

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**  
April 16, 2008

**Present:** Michele Hardy (AG), Priscilla Wisner (BUS), Mark Nelson (EHHD), Robert Maher (ENGR), Carl Fox (DGE), Robert Rydell (LETTERS), Yves Idzerda (SCIENCE), Rita Cheek (NURS), Seth Humphries (STUDENT), David Weaver (FAC SEN).

Also attending were Donna Negaard (DGE) and David Cherry (HISTORY).

Meeting commenced at 10:05 a.m. in 114 Sherrick.

Minutes of March 19 were approved.

Open Campus Forum:

- **David Weaver** has been liaison on behalf of the vice chair of the Faculty Senate
- He feels that he is not accomplishing anything
- He suggested that if the Faculty Senate is concerned about any UGC topics, they should send a representative to attend the particular meeting—such as the vice chair of the Faculty Senate
- Mark thanked David for all his contributions and comments in the past.

American Studies Proposal for Masters and PhD – David Cherry and Bob Rydel

- 1) David is the parttime Director of undergraduate programs in Liberal Studies and American Studies (AS)
- 2) For two decades, there has been interest in establishing an American Studies program at MSU; a major concern was where the program would be housed
- 3) About 2.5 years ago, the University College was created at MSU, headed by Greg Young; the “housing” issue was solved
- 4) The University Program involves 6 programs campus wide:
  - Honors
  - University Studies (formerly General Studies)
  - Liberal Studies (now American Studies)
  - Undergraduate Scholars Program
  - Directed Interdisciplinary Studies
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- 5) The undergraduate program of American Studies was approved last year by the Board of Regents; without any advertising, it has become a very popular undergrad major
- 6) This early success of the undergrad American Studies program led to discussion of a possible graduate level which would attract international students (this semester there are two students from Oslo and one from University of Plymouth; three will be coming next fall from the University of Berlin)
- 7) This proposal was written by Bob and David after consulting with faculty in the departments most affected by the proposed program (History, English, Native

American Studies, Media and Theatre Arts) and the Deans of the Arts and Architecture College and the College of Letters and Science.

## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

- 1) Are there any graduate level courses in University College? No, all courses are undergrad level at this time
- 2) Does University College have affiliated faculty? No. It is similar to the Liberal Studies model in which faculty are hired from departments; last fall, the first Introduction to American Studies course was co-taught by Bob Rydell, Robert Bennett (English), and Walter Metz (MTA) using the rubric AMST
- 3) Where will the student home dept. be for Program of Study, committee, advising, etc.? The main interest of the student will determine which academic department will be the home base
- 4) How would a student find a faculty advisor? One of the directors of AS will be responsible to identify appropriate faculty and direct the student to him/her, depending on student's interest; the faculty member then needs to commit to accepting the student and shepherding the student through the program to the end; the Director of AS cannot commit faculty—it will have to be voluntary
- 5) For recruiting, will need to identify specific faculty who will participate in the AS program (to advise, be on committees, etc)—similar to the structure of the Molecular Bioscience fellowship program with approx. 70 affiliated faculty
- 6) What if a student changes main interest? (see No. 4, administrative function will be done in AS)
- 7) For the Masters in Nursing, the advisor works with faculty to make a proper fit for the student
- 8) In the Proposal, there are no number of credits indicated (60? 90?)—just reads “18 dissertation credits”—this needs to be clarified
- 9) If a student received a MS in AS at MSU and went on, would there be any PhD level AS courses? It is anticipated that the PhD program will be very small to start; most of the interest is in the Masters level
- 10) Marketing—what would students do with an AS degree? The image of the USA around the world is very poor at present and this will need to change. AS students could go to other countries to learn how they learn about the USA, and go to universities in other countries to teach AS courses; concern—will there be enough content in AS courses to gain skills to work in foreign affairs?
- 11) An advanced degree in AS would have a higher federal GS rating than an undergrad degree
- 12) Are there letters of support from the faculty? There is nothing in writing, but there easily could be; David has talked to dept. heads of all the departments involved (History, English, Native American Studies, MTA, Sociology, Anthropology); the Proposal needs explicit written support from other colleges on which the program will depend heavily for resources; documentation will strengthen the proposal when it goes to the MSU Provost and the Board of Regents
- 13) If the grad level of the program rapidly increased its enrollment, would there be sufficient faculty support? Current grad enrollments in the departments involved are

small; also, since the students will be spread over several departments, the impact on any course would be small

