

Meeting of October 19, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
David Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes: September 28, 2016*

II. Report of the Chair

III. Old Business

A. Huron Report

IV. Committee Reports

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

V. New Business

A. Higher Learning Commission Report

VI. Adjournment

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**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of October 19, 2016
2:00 p.m., 5057 Woodward, 6th Floor, Conference Room C**

Members Present: E. Ash, L. Beale, N. Bhavnagri, A. Billings, R. Bramble, S. Brown, A. Cano, C. Chow, J. Duchan J. Ernst, A. Feig, S. Firestine, C. Giurgescu, A. Guastella, M. Kavdia, S. Lean, A. Mathur, S. Ng, L. Romano, C. Sokol, T. Stemmler, M. Tracey, X. Zhang

Members Absent
with Notice: R. Benkert, S. Cala, R. Chinnam, M. Clark, E. Golenberg, L. Keashly, J. Pruchnic,
D. Schutte, E. Troffkin, A. Yaprak

Members Absent: T. Bowman G. Corcoran, J. Green, H. Heng, D. Onolemhemen P. Samuel, A. Vallerand, D. Walz

Also Present: D. Baker

The meeting was convened at 2:08 p.m. by Dean Ambika Mathur.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of September 28, 2016.

II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND OLD BUSINESS

A. Graduate Assistantship Allocations

- Dean Ambika Mathur reported that the Graduate School received the draft Huron Report on graduate assistantship allocations. There needs to be a discussion about the report and what will happen with assistantship allocations, it is not determined if any changes will be made to the current distribution.

III. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

- Dr. Steve Firestine reported the committee discussed the Huron Report on assistantship allocations and the issues and challenges that would affect

departments. The Huron Group did not separate doctoral students from master's students.

- Dr. Firestine stated that committee consensus regarding the Huron Report was that there were a number of deficiencies in the report and that it was generic in regards to the Graduate School.
- Dr. Firestine reported that the committee also felt that there was an imbalance in the report because the focus was on graduate credit hours, as opposed to credit hours in programs where these teaching assistants would actually be teaching, those kinds of discussions were the void in the report. The executive committee spent a fair amount of time talking about what are some important issues that just weren't reflected at all in the Huron Report.
- Dr. Suzanne Brown stated that the committee focused on how to quantify productivity, and the idea of where scholarship fits in regards to research and grant writing.
- Dr. Brown reported that the committee discussed the benefits related to the assistantships and that the package is generous compared to other schools.
- Dean Mathur stated other institutions have lesser benefit packages and that saves money that could be used to increase stipends or provide additional assistantships, scholarships and fellowships.
- Dr. Lou Romano stated that report was reviewed by the Policy Committee of Academic Standards and the committee determined it was not an effective report.
- Dr. Romano asked if the Graduate School will be deciding on assistantship allocations.
- Dean Mathur responded that the Graduate School does not make the decisions, the allocations are done by the Provost Office.
- Dean Mathur stated that assistantships should be used to enhance PhD training grants.
- Dr. Romano asked what the Graduate School does to encourage NIH grants for graduate students.
- Dean Mathur responded that the Graduate School has a fellowship writing boot camp and a \$1,000 incentive award for students that submit a grant proposal. The grant submissions have increased to about 30 per year.
- Mr. Anthony Guastella stated that students are intimidated by the process and that a grant writing course might be useful for students.

B. New Programs and Program Review Committee

- Associate Dean Cano reported that two proposals were reviewed, a graduate certificate in Child Welfare and a MSW/MPH joint program.

C. Academic Standards

- Associate Dean Andrew Feig that the committee did not meet.

D. Graduate Admissions

- Ms. Deirdre Baker reported that total applications to date for Winter 2017 is 2,263. The number of total admitted students is 677. The number of applications for Sp/Su is 1,063 with 38 admits so far. The admissions staff is processing all admissions documents submitted by students within 24 hours of receipt.
- Dean Mathur reported that the graduate open house was a success due to a good marketing campaign. Prospective students, faculty and the community were all in attendance. The feedback was useful.

E. University Libraries

- No report.

F. Academic Senate Liaison

- Dr. Lou Romano reported 2018 is the 150th year anniversary of Wayne State. The start date of events will be January, 2018, rather than the beginning of the fall semester. The end of it will coincide with the capital campaign, which is to end the 1st or 2nd week in November. Between those two dates, there are going to be a lot of activities that are going to be organized to have a theme that somehow impacts the Wayne community and celebrates the City of Detroit as well as the faculty, staff and history of Wayne State.
- Dr. Romano stated that one plan is that each college be able to submit a proposal a presidential sesquicentennial symposium, between four and six of these would be held. The invitation will hopefully go to some Nobel Laureate class external speaker. Then organized around that speaker, some sort of other event, maybe a panel discussion or other faculty from that department or area speaking, then a big reception afterwards.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Higher Learning Commission Report

- Ms. Donna Dauphinais, Project Manager for Institutional Accreditation and Compliance presented on the HLC reaffirmation of accreditation. The reaffirmation is four parts, quality initiative, assurance argument, federal compliance and peer review.
- The Quality Initiative (QI) is the first step of the HLC 10-year reaffirmation process In advance of the 10-year review, institutions on the Open Pathway self-identify a QI focus to address its unique challenges. WSU selected the Undergraduate Academic Advising Initiative as its QI (August 2014)
- The Assurance Argument is the institution's official "case" for reaffirmation of HLC accreditation. A succinct defense of all accreditation criteria, core components, and sub-components (35,000 word limit). Each and every statement defending fulfillment of accreditation criteria must be hyperlinked to a series of evidentiary exhibits. (Examples: board documents, institutional policies, official reports, etc.). The Evidence File is the aggregate of all evidentiary exhibits supporting the Assurance Argument

- The Federal Compliance Filing is a comprehensive version of what the annual HLC Institutional Update, which reports on issues such as: Title IV program responsibilities, Title IX program responsibilities, other U.S. Department of Education regulations. The work team preparing content; documents pending update for FY15/16 activity (December/January).
- HLC peer review by a 6-10 member peer team will be completed with the following timeline: September/October 2016, HLC appoints peer review team Chair and members; February 2017, Peer review team accesses WSU online Assurance System to evaluate submission. Team identifies issues; requests additional information from WSU. Team Chair and WSU leadership develop on-campus review schedule. March 6-7, 2017, on-campus comprehensive evaluation visit includes: Standard meetings (e.g., Board of Governors, President and Provost, other institutional officers). Meetings targeted to issues identified by team. Public forums, which may be segmented by: stakeholder group (students, faculty, etc.). Individual review criteria.
- Ms. Dauphinais reported the reason WSU is vulnerable is because of the expected insufficiency of evidence, quality of data, duration of data collection and the depth of analysis of captured data.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sokol
Manager of the Graduate Council