

Meeting of October 21, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

Agenda

- I. Approval of Minutes:** April 15, 2009*
- II. New Business**
 - A. Wayne State's Peer and Aspiration Institutions
Rob Kohrman, Associate Vice President
Office of Budget, Planning and Analysis
 - B. Motion to Rescind Graduate Course Repeat Policy*
 - C. Other New Business
- III. Report of the Chair**
- IV. Old Business**
- V. Committee Reports**
 - A. Executive Committee
 - B. New Programs Committee
 - C. Credentials Committee
 - D. Research Office Liaison
 - E. Graduate Student Coordinator
 - F. Graduate Admissions
 - G. Academic Senate Liaison
 - H. University Libraries Liaison
- VI. Adjournment**

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**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of October 21, 2009
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: L. Baker, L. Beale, J. Casida, J. Davis, A. Duggan, K. English, M. Garrett, S. Ilmer, B. Li, A. Mathur, J. McComish, M. Mougoue, D. Onolemhemhen, R. Pauley, D. Pitts, A. Santiago, L. Schwiebert, J. Stoltman, R. Sundick, A. Suits, J. Thomas, K. Thompson, C. Waites, M. Wardell, C. Winston, Y. Xu, A. Yaprak, J. Yoon

Members Absent
with Notice:

A. Butler, M. Clark, J. Green, M. Grimm, D. Haase, G. Mao, M. Neely

Members Absent: T. Edwards, S. Peters

Also Present: C. Barduca, F. Giblin, A. Hudson, R. Kohrman, S. Wolfson, M. Wood

The meeting was convened at 2:02 p.m. by the Chairperson, Dean Wardell.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of April 15, 2009.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. WAYNE STATE'S PEER AND ASPIRATION INSTITUTIONS

Rob Kohrman, Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis, explained that his office oversees the university budget, institutional research and assists in strategic planning for the university. President Noren is redefining strategic planning for the university and soliciting input from a variety of sources. He is establishing six task forces to examine strategic aspects of the university: teaching and learning, research, campus life, university engagement, resources, and enrollment management. He wants goals to be data-driven and quantitative-based. A web site has been established: <https://strategicdirections.wayne.edu/>.

Associate Vice President Kohrman also presented data on enrollment and registration trends, using PowerPoint to illustrate the data. Registration at the undergraduate level spiked in May and stayed above last year's to the census date; registration at the graduate level began way below last year's level and stayed below until the final three weeks, at which point it spiked. He wants to find out why this happened. Both undergraduate and graduate enrollment increased from last year: undergraduate headcount is up 3.2% and credit hours are up 4.5%; graduate headcount is up .8% and credit hours are up 1.6%. Almost all Michigan public institutions experienced an overall increase in enrollment, but WSU is only one of five institutions that increased freshman enrollment. In response to questions, he said that the budget is developed before final enrollment numbers are available although the increase in undergraduate enrollment was evident at the time the Board of Governors determined tuition rates. The increased revenue is less than ½% of the budget. Except for Business, Education, and Pharmacy, most schools/colleges experienced modest graduate enrollment increases.

He said that Wayne State has never had a formal set of peer institutions, sometimes analyzing ourselves in comparison to Big Ten institutions, at other times to Michigan public universities, and at others, to Urban 13 institutions. He said President Noren asked his office to do a data analysis that arrives at a set of peer institutions that the Board could adopt. In response to a question asking what the advantage is of having an official common set of peers and how it could be done, he said that the major characteristics of the university would be used to determine peers; then, specific characteristics, such as faculty salaries, could be compared to the norm.

The variables used for the initial selection of institutions were: level of institution (doctoral/research); control of institution (public); institution size (20,000 or more); Carnegie classification (very high or high research activity); degree of urbanization (large or mid-size city); and similarity of mission. In addition, the institutions had to have a medical school. Twelve institutions were similar to WSU on these characteristics: University of Louisville, Indiana University-PUI, University of Cincinnati, University of New Mexico, University of Colorado-Denver, University of Illinois at Chicago, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Buffalo, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Temple University, University of Utah, and University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Michigan State University was included also because of its proximity and medical school.

