

# University Committee on Graduate Studies

Minutes

January 11, 2021



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

**Present:** M. Abel (COGS), L. Bourquin (CANR), N. Costello (LAW), C. Ernst (CANR), Y. Figueroa (CAL), A. Gilad (CHM), A. Halvorsen (EDU), M. Haq (EGR), D. Hershey (NURS), T. Hult (BUS), K. Tollefson (for T. Jeitschko) (GRAD), K. Kim (BUS), D. Koslowsky (COM), R. Kulkarni (CNS), J. Lonstein (SSC), A. Moeser (CVM), J. Riebschleger (COS), E. Roggenkamp (COGS), T. Sharkey (CNS), D. Straiton (COGS), B. Takahashi (CCAS), B. Van Dyke (CAL), D. Wong (EDU), T. Zhou (MUS)

**Absent:** T. Grebey (COGS), F. Pratt (COGS)

## **Preliminary Matters**

The University Committee on Graduate Studies held a regular meeting via Zoom on January 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. with Chairperson Denise Hershey presiding. The agenda was approved following an amendment by unanimous consent. The draft minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Remarks were given by the Chairperson, Associate Dean Kirsten Tollefson, and Council of Graduate Students President Meagan Abel.

## **Discussion of UCGS Processing Program Change Requests**

The Chairperson led a discussion regarding how UCGS handles program change requests from departments. Upon a motion by the Chairperson, the committee agreed by consent to refer the issue to the Graduate Instruction, Employment, and Mentoring Subcommittee, which was tasked with developing a document outlining best practices and guidelines for departments making program change requests to UCGS.

Upon a motion by the Chairperson, the committee agreed by consent to charge the Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee with developing an internal, UCGS-specific document outlining when requests should go to the full committee, when the requests should go to the Subcommittee, and when requesters should be invited to present to UCGS.

## **Military Leave Policy**

The Chairperson introduced a guest speaker, James Lucas, whose subject was the university's military leave policy. Thomas Sharkey moved to endorse the proposed language with an amendment instructing students to work with their advisor and the graduate program director to request a time extension for completing the degree. The motion was adopted by consent.



## **Subcommittee Reports**

As part of a report, Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee Chairperson Thomas Sharkey moved to approve the following curricular changes: 1) A request for Moratorium on Admission to the Master of Arts Degree in Critical Studies in Literature and Pedagogy in the College of Arts and Letters, 2) a request for Moratorium on Admission to the Master of Arts Degree in Digital Rhetoric and Professional Writing in the College of Arts and Letters, 3) a request to change the name of the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior in the College of Natural Science to “Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior,” 4) a request to change the name of the Graduate Specialization in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior in the College of Natural Science to “Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior,” 5) a request to change the requirements for the dual major in Environmental Science and Policy in the College of Social Science, and 6) a request to change the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Special Education Leadership: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education. The motion was adopted by consent.

Neither Graduate Instruction, Employment, and Mentoring Subcommittee Chairperson Donna Koslowsky nor Academic Research Policy Subcommittee Chairperson Kyonghee Kim had a report.

## **Change to Requirements for PhD in Communication**

The Chairperson introduced two guest speakers, Brandon Van Der Heide and Margaret Barkman, who requested to change the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Communication in the Department of Communication. Vice Chairperson Ben Van Dyke moved to make the requested changes. The motion was adopted by consent following debate.

## **Moratorium on Admission to PhD in History**

The Chairperson introduced a guest speaker, Karrin Hanshew, who requested a one-year Moratorium on Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in History in the College of Social Science. Van Dyke moved to grant the moratorium. The motion was adopted by consent following debate.

## **Moratoriums on Admission to MA and PhD in Psychology**

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The Chairperson introduced a guest speaker, Catherine Durbin, who requested a one-year Moratorium on Admission to the Master of Arts degree in Psychology in the College of Social Science. Van Dyke moved to grant the moratorium. The motion was adopted by consent.

Durbin also requested a one-year Moratorium on Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology in the College of Social Science. Van Dyke moved to grant the moratorium. The motion was adopted by consent.

## **Change in Administrative Responsibility and Requirements for MA and PhD in African American and American Studies**

The Chairperson introduced a guest speaker, Ruth Nicole Brown, who requested to change the administrative responsibility for the Master of Arts degree in African American and African Studies from the College of Arts and Letters to the Department of African American and African Studies. Brown also requested changes to the requirements for the degree. Sharkey moved to approve all requested changes. The motion was adopted by consent.

Brown also requested to change the administrative responsibility for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in African American and African Studies from the College of Arts and Letters to the Department of African American and African Studies. Brown also requested changes to the requirements for the degree. Van Dyke moved to approve all requested changes. The motion was adopted by consent.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

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Tyler Silvestri  
Secretary for Academic Governance

**Approved:** February 8, 2021