

2023-2024 Graduate Council

Minutes for Meeting #3

Theme: Combined Programs

[Zoom Link](#)

November 17, 2023 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Faculty Representatives: *Present*

Tierney McCleary (GACET, STPSM) (Chair);

Muhammad Ahmed (GACET)

Olivia Ford (CHHS—Health Science & Social Work)

Kathie Mason (LIB)

Ildi Porter-Szucs (CAS—Humanities),

Brian Spolans (CAS—Fine/Performing Arts)

John Sonnega (CHHS—Nursing and HPHP),

Tucker Staley (Fall 2023) TBD (Winter 2024) (CAS-Social Sciences)

Jessica Swan (COE)

Graduate School Representatives:

Steven Pernecky (Graduate School) and

Jenny Kindred (Faculty Associate)

Call to order: 1:04pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

- IPS moves, BS seconds; approved unanimously

2. Secretary for the day:

- IPS

3. Approval of [Minutes](#) from October Meeting

- IPS motions, BS seconds: 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention

4. Announcements from the Chair

- There will be a combined proposal from Faculty Senate and Graduate Council regarding not canceling classes when it's harming students.

5. Communication from the Graduate School

a) Graduate Open House:

-Grad School Rep reported that...

- it was held online
- 31 students attended out of 115 registrants
- it was advertised only by Grad School
- it needs to be advertised on University's website
- it needs to be rethought: perhaps separate open houses by college or program

-Faculty suggested advertising to seniors by program faculty and grad coordinators

Grad School Rep planning to set up booth at the UG Symposium, Graduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, and Faculty Showcase

-Faculty Associate suggested gathering feedback from all who attended Grad Open

House

-Faculty expressed need for professional marketing: TikTok-length videos, one-page print ads, easily searchable website

-Grad School Rep remembered an effective recruitment event with live music

b) **Admissions Daily Report:**

- applications down by 6.7% but admission rate is up by 7.8%
- domestic acceptance rate is up
- international acceptance is holding
- CAS and COE admissions are up
- COB, CHHS, CET admissions are down
- Grad School Rep will be tracking actual enrollment numbers

c) **Canceled Courses Data** – active/canceled courses

- Grad School shared [folder](#) with Grad Council: folder contains themes for discussion at Grad Council meetings, including combined programs, cross-listing of UG x Grad courses, enrollment

6. Main focus of meeting—Continued Discussion of Combined Programs and Degree Integrity Verification Processes

Combined Programs Feedback and input [clarification](#) - Provost requests more clarity beyond hours.

- Grad School Rep informed that Grad School Faculty Associates talked to faculty in combined programs. They also checked other universities' websites and found no information on minimum number of credits for combined programs. They suggest that instead of identifying a minimum number of credits, we could consider the maximum number of graduate credits at the UG level.
- Faculty wondered why established course-approval processes were being questioned by administrative units, why more institutional-level policies were being created when such policies were already in place?
- Faculty expressed concern over changing directives and guidelines for the development of combined programs. There has been no explanation given why concerns over “Deliverables a, b, c, d” below have arisen. Why are there new stipulations now?
- Faculty stated that combined programs that had been developed in compliance with the current directives, guidelines must be grandfathered in even if new guidelines are issued at a later date. New policies cannot be retroactively applied. Adherence to new guidelines can be required of such programs if, at a later date, the programs undergo revision.
- Faculty emphasized that curriculum is the purview of faculty.
- Faculty raised concern over a grandfathered course (a 600-level course counting for UG) that suddenly, without warning stopped being grandfathered.
- Faculty expressed concern that the Registrar would ask for the Grad School's permission to run cross-listed courses that had already been approved at every stage of the course-approval process.

Deliverables:

Policy/Guidelines on combined programs that address:

a. Degree Integrity (UG and GR)

- The distinction between undergraduate- and graduate-level work at the University is delineated on p. 14 section K. “Cross-listing of courses” of the [Graduate School Academic Policies and Processes document](#) Updated for 2023-2024 Graduate Catalog. Faculty underscored that beyond these general guidelines, what constitutes UG vs. Grad-level work is specific to each discipline and is, therefore, up to each disciplinary unit to determine what this means in more concrete terms.
- b. Program sustainability**
 - Grad School Rep informed that Provost’s primary concern for any new grad program is whether there is a demand for it.
 - Faculty argued that departments need not prove that individual courses will run but rather demonstrate that there is a demand for the entire program. They emphasized that this evidence need not be quantified by a specific number. Notably, this question is already part of the program proposal process, which is currently administered through the curriculum management software Curriculog.
- c. Adherence to HLC guidelines and assumed practices**
 - Faculty stated that they embrace the HLC’s guidelines.
 - Faculty discussed who owns the process and assurance.
- d. Assurance that student experience is centered**
 - Faculty discussed who owns the process and assurance.

7. Cross-listing Policy Decision–input needed.

MOTION: [wording to be gotten from Tierney, but for now: Cross-listed course numbers are the purview of departments where the courses are housed. Distinguishing among the various levels of rigor (UG vs. master’s vs. doctoral) is also within the purview of the faculty in the department where the course is offered.] BS moves, IPS seconds. Passed 5 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention

8. Request for Input--Discussion

Other Business: Application Fee Waiver discussion - TABLED

Next steps for Grad Council:

Grad Council is asked to make asynchronous comments on [Combined Programs: Response to Grad Council Input](#) document by Tuesday, 11/28/23.

Reminder: next Faculty Senate is Wednesday, 12/6/23.

Faculty asked Grad School Rep to provide updates regarding conversation with Provost. Grad School Rep promised to do so.

Faculty move and second to adjourn; unanimous approval. Adjourned 3:01 pm.

Upcoming events:

GC Meeting #2 October 20, 2023 via Zoom
 GC Meeting # 3 November 17, 2023 via Zoom
 GC Meeting # 4 January 19, 2024 Via Zoom

GC Meeting #5 February 23, 2024 Via Zoom
GC Meeting #6 March 15, 2024 Via Zoom
GC Meeting #7 April 5, 2024 Via Zoom (If needed)

- Dissertation Deadlines:
 - Nov 1 (December Commencement);
 - March 1 (April Commencement);
 - July 1** (August Commencement)
- Thesis Deadlines:
 - Nov 15 (December Commencement);
 - March 15 (April Commencement);
 - July 15** (August Commencement)

** These deadlines are earlier than they were the previous year

- Graduate Research Conference: **March 15**

Next Meeting: **January 19, 2023** (1:00-3:00)

Graduate Council: <https://www.emich.edu/facultysenate/gradcouncil/index.php>

Tierney McCleary is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Graduate Council Meeting #3

Time: Nov 17, 2023 01:00 PM America/Detroit

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://emich.zoom.us/j/86440973055?pwd=ZkVwZ2dtcEJSbHVGSm9xaGF5UW1Jdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 4097 3055

Passcode: 959699

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