Associate Vice President Kohrman explained his office then developed a matrix for comparing all the peer institutions on a series of characteristics. The matrix included the maximum and minimum number in a distribution, the middle range between the first and third quartile, and the median for each of the characteristics being compared. In the rest of the presentation, he illustrated how Wayne State compared to the peer institutions on student profile, financial, student achievement, faculty and research characteristics. For example, Wayne State is within the middle range in the number of admission applications but has a much higher acceptance rate and much lower retention and graduation rates. Our percentage of full-time faculty is lower than the norm, but faculty salaries are at about the median. Research expenditures were below the norm but are increasing. Increases in state appropriations to higher education are among the lowest in the nation.

In response to members' questions about the value of establishing peer institutions, he said the value lies in doing institution-wide comparisons, such as those he outlined and in recognizing areas of accomplishment and those needing improvement. Specific departments may establish very different peer and aspiration departments, based on other characteristics; the Delaware study is a better method for doing department by department analysis. The peer group has been discussed with various groups on campus and will be presented to others for further input, and then presented to the Board of Governors for approval.

B. MOTION TO RESCIND THE GRADUATE COURSE REPEAT POLICY

Dean Wardell brought forward a motion from the Executive Committee to rescind the current graduate course repeat policy. The motion would enable programs to establish their own course repeat policies and put authority for decisions in the hands of the faculty who administer the program. Members discussed the current policy and the motion. Currently, students must obtain the department's and the Graduate School's approval to repeat up to two courses; to repeat a third course, they have to obtain an exception from the graduate dean. However, students can actually repeat any number of courses because the Banner registration system has no mechanism activated to stop such registration at the graduate level. Annual student reviews and mentoring help in planning students' programs and in identifying marginal students. Some students, however, ignore advice and enroll in whatever courses they want. Members expressed frustration that there was no systemic way to prevent this. A suggestion was made to invite a member of the Registrar's office to discuss the options available through the Banner system for limiting registrations.

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the following statement:

The current Graduate School policy limiting to two the number of courses that graduate students may repeat during their graduate career at Wayne State is rescinded. Instead, programs may set their own limits on the number of times their students are permitted to repeat courses. Students may repeat only courses in which they received a grade of B- or below. The original grade for the course will remain on the student's transcript, but only the second iteration of the grade will be used in calculating the student's Grade Point Average. Students will not receive University financial aid for repetition of courses.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Dean Wardell introduced some initiatives he would like to implement. He noted some troubling declines in graduate admission applications and enrollment since 2004. To reverse the decline, the pool and the quality of admission applications need to be increased. He wants to focus on increasing the quality of applications by increasing student funding so that programs are more competitive in recruiting nationally. He would like to increase stipends to \$25,000 within five years. He would also like to increase the number of students who submit external fellowship applications as these are an important factor in obtaining training grants. Workshops in fellowship writing will be initiated. Students who obtain external funding will now receive university health insurance benefits as well as supplemental research funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research.

He has established a Dialogue with the Dean series for PhD students. The objective is to get to know the students and for the students to share their research with each other. The first Dialogue was held with KCP and AGEP students, and the participants were very excited to learn what others were doing. He is also initiating an annual university-wide Graduate Exhibition to celebrate the research, scholarship and creative performance of graduate students, with performances, exhibits and poster presentations. The university community, alumnae as well as the larger community will be invited. Students will thus learn to present their research to the larger community and to communicate the broader impacts of their research and performance. The Graduate Exhibition will showcase the quality and diversity of student research and will be a way to publicize the university's greatest asset, its graduate students. Members noted that some graduate student activities, such as conferences and poster presentations, already exist. Associate Dean Mathur will coordinate the Graduate Exhibition, and she asked members to send her the descriptions and dates of such graduate student activities (Ambika Mathur <au1432@wayne.edu>).

Dean Wardell said that the NRC report, anticipated for a long time, is still not out. When the data become available, the departmental peer and aspiration programs generated as part of Program Review can be compared with the NRC data. The NRC data will be available on its web site.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

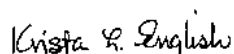
V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were postponed to the November meeting due to time constraints.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Krista L. English
Secretary of the Graduate Council