

MCL Council – Minutes

January 14, 2022

10am – 11am

Virtually via Zoom

Attendance

Voting Faculty: Yan Bai, Sergio Davalos, Zoe Barsness, Bryan Goda*

Non-Voting Faculty and Staff: Rachel Long, Raj Katti, Victoria Olive, Joel Larson

**=absent for vote*

Items

1) Approve the minutes from Dec. 6, 2021 Meeting

Moved: S. Davalos

Seconded: Z. Barsness

3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Eligible to vote: 4 (1 voting faculty member absent for vote)

2) Revisit enrollment goals for AY 22 – 23

The committee discussed possibly increasing the enrollment cap to 50 (we originally discussed keeping the cap at 40, to serve as a bridge to 2 cohorts in the next few years). Since enrollment is down across UW, any increase in enrollment could benefit the program and UW Tacoma. The committee discussed the potential impact that increasing the cap could have on courses that are writing intensive. Executing a 50-person writing course would most likely require an additional writing mentor or splitting the course into 2 sections. The committee discussed how individual courses will need to be adapted to adjust to the increase in grading if the enrollment cap is raised to 50 – the issue of grading is something that this committee should continue to discuss as we bridge to 2 cohorts. The MCL program doesn't have the built-in mechanism of having Graduate Research Assistants or Masters students to serve as TAs, and finding grading support is more difficult since our program doesn't have 2nd year or PhD students who

can serve in this role. The committee agreed that there needs to be a clear strategy to ensure that learning objectives are accomplished and faculty are adequately supported during the bridge to 2 cohorts.

3) Tuition increase

Joel shared the document to request the 2% tuition increase with the committee, which will be sent to the Provost when completed. Tuition for this program currently costs \$4,952 per quarter, and the 2% increase would raise the tuition to \$5,051 (a difference of \$99). With this 2% increase, the expected gross revenue is \$80,160. The committee discussed potential impacts the 2% increase could have on students, specifically low-income students. The impact this increase might have on students is high, however, it is worth noting that some employers pay tuition partially or in full for employees to participate in programs like MCL (Joel will work with Curtis on this wording). As the committee looked through this document, they provided suggestions for Joel, such as including the cost per credit hour, which could help clearly explain MCL's cost efficiency. The committee also suggested including a statement on how MCL is intentionally structured for veterans to fully leverage their tuition benefits, and accommodates their military schedule and possible deployment – this is a big difference in our program compared to others. Joel will make the committee's requested changes.

4) Advisor/Recruiter updates

The graduate advisor is working with the SET marketing team on coordinating open houses to promote the MCL program, and is also planning to recruit on local military bases. The Veteran & Military Resource Center on campus is interested in doing some collaborative events to promote the MCL program and on-campus resources for veterans. Along with this, the graduate advisor has been conducting a few virtual international recruiting events where students can drop in and ask questions about the program at their convenience – these virtual events are scheduled to continue throughout the year. There have also been discussions about a collaborative event with the UW Tacoma TLC to promote their expansion for more robust support for graduate students. The graduate advisor reminded the committee that she will provide the updated application number in our next meeting, and mentioned that she thinks it will be a healthy pool.