

GCAP Approved Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Present: Dan Houlihan, Jackie Lewis, John Lindberg, Deb Topham,

Not Present: Barb Bergmann at a conference. Tim Secott at a meeting

1. Minutes of September 17, 2014 were approved. No changes.

2. **CDS streamlining:** The committee discussed Dan Cronn-Mills's suggestions for streamlining the CDS process. The recommendations were approved. The committee recommended that the Deans meet with their college curriculum committees to clarify issues related to proposals before they sign them. Rationale: With the constant turnover among the Deans, they are not always familiar with the curricular issues that exist between departments and this can lead and has lead to divisive situations.

3. **Graduate Commencement:** The FA Executive Committee requested that GCAP consider the proposal. The committee noted that it has very limited information about this proposal except what was shared at the Graduate Sub Meet and Confer.
4. At this time, the committee had several questions that it would like addressed. They are:
 - a. What is the function of the ceremony?
 - b. Where would this be held?
 - c. What time will it be held?
 - d. Have graduate students been surveyed and how do they feel about having to attend multiple events?

5. The committee is very mindful of supporting graduate students and celebrating their success and achievements. Therefore, if the students indicate an interest in such an event, the committee will strongly consider supporting such a request. However, at this time, the recommendation is that if we want to emphasize graduate education, resources should be invested while students are enrolled in at MSU rather than spending needed resources when they are graduating --through events such as a graduate commencement. It noted that GA funding is often the first to be cut, and graduate courses are canceled due to low numbers and this hinders students' progress towards graduation and this ultimately impacts graduate student debt and retention. The committee would like to see graduate education supported in the same way undergraduate education is on the campus.

6. **Joint meeting with Assessment and UCAP about Student Learning Outcomes:** The Committee noted that graduate programs learning outcomes are determined often by accreditation. Recommendation: Invite the Chairs of the Assessment Sub Meet to a GCAP meeting to share the information about SLO. Based on this discussion, GCAP will determine if a joint meeting is necessary.

7. **Credit for prior learning:** GCAP does not see the need for a policy.

8. **Other Items:** Graduate enrollment issues: Tabled due to time for further discussion.

9. **Dean Ries visit:** Dean Ries was invited to discuss how the faculty could partner with the Graduate College to support graduate education on campus. Several issues were raised including:

- Need to educate Deans about the characteristics of graduate education?
- What is causing the Deans to treat graduate programs as though they are undergraduate programs?
- Are graduate programs expected to pay for themselves?
- What are some of the priorities of Graduate Education?

Based on the discussion it appeared that the attitude toward graduate education on campus is problematic. Graduate programs are feeling under pressure when they offer graduate courses that often have lower enrollments than undergraduate courses. In such situations, no positive solutions are offered to address this concern. All this has lead to low morale among the faculty.