# **Department Faculty Meeting**

**February 23, 2021**

**Noon – 1:20 Remote:** [**https://washington.zoom.us/j/99037144551**](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://washington.zoom.us/j/99037144551&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1603497297856000&usg=AOvVaw1Fi3oedf5svb3cL65Cytyp)

# Agenda items

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 12:00-12:05 | Welcome & Check in | Campbell |
| 12:05-12:10 | Approve **2/09/21** meeting minutes  | Campbell |
| 12:10-1:00 | MUP capstone conversation | Curriculum Committee |
| 1:00-1:20 | Announcements & updates | Campbell et al |

## Additional information

Please review the documents provided by the Curriculum Committee prior to this meeting.

**Present:** Larissa Maziak, Sofia Dermisi, Dan Abramson, Himanshu Grover, Rachel Berney, David Blum, Diana Siembor, Christopher Campbell, Manish Chalana, Mark Purcell, Mary Curry, Qing Shen, Branden Born, Keith Harris, Megan Herzog, Marina Alberti, Christine Bae

**Late:** Jan Whittington

**Absent**: Bob Mugerauer

**Approve Feb 9 Minutes:**

Move & Second

9 yes

**0 no**

0 abstain

**MUP Capstone Conversation**

Continue the conversation from the previous meeting

Capstone is the broad term which includes the following:

Individual thesis

Individual professional project

Small group professional project

In looking to change the current capstone options we’re leaving behind the current compesition of the professional project committee and in its place, we’ll have a class based professional project which would relieve some of the high committee loads

## RESOLUTION TO ADD A CLASS-BASED OPTION TO MUP CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

We recommend expanding the present capstone experience options available to MUP students.

Most of our peer programs provide a collective option for capstone experience (annexure 1). In line with our peer programs, **we recommend addition of a class-based option for pursuing a professional project**.

We propose that the curriculum committee and the studio faculty group (and other interested faculty) coordinate to recommend model(s) for a collective capstone experience. The proposed model(s) would meet the following concerns we heard voiced by faculty:

* consistent high quality of outputs,
* efficient student progress to graduation,
* efficient use of faculty resources, and
* accountable and equitable grading
* Have a max of 12 students\* updated as of this meeting

In addition to the above there was a survey of other programs and there is broad support for what we are doing and what we are proposing to add

Is it similar to what landscape does?

Landscape offers studio based thesis work (different from UDP )

1. You have faculty support but you are pursuing your own project OR 2. It’s more like a traditional studio and you are working in groups to solve a set program

Is there a maximum number of students to faculty ratio?

Current studio numbers are 14:1

Can there be more clarity around the student teacher threshold?

Best target would be in the range of 7-8 up to 11-12

The other issue is that the new capstone course option would be 2 quarters long…

Would the same faculty member be with the students over the 2 quarters? Probably yes..but it wouldn’t be unheard of to pass off a student from one faculty to another if that situation makes sense.

How does this relate to the faculty load to supervise thesis students? This is something the exploratory group would propose based on the dynamics of the change in workloads

The person teaching the group capstone would likely not serve as a committee member unless they chose to do so

Jan wants to vote on an upper limit of student to faculty limit. And that limit would be 12. This has now been added to the resolution…

This “capstone class” would be a totally new option…where it’s like the Evans school “lab” In this new option it would probably look like a studio

How does this take faculty load off instructors? This new course would take the place of the thesis committee…it’s a capstone rolled into the course..

Evan School Capstone Project course description: *Meets the capstone project requirements as part of the Evans School MPA curriculum. Students work in a supportive seminar environment facilitated by peers and faculty to complete team-based capstone degree projects.*

Archcurrently has something similar and they usually have more than one faculty that oversee these capstone groups but there is not one main topic rather individual topics. The rigor is determined by the “product”…this wouldn’t work for UDP…

If the capstone is more like current UDP studio then that seems to make more sense;

Could we imagine doing more than one capstone course if there was a huge interest?? If there are 24 students taken out of the thesis mix…that greatly minimizes the greater faculty load..

What is the best term? Capstone or Prof Project

We want to call all of our options Capstone…that is the umbrella

What we are discussing today really is the class based professional project option…one of the three

Are we sure that the graduate school will accept this addition? In research and conversations had with the graduate school ..YES

Is the end result a group capstone or is it an individual product?

It depends on the make-up of the course...

Will the hard bound books still be sent to the library?

We have been approving and accepting digital versions..and looking to modernize what the final output would be.

Are we confident that students will sign up for this new option? If there are not enough students then we don’t offer it…

**Jan moves**

*Faculty approve a class-based option for a MUP Prof Project subject to an upper limit of 12 students per URBD faculty member*

**Dan Second**

**Voting faculty present:** Rachel Berney, Manish Chalana, Christopher Campbell, Himanshu Grover, Branden Born, Sofia Dermisi, Qing Shen, Keith Harris, Marina Alberti, Christine Bae, Dan Abramson, Jan Whittington

12

**Absent** Bob M, Mark Purcell

11 yes

0 abstain

0 no

**Announcements/Questions**

Qing Shen

Can faculty please attend the PhD research seminars? Attendance overall has been down. These occur

Bi weekly on Tuesdays where the UDP faculty meetings do not meet. The next one is March 2 12:30 -1:20

David Blum

Is there a EDI week during spring quarter? There is nothing official for spring but the EDI committee will continue to discuss…