

UMGSB Graduate Council  
**MINUTES**  
Thursday, February 3, 2022  
Zoom Meeting Hosted by UMB

**Attendance:** Steve Pitts, Jennifer Maher, Kathy O'Dell, Nikita Aggarwal, Jia Bei Wang, Danya Qato, Jenny Owens, Janet Rutledge, Lisa Morgan, Jeff Halverson, John Basile, Sarah Chard, Kirsten Corazzini, Joel Tyson, Bethany Lee

Approval of Minutes from Council Meeting held on December 2, 2021 meeting – Minutes were approved as written.

**Announcements/plans/issues UMBC**

- UMBC was recently reclassified as a Research I university with an accompanying change from graduate programs being STEM dominant to comprehensive program.
- Graduate enrollment continues to be strong. Although, we will not make our goal of 3,000, we do have the highest enrollment for the spring semester that we have had in history.
- We are finalizing the search for the assistant dean position and hope to announce the selection next week.
- Towards the end of February the Graduate School will host a series of workshops on micro-aggressions as they affect graduate students, particularly students of color. This is a change from the listening sessions that we were planning to hold.
- A few council members are on sabbatical. Weindong Zhu is on sabbatical, but will continue working on Grad Council. Eileen Meyer is also on sabbatical and will be taking a break from the Grad Council.

**Announcements/plans/Issues UMB**

- There is a hard push for masks and testing. If departments are lacking the masks needed to be in person, let Erin know.
- We are working on the Grad School strategic plan retreat later this month with an outside entity.
- Met recently with Grad Assistant Stipend Committee and good progress is being made.
- Plans for graduation are underway. UMB will have graduation at the UMBC Events Center. A really exciting speaker has been engaged, but we are not allowed to talk about it yet.

**GSA Report UMBC**

- The GSA Executive Council is working with various departments to try and figure if the GSA can support transportation from Dulles Airport for new graduate students.
- A committee is examining how the GSA fee is spent by the GSA. We are looking at historically how we spent the money, demographics and who is benefiting from the fee. A similar committee is investigating how we can help graduate students find housing (perhaps including more resources in the orientation materials).
- The GSA recently put out a survey on collective bargaining because the ramifications are inherently confusing.

- The GSA is collaborating with the SGA undergrads to approach the integrated health, mental health, physical health practitioners, and directors of centers for wellness to assess what the mental health needs are on campus.
- Graduate Student Mania which is an all-day event with workshops, resources and vendor tables will be held at the RAC on April 8.
- The GS is in the process of going through the bylaws line by line.

### **GSA Report UMB**

- The GSA has a new meeting space in the library.
- An outdoor winter social was held on January 24 outside of the Medical School where students could have grab and go snacks.
- The Graduate Research Conference is on March 4 and is being planned as an in person event as of now.
- Our diversity equity committee finalized its 5-year strategic objectives around the areas of accountability and professional and curriculum development.
- The UMB food pantry is now up and running.
- Working on a writing source between Grammarly and the Writing Center to help students across all the schools.
- In terms of COVID, we have a new COVID testing site opening on Pratt Street for students. Testing kits and masks are being distributed across schools and every student has received at least two masks and testing kits.
- In response to a previously mentioned concern about students being penalized for not attending mandatory in person activities, the GSA president shared that students can now anonymously report this type of issue through the hotline.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Program Review**

- ***Education (UMBC) and Epidemiology and Human Genetics (PEHG) (UMB)*** – Overall, the committee believes that both programs have been responsive to suggestions for improvements. PEHG has room for growth in the master's program and improvements are well underway. Education is expanding the measures by which they collect data. In the end, both programs seem to be very healthy. The committee recommended approval of both reviews and all were in favor.

#### **Long Range Planning & New Programs – No Items to Report**

#### **New Courses Committee**

- UMB
  - MCST 616 and MCST 617 were both recommended for revise and resubmit, however, the edits can be returned to Erin Golembewski instead of the Grad Council. A recommendation was made and seconded to accept the committee's recommendation. All were in favor.

#### **Graduate Faculty Community**

- UMBC
  - Regular – Seungchul Baek, James Foulds
  - Special (1 year ) – Julie Oakes
- UMB
  - Regular – Phuoc Tran, Kim Oooney-Doyle
  - Special (5 years) – Debbie Churgai, Carrie Hempel-Sanderoff, Niki Moutsopoulos

It was explained that Dr. Oakes requested special status, but the chair's recommendation is for Associate. The Graduate School will look in the situation. For now, the recommendation is to approve as special and if needed change to associate. All were in favor.

**Old Business - *None at this time***

## **New Business**

### ***Bylaws Review***

It has been a long time since the bylaws have been reviewed. Over the years, additional programs have been added and it is being proposed that we do an expansion of the number of members on the Council. Traditionally, there are 8 members from each institution as well as two students. We are proposing that outside of the professional schools, we include people who are in the Grad School itself. It was suggested to expand to a total of 10 members on each campus and either making the GCGC a regular committee or assigning more people to the new courses committee which usually has a heavy load. It was also suggested that language should be added to review the bylaws every three years. Overall, the Council seemed to welcome the idea of expanding the Grad Council, however, more discussion is needed.

### ***Individualized Study for Master's Program***

Preliminary approval has been received to submit a proposal to offer individualized study program at the master's level (non-thesis). It was explained that two already approved certificate programs would join together and two additional courses would be added to round out to 30 credits. The following was asked of the Council: As we develop the proposal, what kinds of questions do you anticipate coming from the Graduate Council so we can discuss those in advance? The suggestions are below:

- Faculty support
- Ensuring the rigor of curriculum for the two courses
- Oversight, which department is overseeing the program, when is it being reviewed
- Advisors guiding both certificates have some way to collaborate and coordinate to make sure the blend is realistic
- Clear Home Program

Adjournment

Next Meeting  
March 3, 2022  
Teleconference Led by UMBC