

Meeting of October 19, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

Agenda

- I. Approval of Minutes:** September 28, 2011*
- II. Report of the Chair**
- III. Graduate Council Committee Reports**
 - A. Executive Committee
 - B. New Programs Committee
 - C. Academic Standards Committee
- IV. Old Business**
 - A. Conflict of Interest Disclosure*
 - B. Other Old Business
- V. New Business**
 - A. Strategic Plan for Graduate Education*
 - B. Other New Business
- VI. Other Reports**
 - A. Graduate Admissions Office
 - B. Academic Senate Liaisons
 - C. University Libraries Liaison
- VII. Adjournment**

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**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of October 19, 2011
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: A. Biswas, J. Brandell, L. Buis, A. Cano, J. Casida, C. Chow, M. Dickson, T. Edwards, J. Green, K. Jackson, A. Mathur, K. Paesani, R. Pauley, H. Ratner, L. Schwiebert, M. Smoller, S. Terlecky, A. Weisz, C. Winston, A. Yaprak

Members Absent with Notice: M. Clark, J. Davis, A. Feig, R. Holley, A. Kowluru, G. Mao, J. Moldenhauer, B. Neavill, M. Neely, S. Ng, J. Yoon

Members Absent: M. Anderson, A. Butler, P. Dubinsky, J. Dunbar, R. Hutson, S. Ilmer, M. Malek,

Also Present: C. Barduca, A. Hudson, K. Lueckeman, J. McGlone, L. Romano, C. Sokol

The meeting was convened at 2:09 p.m. by Associate Dean Mathur.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of September 28, 2011, with the correction that A. Kowluru had been present at the September meeting..

II. GRADUATE COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair of the Executive Committee Ken Jackson reported that the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement was examined briefly by the Executive Committee and brought to Council for discussion today. The proposal to revise the criteria for Graduate Faculty appointments was approved by the Academic Standards Committee, reviewed by the Executive Committee, re-examined by Academic Standards and is on the Council agenda today. Executive Committee has also spent a great deal of time discussing the NRC Assessment of Research in Doctoral Programs at WSU. Handouts were provided for all three items to be discussed.

B. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Associate Dean Mathur reported that the New Programs Committee approved a proposal for a Graphic Design concentration in the MFA program in Art. Other programs are under review.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Associate Dean Mathur reported that the Committee has met twice. The committee has taken up the conflict of interest disclosure and had extensive discussions that lead to the preparation of the final document of the Graduate Faculty Appointment criteria. Both items are on the agenda for discussion.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Associate Dean Mathur asked member to introduce themselves.

A. VOLUNTEER LIAISON TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Associate Dean Mathur stated that a previous request had been made for volunteers to serve as liaison to the Research Committee. Since no one volunteered, she recommended Joe Dunbar. He was approved to serve as liaison to the Research Committee.

B. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Associate Dean Mathur provided background on the issues related to the absence of policy on Conflict of Interest Disclosure. Council members discussed concerns they had with the language of the policy. Associate Dean Smoller, Business Administration, agreed to explore similar documents for standard terminology that may be applicable to the improvement of the policy language. Voting on approval was deferred until more information is received.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION

Associate Dean Mathur presented the Strategic Plan for Graduate Education and provided handouts summarizing supporting documents and outcomes. She provided a synopsis of the structure, intent, and outcomes of the May 2011 strategic planning retreat, emphasizing that faculty, deans, graduate directors, members of the Graduate Council and the Faculty Research Advisory Committee had participated in the discussion that lead to the plan and that several committees had worked on its development. As a result of these efforts, three major themes for the strategic plan emerged: faculty and research, program visibility and quality, and the student experience. These were described.

Faculty and Research. Associate Dean Mathur discussed four ways through which the role of faculty and research in graduate education can be expanded. The first is to increase the visibility of faculty research to better connect students and mentors. Next, develop best practices workshops aimed at providing uniformity in how faculty mentor students. Align faculty research productivity with student outcomes; this came out of the NRC document. Finally, strengthen the Graduate Faculty appointment criteria.

Program Visibility and Quality. The focus is to develop quality programs that have greater visibility. Improving recruitment and outreach and developing a strong program identity are ways to achieve visibility. Enhancing the curriculum contributes to both program quality and program identity. Improving student funding mechanisms includes encouraging them to apply for external funding. Clarifying roles for graduate directors and ASO's and improving communication are also important. A strategic enrollment management plan should be developed.

Student Experience. A variety of quality initiatives are needed to improve the student experience and career prospects. Funding is a recurring theme. Workshops can be developed centrally to enhance academic skills and career development. Promotion of research and scholarship, through venues such as the Graduate Exhibition, is important for career development. The Graduate Exhibition is a connector for graduate students across disciplines and is scheduled for March 6th. It is important that all departments hold annual orientations for new students and maintain robust websites.

Dean Ratner joined the meeting and resumed the presentation, discussing strategic enrollment management and strengthening graduate faculty. She made reference to data in the handouts provided to indicate why having an enrollment plan is important. She discussed the changes that

have occurred in enrollment for both the Ph.D. and Master's programs. She then described the annual enrollment patterns that have occurred for new and continuing Master's and Ph.D. students. The best practices, as recommended by ACRO, were presented.

Dean Ratner presented the Proposal to Revise the Graduate Faculty Appointment Criteria. These had been developed last year by the Academic Standards Committee and discussed over the summer with the Doctoral Advisory Committee and moved on to the Executive Committee and again to the Academic Standards Committee. NRC data were presented and discussed to provide context to the proposed changes. The areas of focus for student-supported outcomes are support, research activity, and diversity. The Council discussed the results of the NRC report in relation to the goals of the strategic plan and potential outcomes. The conversation turned back to the proposal to revise criteria for Graduate Faculty appointments. Comments were made in support of an increase in the number of publications needed for Graduate Faculty appointment. Doctoral students need mentors who are publishing; if they are not, the student is shortchanged and is less competitive. There was a concern with the language used in the proposal stating that, "the Graduate Council will explore alternative approaches to assessing qualifications for receiving Graduate Faculty Status." The member wanted to highlight that the Graduate Council will, in the future, provide clarity as to what it means to be a good mentor, in addition to having the required publications.

Dean Ratner recommended that the group convene to consider the proposal; however, the Council agreed to vote on the proposal, as is.

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the Proposal to Revise Criteria for Graduate Faculty Appointments.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Kathy Lueckeman reported that applications for Winter 2012 are up 85% and admits were up 29%. She is currently focusing on creating a strategic enrollment management plan. In response to questions, Kathy stated the graduate application fee still applies and one payment is good for four consecutive semesters. It has been approved by the Provost that application fees be waived for certain recruitment events.

B. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISON

Lou Romano reported that a task force that has been created to deal with matters related to on-line courses and on-line education. The task force has focused on topics related to pedagogy, faculty issues, copyrighting, and addressing student needs.

C. UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES LIAISON

Anne Hudson reported on Open Access Week, with international events promoting advocacy for open and free access to scholarship. There will be two drop-in workshops and two featured lectures about the topic. Handouts were provided.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Winston, GSA, for
The Secretary of the Graduate Council