UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

October 8, 2020 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. WEBEX

Council in Attendance:
Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Mark Pernarowski (Letters & Science)
Tricia Seifert (Education)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Bradford Watson (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)
Anne Christensen (Business)
Que Vo (International Programs)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Doralyn Rossmann (Library)

Also in Attendance:
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Emily Peters (Graduate School)

Absent:
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)

Meeting started at 1:03 pm on WebEx

September 24, 2020 minutes

- Motion to approve by Aig, 2nd by Seifert, unanimously passed

Announcements

- **Update from the Dean**
  - 3 financial assistance applications currently open for grad students: childcare scholarships, food scholarships, and assistance for international students
  - Closed completion grant application: 1 semester of support for students to concentrate on finishing dissertation; received 15 applications
  - GTA/GRA annual review process: contact Dean Ogilvie to volunteer
  - Center for Faculty Excellence hosting "What Your Students Want You to Know…About Being a Graduate Student" via Webex: Tuesday, October 13th at 1:00 p.m.

- **Faculty Senate update (Watson)**
  - COVID taskforce: targeting end of the month to put out findings and recommendations
  - Graduate courses and certificate went forward to second reading

Old Business

- **Cybersecurity MS, Level II program proposal**
  - Proposer responded back to UGC's questions—these were forwarded to council and added as an attachment to the proposal
  - Call for comments:
    - Discussion on adding programs during these unusual times: Do you build the program with the expectation of getting resources later? Or wait until the resources are there?
      - Clarification that we are in a hiring moratorium, not a freeze
        - The resources question is important for this specific program, but the campus is continuing to build programs
      - The new faculty would fill 2 vacant faculty positions
        - This would be helpful to clarify in the proposal
    - The difference between this master's level program and the AAS/CAS programs could be strengthened
      - Master's prepared students will be able to design the infrastructure. The Gallatin College program prepares students to maintain/operate.
      - This could potentially be added to the learning outcomes
    - Q: Approval and launch of the program were decoupled?
      - A: Can find out what this means
      - Could make sense to go forward with developing the program, but pause on the launch of the program until the new faculty are hired
    - Q: Why not add a master's degree and an undergraduate degree – given the co-convened courses – to create a larger draw?
      - A: Prefer undergraduate background in Computer Science. Cybersecurity specialty at the graduate level.
      - It would be valuable to explain this in the proposal
      - Q: Why then are they co-convening courses?
      - A: To open some of these courses to the undergraduate students
    - Q: How much difference is there between the Computer Science and Cybersecurity MS programs?
      - A: These classes could be taken by CS students
  - Will forward these additional questions and ask for the entire proposal to be revised with this information (not just added as an attachment)
    - Important to add this information into the proposal as it goes forward through the process

- **Graduate Certificate Policy:** Tabled – subcommittee is working on this

- **Removing central requirement for doctoral coursework past master's (Ogilvie):**
  - Review proposal: allow departments and committees flexibility to determine the coursework needed beyond a master's by removing the central requirement for 12 additional coursework credits beyond a master's degree
    - Feedback has been largely positive
  - Q: Are all students required to finish comps before taking 690s?
    - A: Depends on the department
    - Departments would not have to change their existing procedures – this just removes the central requirement

- Q: Does this open up possible of abuse of the policy?
  - A: Could be possible a faculty member has a student do research only that could have benefited from additional coursework
- Reviewed the language in the policy proposal:
  - Delete the 12-credits of additional coursework required beyond a master's degree
  - Accordingly, would also increase the maximum dissertation credits from 28 to 30
- Tarabochia motions to approve the policy revisions, 2nd by Wittie
  - 9 in favor, 0 opposed, unanimously approved

New Business

- **UGC role description for CiM:** Tabled

- **PhD in Indigenous & Rural Health, Level II program proposal**
  - Call for comments:
    - Great institutional fit for MSU; existing grants in this area
    - Conflation of the "Indigenous" and "Rural" terms in the proposal
      - Clarification about this might help differentiate the program from Missoula
      - Name comes from an existing program
      - Rural covers anyone of any ethnicity living in a rural area
        - Would dissertations combine both or could they focus on one or the other?
    - Explanation of difference with Missoula could be strengthened
      - The point that the new program would be both in person and online is not a particularly strong argument of distinction; UM could easily change this
      - Could attach the other program in the appendix and point out the differences
      - MSU already had a master's in Community Health before UM added their master's level program
        - The concern over duplication is in regards to UM's PhD program in Public Health
      - We should not necessarily be deterred by similar programs if: 1) it would be good for the state to have the program offered by MSU 2) it is good for the students 3) the program is fiscally sound
      - BOR will scrutinize duplication; raise these questions to help prepare the proposers down the line
      - Worth mentioning that MSU is developing a center for Indigenous studies
      - Really clarifying the rural health aspect could also be a distinguishing factor from general public health
    - Limited Native American letters of support
    - Consider 21 credits in the other tracks, but only 15 credits from a community health MS
    - Potential typo: the nursing track says "BSN" rather than "MSN"
    - No description of what would happen if someone didn't have a master's; may be an entrance requirement to have master's, but this was not clearly stated
    - Requirement for one of the dissertation options: 3 first author papers seemed like a strict requirement, especially in a collaborative interdisciplinary program
    - Single course for Indigenous and rural health. Could make the program even more distinct by adding more Indigenous and rural health specific courses

        - Very Montana specific—may be better to describe as a global program with applications to Montana, so students can take this degree to other rural areas
        - Extensive elective choices could be clarified
            - American Studies might be a good model—has a very interdisciplinary program with advisors in different colleges and a lot of elective options
    - Livingston will send questions to the proposer and invite the proposer to the next meeting to answer some of the big picture questions

- **Co-convening, first discussion on possible limits**
    - Topic raised at the last accreditation review was that there is no policy on number of co-convened courses in a graduate program of study
    - Discuss both extremes of co-convening
        - All courses co-convened: not a good graduate school experience
        - No co-convening: small or new programs may be negatively impacted
    - Create a policy to set some sort of ground rules
        - Difficult to review on a per student basis: co-convened courses are listed as 5xx
        - Could review at program level
            - Example: No more than 1/3 of the required or elective courses could be co-convened
            - Balance between experience of graduate student and making sure we don't inadvertently hurt some of our smaller programs
    - 50% of courses in one of the Cybersecurity tracks are proposed as co-convened
    - Consider any implications within your own department
    - Council will discuss in the future and then send to the policy sub-committee to draft language

Adjourned at 2:28 pm

Next scheduled meeting – October 22, 2020 WEBEX