

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Tuesday Nov 14, 2017

2 – 3 p.m.

Wilson 2-257

Council in Attendance:

John Borkowski (Sciences)

James Becker (Health & Human Development)

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Robert Rydell (Letters)

Dennis Aig (Arts)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Kathryn Bills (Student Representative)

Marc Giullian (Business)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)

Amanda Brown (Graduate School)

Joshua Meyer (Student Rep)

Ann Ewbank (alternate for Education)

Nigel Waterton (Education)

Tricia Seifert (Education)

Tim Seipel (Agriculture)

Absent:

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Tena Versland (Education)

Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)

Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

Meeting started at 2:00 pm

October 31, 2017 minutes

- Livingston moves, Aig second, unanimous approval

Announcements

- BoR 11/16-11/17; GS info table in ballroom B/C
 - BoR Agenda: 11/16 Academic Prioritization at 10:15 am in Ballroom A
- Proposed Tax Reform Legislation (Student Rep Bills), handout
 - Federal government proposed legislation that would tax tuition waivers as income

Old Business

- **MAT proposal (Livingston; Education: Seifert, Ewbank, Waterton)**
 - Distributed program timeline; hoping to be on BoR agenda in March 2018; start students in summer 2019;
 - Need: rural Montana has dearth of applicants for public school teachers position; MAT hopes to help alleviate the issue by creating more teachers in Montana
 - Elementary teachers are most needed in rural Montana
 - Initial licensure program, hybrid online program
 - Similar program at MSU Billings (MSUB) but requires night classes on campus
 - Intentionally a graduate professional degree
 - Office of Public Instruction supports proposal (letter of support included in documents in CiM)
 - Believe program would fill immediately

- Start with small cohort, 10 elementary and 10 secondary education students; eventually 40 total would be capacity. If demand eventually exceeds capacity, additional resources and faculty lines will be necessary
 - Initial classroom exposure would be first spring term (students begin the program in summer)
 - Bring students to campus earlier in the program (sets program apart from other MAT programs nationally)—earlier face to face time with MSU faculty and exposure to children in Youth Camp program (4 days with campers) during their second summer in the program
 - Program would be paid out of pocket by students
 - Funds within Education and within the College of EHHD would pay for necessary course development
 - Will evaluate each student prior to admission for content coursework requirements using PEPP (professional educator preparation program) standards
 - Not all endorsement areas can be offered at the start (technology, music)
 - Q: Would a master's degree be detrimental to rural school districts? They cost more to employ?
 - Letter of support from Montana Rural Educators Association states they are extremely supportive of the program
 - Dr. Seifert invited to speak to superintendents of SE rural Montana to share proposal
 - Difficulty filling positions is at "crisis level"
 - Comment: Program for training teachers based solely online is concerning
 - Comment: Funding concerns for content area courses
 - Q: Tenure vs NTT faculty running courses?
 - About half of required/core courses to be taught by T/TT faculty members
 - Q: Is this program so distinct that it creates accreditation concerns?
 - Dept of Ed programs were accredited in May of 2016 by CAEP with no stipulations and MAT would be under same umbrella as their undergrad program because both lead to initial licensure
 - Online MAT is not rare nationally
 - Q: What logistical challenges are there for the staff member who will manage field placements and assessments?
 - Rural principals and superintendents know MSU faculty and visit annually for the Rural Colloquium—Dept of Education (DoE) plans to continue and strengthen those relationships
 - Currently have students placed all over Montana; DoE has experience with distant field placements
 - DoE uses electronic tool for performance evaluation in the classroom; recently adopted/will be adopted by MSUB and others across Montana
- **Graduate Faculty Status (Borkowski)**
 - Defer full discussion—not enough time left today and Chair Borkowski has new details to share
 - Chair Borkowski will send summary of L&S department heads meeting to UGC
 - Biggest issue seems to be that GFS creates two tiers of faculty
 - Some people are having difficulty seeing benefit of GFS

Adjourned at 3:03pm

Next scheduled meeting – Nov 28 at 2 p.m.