 - Ben motioned, Danielle seconded, FLT courses approved unanimously.
 - ii. GNL 891 – New Special Topics Course
 - Late addition to the GNL package routing through governance, but will not affect current approval routing given the nature of the course
 - Ben motioned, Danielle seconded, course approved unanimously.
 - b. Theatre Package: - Shannon Schweitzer
 - i. THR MFA
 - ii. THR 809A, 809B, 809C, 819A, 819B, 819C, 819D, 819E, 841
 - 809 replaced the IS courses
 - 819 series will showcase thematic areas
 - 841
 - iii. Danielle motioned, Sean seconded, THR package approved.
6. Roundtable/Other Business
 - a. TA tuition pool for spring 2021 is now open!
 - b. There's a workshop on using Corpora being offered soon
 - c. MLA Summit applications are open; Lynn can report back

Meeting adjourned at 5:04pm