- 14) Department heads are concerned with how faculty will be credited and compensated for advising and serving on committees outside their home department; MSU does not have a long history of interdisciplinary programs, so this will have to be resolved; Carl asked what kind of credit would faculty like—the answer was that which will impact promotion and tenure committee reviews (some department heads will not credit work done outside the home department); problem when faculty do not publish because they are on several grad committees
- 15) Student credit hours—will follow the faculty member, not University College
- 16) Does University College have the funds to sustain the proposed budget for assistantships (\$20,000)? UC will provide the initial funds and discuss sources with Greg Young; later, a budget will need to go to UPBAC for them to decide to accept the program; long term, the program will need grants to support GTAs and GRAs
- 17) Would only 6 credits of 500 level courses differentiate a BA from a MA? This will have to be revised to reflect the current DGE policy that no more than 9 credits can be at 400 level
- 18) Page 5, #2 – “At least 4 years of full-time study at MSU” – could be less if bring in student from other school
- 19) Page 5, #9 – “a suitable piece of scholarly writing” – delete this
- 20) How many students do you expect the first year? 10 MA and 1-3 PhD
- 21) When do you plan to start classes? Fall 2009—need authorization to be able to advertise and start recruiting in Fall 2008
- 22) Page 5, #5 – need to clarify “supporting” and “thematic”, especially for international students
- 23) Might consider some of the major fields as options for graduate minors
- 24) Current .25 fte administrative person needs to be increased to at least a .5 fte—a lot of contact with individual students is what made the MSSE program successful

American Studies needs UGC authorization as soon as possible (Missoula also is working on its AS program); would like the Proposal to get on the agenda for the May meeting of the Board of Regents; B of R authorization would be in Fall 2008, so they could start recruiting then

Carl wants a recommendation from UGC as to whether to go forward with the Proposal or not; this UGC review saw no major flaws in quality, integrity, or sustainability.

Motion: Michelle Hardy made a motion that **we recommend that the Vice Provost of Graduate Education take it seriously under advisement with modifications discussed.**

The motion was seconded by Rob Maher and passed unanimously.

#### UGC Committee Reports

- Policies and Procedures
  - a) Rob's list of concerns included:

- i) Need support for faculty—received credit for outside dept. work
  - ii) Federal statement regarding time research faculty take to write out proposals
  - iii) The wide variations in comp exams across MSU campus
  - iv) How colleges will get their allocations for GTAs
  - v) Capital campaign and fund raising for grad students—Carl stated that trained MSU students were calling 4500 MSU grad alumni.
- Governance
    - a) Yves made a **motion to accept the UGC ByLaws dated March 19, 2008; motion was accepted by unanimous vote.**
  - Curriculum
    - a) Committee will meet next week.

#### Tuition Waivers

- a) The new policy for tuition waivers is moving forward
- b) Donna handed out a spreadsheet
- c) There have been many meetings with dept. heads, Asst. Deans, Payroll, Business Services, OSP
- d) Student vs MSU employee involves FICA deduction concerns

#### DGE Graduate T Shirt

- Will be free to all UGC members – stop by 108 Montana Hall to pick it up

#### UGC Elections

- a) Yves, Rita, and Rob Maher have one more year
- b) Yves was nominated as Chair for the coming year, with Rob as back up
- c) Carl will meet with Yves this summer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

MaryKay West, Secretary  
Division of Graduate Education