

Meeting of October 17, 2012, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes: September 19, 2012*

II. Discussion with Huron Consulting Group Representative

III. Old Business

- A. Academic Senate Liaisons
- B. Other Old Business

IV. New Business

- A. Closure of the Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy *
- B. Other New Business

V. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee
- B. New Programs Committee
- C. Academic Standards Committee
- D. Graduate Student Coordinator
- E. Graduate Admissions
- F. University Libraries Liaison
- G. Academic Senate Liaison

VI. Adjournment

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**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of October 17, 2012
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: M. Anderson, A. Biswas, J. Brandell, A. Cano, C. Chow, M. Dickson, P. Dubinsky, J. Dunbar, D. Dungee-Anderson, E. Faue, A. Feig, J. Green, R. Holley, K. Jackson, G. Kapatos, P. Kernsmith, G. Mao, J. Moldenhauer, K. Paesani, R. Pauley, L. Schwiebert, P. Sopory S. Terlecky, C. Winston, H. Wu, A. Yaprak, J. Yoon

Members Absent
with Notice: L. Buis, M. Clark, A. Kowluru, S. Ng, E. Trzcinski

Members Absent: J. Davis, M. Malek, B. Neavill

Also Present: C. Barduca, R. Haley, J. Hubert, K. Lueckeman, L. Romano, C. Sokol

Ambika Mathur, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, voluntarily chose to not attend this meeting. She believed that her attendance might influence faculty responses to the questions posed by the Huron Consulting Group. Ken Jackson, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School, joined the meeting in progress after the discussion with the Huron Group due to similar concerns.

The meeting was convened at 2:02 p.m. by Marcus Dickson, Chair of the Executive Committee of Graduate Council on behalf of.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made by Attila Yaprak, Professor of Marketing, seconded Delores Dungee-Anderson, Interim Associate Dean of Social Work, and passed to approve the minutes of September 19, 2012.

II. DISCUSSION WITH HURON CONSULTING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

- Professor Dickson introduced Ms. Jennifer Hubert and Mr. Rand Haley of the Huron Consulting Group, who distributed a handout¹ to facilitate the discussion. Ms. Hubert began by asking, "What are your general expectations of what a Graduate School should do?" Interim Associate Dean Dungee-Anderson responded that a graduate school should administer all of the graduate programs in a university. She stated that a graduate school should have oversight over all graduate programs including master's and professional/terminal programs. She was concerned that a lack of guidance from a graduate school would lead to less unified policies for Wayne State's graduate programs.
- Professor Yaprak asked the consultants to elaborate on the decentralized or "distributed" organizational model for graduate schools. Ms. Hubert said that this model is currently employed by both Georgia State University and Boston University, which have large liberal arts graduate

¹ See attachment.

programs. Both of these universities determined that it made sense to have a central graduate school in the liberal arts division that was dedicated to those programs, while the other disciplines employed their own administration for graduate studies. *(Please note: Boston University has since abandoned the distributed model for the graduate school and is returning to a separate and free-standing graduate school: personal communication from the Provost at BU to Interim Dean Mathur).* Ms. Hubert mentioned that the University of Minnesota is considering moving toward this model.

Paul Dubinsky, Professor of Law, supported this model for the School of Law. He stated that the School of Law has two types of programs the standard JD and the LLM. The JD is completely under the purview of the School of Law, while the LLM is a professional master's program and administered by the Graduate School. Professor Dubinsky said that if the School of Law had complete control over the LLM as well, it would allow them to react quicker to changes implemented by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools.

- After numerous references to “administration” by council members, Ms. Hubert asked for clarification of the term in the context of the graduate school. Interim Associate Dean Dungee-Anderson said that there should be a set of governing policies for all to follow, and individual schools/colleges should be allowed to interpret those policies. Elizabeth Faue, Professor of History, added to this response. She said that, ideally, the Graduate School would act as an advocate for graduate education overseeing: new programs, interdisciplinary research, marketing, and the maintenance and distribution of funds. Moreover, the graduate school should act as a neutral arbiter, and it should be a place for the improvement of graduate education. Professor Faue added that the Graduate School has consistently done this in the past, and she voiced concern that the distributed model might undermine these functions. She is of the opinion that no one wants to see the Graduate School dismantled.
- Continuing with this discussion, Andrew Feig, Professor of Chemistry, explained that the difference between a research office and a graduate school is that a research office emphasizes grants and funding, while a graduate school emphasizes education. Ms. Hubert acknowledged that there does seem to be a reason to keep the two entities separate. Kate Paesani, Professor of French, agreed and used her department as example. She said that language students and all liberal arts students would get lost in the shuffle under the combined model because preference would be given to research initiatives. At the same time, she feels that the Graduate School should be doing more to support students. Professor Paesani suggested that the Graduate School should identify well-run programs to be used as examples for the rest of the university.
- Ms. Hubert asked for further explanations of how external or research-based funding affects the relationships between students and faculty. She asked if anyone present could describe their experiences. Professor Dickson replied that funding pressures often take precedence over education concerns; however, no one discussed specific examples. This led to a discussion of the importance of accurate data collection to graduate education and that a centralized data collection model would benefit both education and research. Joe Dunbar, Associate Vice President for Research, stated that this could be an important process for the Graduate School to oversee. Mr. Haley asked if the Graduate School was the appropriate unit for centralized data collection, suggesting that the process could also be monitored by the Provost's Office or the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR).
- Ms. Hubert transitioned to the topic of which specific functions or processes should be retained by the individual schools and colleges. Professor Feig said the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was already operating beyond maximum capacity. He believed that the college could do more with the appropriate number of staff, but that it was not equipped to do more at the present. Professor Faue agreed, contending that schools and colleges already have a large and disparate number of tasks to manage. She pointed out that many council members had argued against merging the Graduate School with OVPR because there would not be sufficient resources for both. The same would most likely hold true if individual schools and colleges were charged with

