

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Graduate Education Council

May 2, 2018

12:00-1:00pm

DMC Huntington Studio

Minutes

Members Present: Paul Paturzo, Laura McPhee, Juan Obando, Maggie Shirland, Dan Szabo

Advisors Present: David Carder, Aurelio Ramirez

Recording Secretary: Felicia D. Scott, Nadia Savage

1. Graduate Faculty Designation

Paul Paturzo presented a proposed definition of graduate faculty, an issue raised in a prior GEC meeting by Matthew Hincman. Paul stated that the issue was raised at the meeting of State College Deans where only one other institution used a definition. GEC members discussed the following issues.

- What is the need for or benefit of a definition of graduate faculty?
One charge of Graduate Education Council is to provide the definition of graduate faculty. Departments may want clarification when considering faculty for graduate courses. A definition could be used by Academic Affairs to encourage engagement with the graduate program as faculty. Faculty holding this designation could be added to graduate program website pages.
- Does the graduate program need to require an MFA for graduate fine arts faculty? Does requiring a terminal degree counter diversity and inclusion initiatives?
A terminal degree or equivalent experience is required. Most faculty hold terminal degrees.
- Add, “as defined by the MCA contracts”, to the definition.
- The definition would not affect faculty teaching load.
- Add, “faculty who advise thesis students”, to the proposed list of graduate faculty.
- The definition states that faculty can ask to be designated graduate faculty. Is this too loose, considering faculty who have not taught graduate level courses?
- **Task:** Paul Paturzo will revise the definition and send it to GEC members for a vote via email before the fall term.

2. Student Concerns

Laura McPhee presented issues which MFA Photography students had raised with her.

- 2nd year students stated the International Student Orientation was focused on younger BFA students and too long. Maggie Shirland stated that the orientation was reduced to 1 day from 2 last year, and that 1st year student feedback should be better.
- Students are concerned with casual racism on campus.
- Students would like more support from faculty outside of courses. Only two faculty attended the Saturday MFA Thesis Talks this year. GEC members suggested:
 - Holding an orientation dinner to introduce all faculty to all the new grad students

- Holding faculty/student events each term
- Faculty suggested leadership awards for graduate students
- Students do not use the Career Development Office resources.

3. MFA Design (Dynamic Media Institute) Change to Elective Requirement

Nadia Savage presented a proposal to move 6 studio elective credits (generally two 3-credit electives) into the major by designating them as Major - Studio Electives for the MFA Design (Dynamic Media Institute) Program. This change would place 50% of studio credits within the major, to parallel a similar proposal for the MFA Fine Arts programs. (NASAD requires 50% of credits in a major for specific degrees such as Photography or Film. MFA Design is not a specific degree so this is not required by NASAD.) All prior DMI students have taken a majority of electives in DSGN, the subject code used for their Major studio.

Current Electives	Credit	Proposed Electives	Credit
Studio Electives	12	Studio Electives	6
		Major – Studio Electives	6
Open Electives	12	Open Electives	12

Proposed NASAD Curricular Table

	Credit	% of Total
Major Studio	30	50%
DSGN 6xx/7xx Design Studio 1 and 2	12	
DSGN 6xx/7xx Thesis Project 1 and 2	12	
Major - Studio Electives	6	
Other Studies in Art and Design		
Studio Electives	6	10%

Note: On a motion by Paul Paturzo and seconded by Laura McPhee, GEC voted unanimously to move 6 credits of studio electives into the major by designating them as Major – Studio Elective credits.

4. MFA Design (Dynamic Media Institute) Elimination of Art History Prerequisite

Nadia Savage presented a proposal by Joe Quackenbush for the MFA Design (Dynamic Media Institute Program (DMI). It is proposed that the 6-credit art history admissions prerequisite not apply to the DMI program. The proposal argues that the MFA-DMI students and the fields studied - computing, visualization, motion, interaction, sound, user experience, and programming - are not well served by traditional art history courses, and that the program curriculum addresses historical and theoretical issues necessary for the degree. Course descriptions for Design Seminar I and II and Thesis Seminar I and II were included.

Vote: On a motion by Paul Paturzo and seconded by Dan Szabo, GEC voted unanimously to eliminate the art history prerequisite for the MFA-DMI programs, with the condition that this decision will be revisited in 3 years.

5. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Paul Paturzo and seconded by Dan Szabo, GEC unanimously approved the minutes of February 21, 2018.

Adjournment

Chair Paul Paturzo adjourned the meeting at 1:02pm.