

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Sherrick 114

Council in Attendance:

Alan Dyer (Chair)

Marc Giullian (Business)

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

Tena Versland (Education)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Tim LeCain (Letters)

Rebecca Koltz (Health & Human  
Development)

John Borkowski (Sciences)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

John Paxton (Computer Science)

Sonja Bahr (Alumni Foundation)

Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)

Absent:

Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

Meeting started at 1:04 pm

**November 10, 2015 minutes**

- Chair Dyer called for motion to approve, Christopher Livingston motioned, Tim LeCain second, unanimous approval

**Announcements**

- Sonja Bahr, Associate Director Prospect Research, Alumni Foundation
  - Recent position change to Associate Director of Foundation Relations, serve as rep for Graduate Council for their development team
  - Focus on local alumni who hold a BA and higher degree from MSU to engage with GS
  - Seeking donors who have completed their graduate degree from MSU, and those that received support from the GS
  - Funds will go to graduate education campus-wide

**Old Business**

- **School of Computing Science, Level II proposal**
  - John Paxton, Dept Head of CS
  - Correction: proposal is to change the name to The School of Computing
  - Rational behind proposal is to build a broader base to capture all aspects of computing knowledge in today's world
  - Aspirations include possibly developing a BA in CS and an MA in Data Science (interdisciplinary degree) which could involve Statistics, Social Sciences, Engineering; with possible joint appointments with other depts.
  - CS is the quickest growing program on campus with a growth of 310 to 430 majors this fall; there is a 10-15% growth at the national level; this (name change) is a trend across the nation to accommodate the broad benefits of integrating computation
  - No changes in curriculum at this time; BS, MS and PhD will be retained

- Anticipate a need for more faculty resources only if STEM with computer science becomes a state-wide initiative
  - Was there any influence on this proposal by a donor? \$1M gift from Gianforte to COE/CS; \$500K towards start-ups for Faculty beginning spring 2016, \$500k towards the COE required they support the School of Computing name change
  - Chair Dyer called for motion to send proposal to Faculty Senate, Al-Kaisey motioned, Marc Giullian second, unanimous approval
- **Meritorious and Presidential Awards**
    - Chair Dyer reported the revised calls passed with 7 votes via email vote on 11/18/15 with minor modifications
- **PhD Enhancement Award; proposed call and metrics**
    - Chair Dyer and Member LeCain submitted proposal
    - Criteria and metrics were revised per council suggestions and feedback
    - Announcement needs to go out before the end of the term
    - Criteria for the metric are to consider the quality of PhD program, the dept's strategic plan for growth, quality of students, and evidence of success for the program
    - The program is too young (4 years) to access the progress of past recipients
    - It is a reward for programs that have an agenda set up to improve their PhD program, enrollment, and various success rates; not intended to be a scholarship
    - Intent is to enhance PhD productivity and to relieve faculty from their instruction/work loads and then for faculty to improve their own productivity
    - Concerns about linking the award to relieving faculty workload; focus is on improving PhD program itself; GTAs do not provide enough relief
    - Suggestion made to change the support allocation from GTA to GRA in order to offer assistance to programs
    - Suggestion made to limit the number of depts. who can receive this award or set a preference so that new programs have a chance to receive the award
    - One stipulation is that the dept. that receives this award also must provide tuition waivers
    - Future evaluations will need to include measuring faculty productivity; report will need to show number of papers with graduate student authors, number of presentations by students, number of awards received by students, number of proposals that include student data, award nominations, etc.
    - Not to be used for start-up or retention packages
    - Chair Dyer called for Council to send edits and suggestions to Member LeCain by Monday 11/30/15; LeCain will revise and submit for email vote by Wednesday 12/2/15
- **Graduate Representative policy**
    - Member Shreffler-Grant submitted proposal
    - Minor edits implemented
    - Chair Dyer called for motion to release draft proposal to Faculty Senate for comment, LeCain motioned, Livingston second, unanimous approval

**Chair Dyer adjourned at 2:05 pm**

Next scheduled meeting – TBD for spring 2016 term