# **Department Meeting**

**June 4, 2019**

**Noon – 1:20 Gould 440**

# **Agenda items**

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| 12:00-12:05  12:05- 12:10 | **Visiting Professor vote  College Strategic Plan Nomination** | Shen |
| 12:10 - 12:35 | **Capstone discussion & vote** | Campbell |
| 12:35- 12:50 | **Summer syllabus assignments** | Campbell |
| 12:50 – 1:00 | **Curriculum next steps** | Campbell/Berney |
| 1:00 -1:20 | **Update on raises & other issues** | Campbell/Open |
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**Present:** Diana Siembor, Larissa Maziak, Christopher Campbell, Qing Shen, Marty Curry, Dan Abramson, Branden Born, Christine Bae, Rachel Berney, Himanshu Grover, Mark Purcell, Marina Alberti, Phil Hurvitz, Jan Whittington

**Visiting Scholar vote: Research Associate Professor Shan Zhuoran** **from China hosted by Professor Shen**

**Discussion:** His research plan seems very ambitious. It is hopeful he can audit some classes. Qing will ensure he will participate in his transportation course

Move, Second

Yes 10

No 0

Abstain 0

**Visiting Scholar Proposal Fee: Potential to charge $250 per month**

This seems high. Can we do something like construction management, which is charging per quarter? Is it possible for the college to provide something like hot seats and computers that visiting scholars can use.

**College Strategic Plan Nomination or volunteer for position**

Each department was asked to submit names to create a team. This team is meant to be small. One person from each department, faculty or staff then there would be one or two members from the deans office. The work from this summer will be fairly small but there may be some compensation for time.

June 17 is the deadline

Jan Whittington volunteers!

**Capstone Discussion and Vote:**

Basic Assumptions

* We will aggregate all final project options under the umbrella title of “capstone”.
* The academic thesis will continue to exist as an option.
* The Capstone will continue to be a 9-credit endeavor.

Proposed Changes

* We will build the Professional Project option to be a clear, robust, and highly desirable option for the majority of students to opt into.
* We will reserve the academic thesis for students who intend to pursue a Ph.D. and/or have a research project in mind that is well suited for the thesis option.
* Professional Project committees will consist of one UDP faculty member, who will serve as chair, and one professional advisor.
* Thesis committees will continue to consist of two faculty members. The chair must be a member of UDP, and both members must be graduate faculty.
* A capstone support class will be developed to utilize some of the existing 9 credits intended for the capstone (currently proposed as 2 credits for winter quarter).
* We will continue to investigate whether group projects in the form of studios or team capstones might be additional viable options.
* All capstone students will participate in a mandatory, end of year public-facing event to review and celebrate the capstone work. The event will be held at an appropriate time in spring quarter (currently proposed as 6-8 weeks out from the end of the quarter).

With faculty support, next steps include:

* Preparation of a capstone handbook and updated capstone-related sections of the website (summer 2019)
* Development of a new winter quarter capstone support class. The instructor will coordinate with UDP 512 Research Design instructor in preparing the course and will help facilitate student work and coordination with committees (winter 2020).
* Consider also a fall-winter capstone support class in lieu of a winter-only class. Explore offering students the opportunity to take the course for two quarters or up to 4 credits.
* Plan a more formal public-facing capstone showcase for spring 2020.
* Continue to explore other capstone options (including group capstone options)

Discussion:

Are we looking to approve our current requirement however, there will be half faculty commitment?

Yes

The more profound change will be the group capstone…Can this be designed carefully so that the 9 credit workload will be comparable to what it is now

Students who fail to complete their thesis in a timely manner typically started with a professional project. The professionals, who had a project for students, did not have a good sense of what students could do…and what the purpose of the students role was. The issue lies with aligning the student goals..

The guidance that the students have been getting from professionals has been problematic.

Speaking from the MIPM perspectives. Capstone projects are in a grey area…not necessarily academic OR professional

Don’t agree with a group capstone…It’s impossible to figure out who is doing what with the group

The idea to recommend Professional Project over doing a thesis is not right…students should have these two options and have the choice to decide.

The idea to suggest that a thesis is only for those on the PhD tract is incorrect

Another disagreement for the one faculty member on the committee…If we get someone outside of the University they will not be familiar with these processes and it would put more onus on the faculty member

Another issue with group thesis

MIPM is not a good comparison. Evans is comparable, and they do allow capstones.

There are a few more things to suss out but there are not that many changes to existing..

What are the sticking points?

* The number of faculty
* The issue of group projects
* Making sure we aren’t steering students away from doing thesis

Can we schedule a retreat to look at capstone?

Clusters vs specialization for the retreat topic…

Jan moves to accept the name change to Capstone ….Removes motion…