

University Committee on Undergraduate Education

Meeting Minutes, September 4, 2025



Present: Chastity Warren, Rachel Barnard, Niki Rudolph, Matt McKeon, Fred Rauscher, Jeff Judge, Kathleen Gallo, Helen Mayer, Justin Micomonaco, Chrysoula Vasileiou, Amanda Idema, Teresa Almanza, Laura Thompson, Rebecca Malouin, Alexandra Stanley, Thomas Summerhill, Emelia Hammond, Anthony Stanco, Ken Horn, Lynmarie Posie, Marcio Oliverio, Opal Leeman Bartzis, Jorhie Beadle, Laurie Thorp, Sonja Fritzsche, Scott Farver, Karen Renner, Jennifer Goett, Martin Chilvers

Absent: Sung Ham, Linda Nubani

An in-person meeting of the University Committee on Undergraduate Education was held on September 4, 2025 at 10:15 in STEM 2110 with Chastity Warren presiding. The agenda was approved as amended. The minutes of the April 10, 2025 meeting were approved as corrected.

3. Votes:

- Chastity Warren was nominated and voted in as Chair,
- Rachel Barnard was nominated and voted in as Vice Chair.
- It was determined that we will meet online with exception to possibly having the last meeting scheduled for in-person.
- Amanda Idema was nominated & voted in as Athletic Council representative for UCUE.

4. Remarks:

Chair: Review of UCUE bylaws. UCUE also has a Teams site so if you are not on that, please reach out to be added.

Vice Provost: We are lucky to have Marcio from the Teaching & Learning side and Mark from Undergraduate side. This agenda is odd as we have a lot of curriculum requests to review. It is our job to look at these requests as a university and look closely at the impacts and vote on each accordingly. You will also be asked this year to vote on ad hoc requests from the provost's office—some urgent, some can be requests to mull over prior to vote. This is critical work that has significant consequences. I encourage all on this committee to

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use [Mark] as a resource for things that you need or would like to see done. When Mark cannot attend, Renata Opoczynski will attend in his stead as she is his right hand and knows what he knows

5. Curriculum Requests:

New

- a. Cropping Systems Science, BS (Karen Renner/Dorcia Chaison)
 - a. We saw a need to add some majors to have some visibility
 - b. We reached into a few other programs to round out the majors
 - c. This is after a 2-year activity to elevate concentrations
 - d. Losing advanced Studies concentration that was not very popular
 - e. No additional resources will be needed- existing resources will be reallocated
 - f. Approved with majority vote and no objections
- b. Environmental Soil and Water Science, BS (Karen Renner/Dorcia Chaison)
 - a. Approved with majority vote and no objections
- c. Turfgrass Science and Management, BS (Karen Renner/Dorcia Chaison)
 - a. Approved with majority vote and no objections
- d. Plant Pathology, MNUN (Dorcia Chaison)
 - a. 4th group of research sciences and there seemed to be interest in a minor
 - b. There was a gap when we compared ourselves to other institutions
 - c. Do not require any additional resources/courses
 - d. Allows for specialty career advancement
 - e. Approved with majority vote and no objections
- e. Philosophy and Law, BA (Sonja Fritzsche or a PHL designee)
 - a. Our graduate program has been know for this, but our undergraduate program has simply retained the traditional major
 - b. Previous concentration was tremendously popular and now would

