

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Minutes of the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) Meeting March 21, 2022

Present:

William Anderson (COGS)
Cathy Ernst (CANR),
Assaf Gilad (CHM),
Anne-Lise Halvorsen (EDU),
Denise Soltow Hershey (NURS),
Gary Hoppenstand (CAL),
Sara Hugentobler (COGS),
Tomas Hult (BUS),
Kyonghee Kim (BUS),
Donna Koslowsky (COM),
Rajesh Kulkarni (CNS),
Bethany Laursen (GRAD),
Alice Puchalsky (COGS),
Joanne Riebschleger (CSS),
Tom Sharkey (CNS),
Taylor Thrush (COGS)
Kirsten Tollefson (GRAD)
Lily Yan (CSS),
Ben Van Dyke (CAL),
Lorraine Weatherspoon (CANR), and
Tian Zhou (MUS)

Absent: Nancy Costello (LAW), Beth Herbel-Eisenmann (EDU), Mamoodal Haq (ENG), Adam Moeser (CVM), & Bruno Takahasi (CCAS)

Guest: Kendall Mahn (CNS – High Energy Physics)

Preliminary Matters: The full regular UCGS Zoom meeting on March 21, 2022 was called to order at 3 PM by Chair Denise Hershey.

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Sharkey. **Approved.**
2. **Approval of Minutes** from Feb. 21, 2022: Motion by Hult. **Approved.**
3. **Remarks from the Chairperson** (Denise Hershey): Denise Hershey discussed the need for a roster for April meeting. Potential roster members include Gary Hoppenstand (president), Joanne Riebschleger (secretary),
4. **Remarks from the Graduate School** (Kirsten Tollefson for Eric Torng): A new Dean of the Graduate School shall be announced very soon. On behalf of Eric Torng, Kirsten Tollefson asked for an **extension of the waiver for admissions for the 2022-2023 Dean of the Graduate School.** Motion for same by Weatherspoon. Discussion. **Motion passed.**

5. **Remarks from the COGS President** (Sara Hugentobler): Sara Hugentobler said officer elections were held last week. She welcomed Taylor Thrush as incoming president of COG for 2022-2023. She noted that April 4-10 is graduate and professional student appreciation week.
6. **Update on the Academic Dishonesty Policies Task Force:** Continuing committee charge activities.
7. **RIO Search:** Anne-Lise Halvorson and Lorraine Weatherspoon reported on a meeting with the Chair of the Search Committee for a new MSU Research Integrity Officer (RIO). Anne-Elise Halvorson and Lorraine Weatherspoon described their discussion about a lack of UCGS and Affirmative Action inclusion. They also noted limited diversity among applicants selected for interviews.

Motion by Sharkey, second by Hoppenstand, **to declare the current RIO replacement process as a failed search; a new UCGS- and Affirmative Action-inclusive new search shall commence.**
Discussion. **Motion passed.**

8. **University Committee on Graduate Studies Subcommittees Reports:**

a. Academic Research Policy Subcommittee: Lorraine Weatherspoon reviewed the survey ratings assessing the RIO performance. Survey respondents rated the RIO as 80 to 90% positive on all items, except confidentiality which was rated as 100%. The RIO recommended assessing the overall program performance, not just the RIO in the next performance review. Weatherspoon supported this recommendation.

b. Graduate Instruction, Employment, & Mentoring Subcommittee: Tomas Hult said he will contact Bruno Takahasi to meet and discuss graduate student salaries. This needs to be done before April 2022 meeting.

c. Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee: Tom Sharkey discussed recommendation for approving items 8-12 as a group. He noted that these minimal changes could be handled by the subcommittee.

Motion by **Hoppenstand to approve changes for items 9-13** (below). Discussion. **Motion approved.**

9. Request to **Change the Requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics**
10. Request to **Change the Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Neuroscience** –
11. Request to **Change the Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities**
12. Request to **Change the Requirements for the Master of Music Degree in Collaborative Piano**
13. Request to **Change the Requirements for the Accelerator Science and Engineering Graduate Certificate**
14. *Request for a **New Graduate Certificate in Instrumentation in High Energy Physics:** Kendall Mahn explained the request for a new graduate certificate in high energy physics. This is related to high demands for the CNS Dept. of Physics and Astronomy to increase education of students trained in high energy physics, i.e., accelerator training.

Motion **to approve the new graduate certificate in instrumentation in high energy physics** by Hoppenstand. **Motion approved.**

15. **Roundtable:** Roundtable discussion was related to the RIO search. See item 6 (above).

16. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Riebschleger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joanne Riebschleger, Secretary for University Committee on Graduate Studies

Approved:

April 18, 2022