

Meeting of October 21, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

**Agenda**

**I. Approval of Minutes:** September 23, 2015\*

**II. Report of the Chair**

**III. Old Business**

A. Liaisons to Academic Senate Committees

**IV. New Business**

- A. Re-Accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission Overview
- B. Proposal for the MS Program Name Change – Radiological Physics to Medical Physics

**V. Committee Reports**

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

**VI. Adjournment**

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**Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of October 21, 2015  
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: E. Ash, J. Beaudoin, C. Bell, A. Biswas, S. Brown, K. Braunschweig, A. Cano, , C. Chow, M. Clark, H. Dillaway, J. Duchan , D. Dungee-Anderson, J. Dunbar, A. Feig, S. Firestine, W. Gibson-Scipio, C. Giurgescu, J. Green, M. Kavdia, L. Keashly, J. Lewis, P. Samuel, C. Sokol, T. Stemmler, D. Walster, A. Yaprak

Members Absent  
with Notice: R. Chinnam, S. Lean, K. Paesani, J. Pruchnic

Members Absent: S. Abramowicz, L. Beale, R. Benkert, B. Haynes, H. Heng, J. Martin, S. Ng, D. Onolemheman, J. Rothchild, S. Terlecky, A. Vallerand, D. Walz, D. Yingst

Also Present: P. Beavers, M. Joiner, J. Schiavone, S. Yee

The meeting was convened at 2:05 p.m. by Dean Ambika Mathur.

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION was made by Dr. Attila Yaprak, seconded by Dr. Steve Firestine, and passed to approve the minutes of September 23, 2015.

## **II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

### **A. Regular Graduate Faculty Status Appointments.**

- Dean Mathur reported that The Graduate School was asked by Associate Provost John Vanderweg about the status of graduate faculty in regards to the recent changes. Three years ago the criteria changed for graduate faculty appointments. It used to be one publication or equivalent every four years. Last year, it went up to two publications every four years. Starting Fall, 2015, it moved to three publications within four years. So the question was how it had impacted graduate faculty appointments. In previous four years combined, prior to the change in the criteria, we had a total of 801 submissions. Of those, 43 were denied, so about 5.4%. When it went up to two publications or equivalent in 2014, we had 125 submissions, eight denied at about 6.4%. This year there have been 146 submissions, eight were denied at about 5.5%. The data shows the change did not have much effect.

### **B. Graduate and Post Doc Research Symposium**

- Dean Mathur reported that what was formerly the Graduate Exhibition is being changed to the Graduate and Post-Doctoral Research Symposium. The idea is to have one day for PhD students and then another day for master's and post-docs in two consecutive days. Faculty will serve as judges for post-docs, post-docs will serve, along with faculty, as judges for PhD students. PhD students will serve as judges for master's students. There will be the same level of prizes for each of the three groups. Also being considered during this time is a career fair, so that employers from the outside can come and meet with our students. The students will have the opportunity to present themselves to the employers. We'll have the same

posters, oral presentations and a three-minute thesis competition, which seems to be what everybody is going towards now. It's similar to an elevator pitch that we did for master's students last year. But this is something that is actually coming from MAGS, which is the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools. There will be January deadline and then a February competition. The winner would be Wayne State's representative to the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools competition.

- Faculty members that have a student accepted for a presentation would be obligated to serve as a judge.
- The dates of the Symposium are March 22-23, 2016 in the McGregor Conference Center and Community Arts Auditorium.
- The Graduate Professional Development series has a session scheduled for abstract writing and another for poster preparation.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Academic Senate Liaisons.

- Dean Mathur reported that all but two of the Academic Senate committees have Graduate Council representation. There are still openings for the Facilities, Support Services and Technology and Student Affairs.

#### B. Graduate Open House

- Dean Mathur reported that there was a very good turnout and Ms. Jameshia Granberry has shared all the information with every program. So you should know who reached out for your programs and all the contact information.
- Dr. Mary Clark commented that there was not a good turnout at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences presentations and would like additional advertising in the future for those presentations.
- Dr. Janice Green commented that the College of Education had good participation. The College of Education offered scholarships to students registering for Winter 2016.
- Dr. Green asked if the open house will be each semester. Dean Mathur responded that the open house would be annually.
- Dr. Clark asked if there was thoughts of combining the undergraduate and graduate open houses. Dean Mathur indicated that the graduate open house would not be combined with undergraduate open house as it is too difficult to manage the numbers.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Re-Accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission Overview.

- Dean Sandy Yee reported that in 2007 the University actually did undergo a full university accreditation. At that point, it was by the North Central Association Higher Learning Commission. Since that time, a lot of changes have been made. One of the changes is that the Higher Learning Commission is now going simply by the "Higher Learning Commission." They are taking the "North Central Association" entirely out of the title. This is the Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit for the University. It will be a part of the university-wide accreditation. HLC, obviously, is one of a number of accreditors across the country. The accreditation norm is ten years. The University did get a completely clean bill of health in 2007 and was good for ten years. Since that time, the HLC has changed its processes, and because the University had a full, clear ten-year accreditation outcome, the accrediting body allowed the University to elect to go on what is known as the "open pathway." The alternative, the standard pathway, has a little more scrutiny than the open pathway.
- Mr. John Schiavone explained that the accreditors are basically here to assess the University's ability to deliver quality education. They are not going to communicate what roles need to be met. The University still has the ability to set standards. What they will be looking

at is the capacity to meet those standards. There is increasing pressure for the University to demonstrate that the data collected is analyzed, that it is fed directly into the budget and planning processes, and that it can demonstrate continuous improvement. Because of the haphazard collection, definition and nature of the data, this unified evidence submission puts the University at a little bit of risk.