full responsibility for their graduate programs. Ms. Hubert asked if this was solely a resource issues. Professor Faue contested that it was more than just a resource issue. According to her, an independent graduate school offers a place to formulate best practices and to compile shared experiences with regard to graduate education. She concluded that colleges are suited to deal with immediate and urgent issues, but they lack the perspective to see the whole landscape. Janice Green, Assistant Dean in the College of Education, supported Professor Faue. She stated that the Graduate School has helped to keep College of Education programs in compliance with the university, and it has helped to increase relations among the College of Education and the rest of the campus. Robert Holley, Professor of Library Science, also agreed. He said that even in a distributed model, there would need to be some kind of top level administration. He asked if this would come in the form of a provost position, and would this lead to a “mini graduate school” in the Office of the Provost. He reported that the School of Library and Information Science prefers the separate model for the Graduate School.

- Ms. Hubert asked for the members reactions to Provost Brown’s comments at the previous Graduate Council meeting (September 19, 2012). Council members reported that the provost said little, opting to allow the council members to speak on the subject. Professor Feig stated that there was general support for a separate graduate school.
- As a conclusion, Mr. Haley asked members to comment on the pressing issues for graduate students and graduate education, including challenges and opportunities. Professor Dubinsky asserted that economic issues dominated. He said that if one were to look back ten to fifteen years, the tuition was reasonable and students could work less. Presently, students are forced to work more, reducing time they have to spend studying and partaking in extracurricular activities (such as lectures and events). In summation, he stated that students have more outside stress, leading to less engagement or intensity, ultimately resulting in lower quality education. Professor Paesani added that communication is also an issue and referenced the fact that Wayne State is mostly a commuter campus. Many students have a hard time immersing themselves in the culture of graduate education and academe. She questioned if the Graduate School could help better orientate new students and foster a larger community of graduate students.
- After a few general closing remarks, Ms. Hubert and Mr. Haley left the meeting at 2:45 P.M.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISONS

- Professor Dickson listed the following Graduate Council members as liaisons to Academic Senate committees
 - Abe Biswas, Professor of Marketing – Research Committee
 - Interim Associate Dean Dungee-Anderson – Faculty Affairs Committee
 - Stan Terlecky, Professor of Pharmacology – Budget Committee
- MOTION was made by Professor Yaprak, seconded by Professor Feig and passed to approve the liaisons to Academic Senate.
- Professor Dickson announced that three committees still need liaisons:
 - Curriculum and Instruction
 - Student Affairs
 - Facilities, Support Services and Technology

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Professor Dickson reported that the majority of the last Executive Committee meeting was spent preparing for the Huron Group visit to Graduate Council.

B. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

- David McGrann, Manager of the Graduate Council, reported that four proposals were discussed at the September meeting. The committee approved revisions to the MS in Criminal Justice and PhD in Sociology. The committee also discussed the adoption of a dual-title in Infant Mental Health by the MEd in Early Childhood Education and the PhD in Curriculum and Instruction. The proposal has been approved pending minor revisions. The committee also approved the discontinuance of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- Professor Feig reported that data collection was the primary topic at the September meeting. He has prepared a survey that will be reviewed by Academic Standards in October, and then will be deployed to all Departmental Graduate Directors. The purpose of this survey is to collect feedback that will be used to create a standardized form for the PhD Annual Review. A standardized form will help the Graduate School to collect uniform information across graduate programs.

D. GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

- Kathleen Lueckeman, Director of Graduate Admissions, reported early numbers for Winter, Spring/Summer, and Fall 2013. Reports show that application numbers are up and admit numbers are stable for all three terms.

Ken Jackson, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School, joined the meeting at 2:57 P.M.

E. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISON

- Lou Romano, President of the Academic Senate, stated that Policy Committee had also met with the Huron Group, and the committee members advocated for the separate model for the Graduate School.
- Professor Romano also discussed the new Multidisciplinary Biomedical Research Building. Professor Romano detailed the financial and logistical business plans for the building.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discontinuance of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT)

- Interim Associate Dean Jackson presented the proposal to officially discontinue the MSOT program. The Master of Occupation Therapy (MOT) has replaced the MSOT as a result of changes in accreditation standards. The MSOT has already passed through Low Degree Productivity Review, and the MSOT currently has no students.
- MOTION was made by Professor Dickson, seconded by Interim Associate Dean Dungee-Anderson and passed to recommend the discontinuance of the MSOT program.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David McGrann
Manager of the Graduate Council