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- like to move to make it a major
- c. No additional resources are required to offer this degree
- d. Will work closely with pre-law and humanities
 - i. Both gave a survey a couple of years ago of graduates of this program and this served as a catalyst to create this program
- e. No additional classes outside of Philosophy will be needed for this degree
- f. Approved with majority vote and no objections
- f. Philosophy and the Sciences, BA (Sonja Fritzsche or a PHL designee)
 - a. Would benefit graduates with this concentration
 - b. No new resources will be needed for this or the minor
 - c. Concern for overlap with existing Science in Society programs in Lyman Briggs
 - d. Additional courses outside of Philosophy in sciences will need to signed off on by those colleges offering them since they are 300 & 400 courses and additional courses on top of the requirements for the degree just to get into these courses
 - i. There are students who already have these majors are taking Philosophy courses and are interested in additional degrees in philosophy
 - ii. Need to make more transparent in degree requirements to ensure that students do not start a program that they can't complete due to inability to get into required courses
 - e. We will table this degree vote until Philosophy is able to answer some of these questions about how to enable students to complete
 - i. New course offerings in science may be required to accommodate
- g. Philosophy and the Sciences, MNUN (Sonja Fritzsche or a PHL designee)
 - a. Concern for overlap with existing Science in Society programs in Lyman Briggs
 - b. We will table this degree vote until Philosophy is able to answer

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some of these questions about how to enable students to complete

- i. New course offerings in science may be required to accommodate
- h. Public Affairs for Secondary Education, BA (Jeff Judge)
 - a. A way that the student can still have the JMC experience and still have the degree for education
 - i. They would be certified to teach Social Studies
 - ii. This pulls different courses that are JMC specific and allows JMC to continue to support students pursuing education for those who also want to have residential college experience
 - iii. There are about 40 students per year doing this
 - b. Approved with majority vote with no objections

Moratorium

- i. LB Computer Science, BS, Field of Concentration (Niki Rudolph)
 - a. Currently have coordinated computer science offering along with Engineering and this is a moratorium that exists just in Lyman Briggs
 - b. Been working with students who currently in this BS program to graduate in Spring
 - c. Finding alternate paths for students interested in this major
 - d. Approved with majority vote with no objections
- j. Environmental and Sustainability Studies, MNUN (Lynmarie Posey)
 - a. RISE was moved to the office of Undergraduate Education- resulted in uncoupling of minor and residential
 - b. Consulted with Ag & Natural Resources
 - c. New students will not be allowed to sign up for this minor, but current students pursuing this minor will be able to continue as a minor
 - i. It is one year to evaluate and up to 2-year moratorium
 - d. Concerns that there was no discussion about moratorium and there

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are students who have completed the courses but cannot declare their minor

- e. Would impact our rating for Sustainability and we are one of 10 universities that have achieved this rating
- f. Also impacts ranking for Times ranking for Sustainability
- g. Tied to MSU 2030 Strategic Plan
- h. Students from 11 different colleges are enrolled in this minor
- i. Request made to table for now so that Lynmarie can take it back to colleagues
 - i. Motion to table denied with majority vote, with one vote to approve tabling
- j. Moratorium denied by majority vote with no votes to approve
- k. Environmental Geosciences, BS (Lynmarie Posey)
 - a. 49 students last year
 - b. Being replaced by new BS in Earth & Environmental Sciences launching Fall 2026
 - c. Approved with majority with no objections
- l. Geological Sciences, BS (Lynmarie Posey)
 - a. 40 students last year
 - b. Being replaced by new BS in Earth & Environmental Sciences launching Fall 2026
 - c. Approved with majority with no objections

Discontinue – all are needing to be discontinued due to changes in requirements from state of Michigan

- m. Economics, Disciplinary Teaching Minor (Ken Horne)
 - a. Approved with majority vote with no objections
- n. Geography, Disciplinary Teaching Minor (Ken Horne)
 - a. Approved with majority vote with no objections
- o. History, Disciplinary Teaching Minor (Ken Horne)

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- a. Approved with majority vote with no objections
- p. History Education, BA (Ken Horne)
 - a. Approved with majority vote with no objections
- q. Political Science, Disciplinary Teaching Minor (Ken Horne)
 - a. Approved with majority vote with no objections

Comments from the Floor:

Does MSU have ethics classes on AI? Currently working to present this based on currently offered courses

Campus-wide guidelines sent from the Provost office that includes our stance on AI. AI.msu.edu has many resources that will continue to evolve

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

Racheal Sandford

Approved: 9/25/25