- Mr. Schiavone reported that the site visitors will evaluate using the HLC's five criteria. Within those five criteria are 21 core components. In fact, they will grade us, if I can use that term, on the 21 core components. The grades are met with concern and not met, that is, of course, in descending order of desirability. The trick is if there is a core component within a criterion, and the core component is either met with concern or not met, that criterion, of which there are only five, can only get that lowest grade. So across the 21, if we were to have a smattering of met with concerns that touched each of the five criteria, *none* of the five criteria would be met. It is the judgment of the site visitors.
- Dr. Yee reported that the site visit will be March 6, 2017. The Higher Learning Commission team will be on campus for about one and one half days. They will meet with faculty, students and others and will be gathering data.
- Dr. Yee stated accreditation cannot be lost at this point. A devotion to the standard pathway is fine. The University will not be on probation at that point, but will simply be asked to provide more evidence in a shorter time frame. If not, the standard pathway would simply give us an opportunity to make sure we could present the data and evidence in a short time frame than we might have done with an open path.
- Dr. Eric Ash asked if the point of this exercise is to be to find out what the University does, and try to verify that it is being accomplished? Or is the point of this to come in and find all the ways in which the University is not living up to some standard? What is the mindset of this process? Is it positive or negative?
- Dr. Yee responded that the goal is to help the University find areas where it can do better.
- Mr. Schiavone stated that the core theme is continuous improvement.
- Mr. Schiavone reported that the University will have to advertise an open survey that will be available for ten days, probably in October of 2016. People who would like to offer observations about the university will have that opportunity, and that information will be read by the site visitors along with our argument.

B. Proposal for a Master of Science Program Name Change - Radiological Physics to Medical Physics.

- Dr. Michael Joiner presented that the master's program in radiological physics was established back in the 1970s. It was actually one of the first kind of those programs in the world and since that time, it's been very, very successful. What the program does is fundamentally train physicists to execute radiation oncology treatment of cancer. The issue that here is that, although it is called the master's program in radiological physics, it would correctly be termed the "master's program in medical physics" which is what all of the other programs in the country now call themselves. The request is a straightforward change in the name from radiological physics to medical physics. Nothing else in the program is changing at all. All of the teaching, all of the courses and everything will remain exactly the same.
- The motion to approve the proposal for the name change from Master of Science in Radiological Physics to Medical Physics was made, seconded and passed to approve.

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee.

- Dr. Steve Firestone reported the committee met on October 6, 2015.
- The committee discussed the appeal process for denied graduate faculty appointments.
- The committee discussed agenda items for the graduate directors meeting being held on November 2, 2015. Discussion items included future Rumble Fellowship allocations.

B. New Programs Committee.

- Associate Dean Cano reported that the committee met on October 20th and reviewed several proposals. Some of the proposals may go to the Graduate Council in November for a vote.

C. Graduate Admissions

- Dean Mathur reported that the numbers are not significant at this time, but are up from the previous year. Admits are about the same as last year.

D. University Libraries

- Mr. Paul Beavers reported that there is a special exhibition for the National Library of Medicine meant to emphasize their historic resources. It's going to be on Shakespeare and the Theory of Humors. It's going to be at the Medical Library. There's going to be a lecture by Dr. Eric Ash of the Department of History, That exhibition will go on through November 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Beavers reported that the Detroit Public Libraries, Wayne State University Libraries and Detroit Institute of Arts were chosen as the location in the State of Michigan in which First Folio would be on exhibition. That's going to be from March 7th to April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Mr. Beavers stated that last year a faculty task force on sustainable funding for serial publications did a series of recommendations that were finalized right at the end of the Winter semester. Dean Yee will be making a presentation to the Academic Senate in November.

E. Academic Senate Liaison

- No report.

F. Academic Standards

- Associate Dean Feig reported the process by which appeals for graduate faculty status would occur.
- The process is that the Academic Standards Committee would receive the appeal notice from the chair of that department. Two presenters of the committee would read the file. One would be a primary and one would be secondary, the readers would present that to the committee at large.
- The chair of the department will be invited to that meeting to provide context of their discipline,
- The committee will then vote on it. Any member of that department with a conflict of interest will recuse themselves from the vote.
- Dr. Ash stated that he understood the conflict of interest argument, but coming from a humanities, very book-centered discipline, the idea that all of the other departments that share that model would not be able to vote in an appeal is a little troubling to me.
- Associate Dean Feig responded that what the committee is trying to do is err on the side of similarity so that the membership of the committee didn't change how many people were voting. It was agreed that only departmental members should recuse themselves from the vote.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sokol  
Manager of the Graduate Council