



## Minutes from November 21, 2019 meeting

### Attendees:

Jonathon Anderson, Eric Ash, Linda Beale, Karen Beningo, Suzanne Brown, Shantelle Cavin, Alina Cherry, Christy Chow, Steve Firestine, Faith Hopp, Ingrid Guerra-Lopez, Sung Gon Chung, Paul Johnson, Loreleigh Keashly, Kafi Kumasi, Sharon Lean, Todd Leff, Margaret Campbell, Debra Patterson, Simon Ng, Bijal Patel, John Rothchild, Jeff Stanley, Malathy Shekhar, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, Mary Wood

### Absent:

Jeanne Barcelona, Ramona Benkert, Abe Biswas, Mary Clark, Mary Anne McCoy, , Paul Dubinsky, Linda Hazlett, Yinlun Huang, Ken Jackson, Peter Lucarotti, Richard Marback, Simon Ng, Sherry Quinn, Jami Pittman, Preethy Samuel, Jeffrey Potoff, Cheryl Somers, Chin-An Tan, April Vallerand, Dan Walz

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## Agenda

### Graduate Council

\*\*3:30- 5 p.m., Thursday, November 21, 2019\*\*

Hilberry E and F (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Student Center Building

- I. **Approval of October minutes: attached on page 2**
- II. **Report of the Chair**
- III. **Committee Reports**
  - a. *Executive Committee* (Faith Hopp, chair)
  - b. *New Programs and Program Review (NPPR)* (Todd Leff, chair)
    - i. Establishment of a new concentration in Statistics in the Master of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics
  - c. *Academic Standards Committee* (Sharon Lean, chair)
- IV. **Provost Keith E. Whitfield**
- V. **New business**
- VI. **Graduate Admissions (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**

- VII. Recruitment recap (Shantelle Cavin, Graduate Programs Outreach Specialist)
  - VIII. Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons (Linda Beale)
  - IX. Adjournment
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## Minutes

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 2019 meeting minutes.*

### Report of the chair

The Dean reported the Graduate School has won a national award from the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Educational Testing Services (ETS) that recognizes innovation in graduate education for a new program. The award funds will be used to pilot a program targeted at increasing the number of underrepresented students who continue from their undergraduate degree to graduate school by preparing them to become competitive applicants through peer mentoring, training, and scholarships. The program is called Success for Underrepresented Students in Graduate Education (SURGE) and will pair UG students with graduate students. Mentors will receive training in inclusive mentoring and leadership. Undergraduate students will participate in graduate application boot camps and workshops on financial aid and planning, critical thinking, writing purpose statements, how to work with faculty, and other relevant topics. Dedicated scholarship funding will be available for students who complete the program. The grant will be officially announced at the CGS's December meeting.

### Executive Committee

Although she was out of town for last week's Executive Committee meeting, Faith Hopp reported on the meeting based on minutes. The RCM movement of the tuition and compliance portion of assistantships to S/Cs continues to be a matter of concern. Providing the money to the S/Cs will not address the equity problem with allocations. The funding is based on a historical formula. The changes under the RCM model represent a holding pattern and do not correct the inequities.

Fred Vultee brought up the required 7.5 dissertation credit blocks. He said 10% of the students in Communication could complete the PhD in three years without the requirement: he is seeking clarity on why we are wedded to requiring four consecutive blocks of 7.5 credits. Paul Johnson said it might be time to revisit the need for 30 dissertation credits. Sharon Lean said it might be helpful if the S/C/departments shared information on the number of dissertation credits required by peer institutions. Simon Ng added that we benchmarked dissertation credit requirements with other institutions 15 years ago and it may be time to do that again. It was noted that UM does not charge tuition once candidacy is achieved. Many universities only require 40-50 credits for a PhD. Lean did note that UM does not accept transfer credits, as does

Wayne State. The Dean said that any changes would have to be informed a holistic review and indicated she would contact Hillary Ratner to learn more about the 7.5 dissertation block logic. Margaret Campbell said that Nursing plans to offer a grant writing class in spring/summer. Students say they are interested in this kind of course. It would be helpful if there was enough flexibility with dissertation credits to accommodate adding useful courses such as grant writing.

### **New Programs and Program Review Committee (NPPR)**

Todd Leff reported that NPPR has approved the establishment of a new concentration in Statistics in the Master of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics. The master's in Data Science and Business Analytics is currently offered in the College of Engineering and Mike Ilitch School of Business. This adds a third concentration housed in the CLAS Math Department focused on statistical analysis. Kazuhiko Shinki from the Math Department provided a brief overview of the concentration and noted the two existing programs have been successful in recruiting students. They also will leverage off the existing marketing to attract prospective students.

*A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the new concentration in Statistics in the Master of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics*

### **Academic Standards Committee**

Lean reported that language providing clarity about transfer credits would be brought to a future Grad Council meeting once an issue is resolved with the Registrar's office regarding AGRADE credits being applied to a PhD program. Another project Academic Standards is working on is streamlining paperwork for graduate faculty appointments. Web content on a statement of best practices for mentorship will be developed as part of the refresh of information on graduate faculty appointments.

### **Admissions**

Sherry Quinn was not present. Lean reported on her behalf that an admissions application using Slate is currently being built and should be ready in December. It will debut February 2020 for winter 2021. We will continue to use ALERT through fall 2020. In terms of enrollment, numbers are about the same this year compared to the same week last year.

### **Recruitment Recap**

Shantelle Cavin briefly reported that she attended nine recruitment fairs with 475 student contacts.

*Provost enters the meeting at 4 p.m.*

Provost Whitfield first addressed the issue of the tuition for assistantships flowing to S/C under RCM. He said PhD programs are critical and they are important for the deans. He said there

should be trust that the deans will appropriately steward these funds. Recruitment was next mentioned. He said no one is taking ownership of recruitment and he noted the drop in master's enrollments. He said it makes sense for the Graduate School to play a key role in master's recruitment and this would help achieve economies of scale.

The dean search was next discussed. He said the search committee would be complete once a student representative is selected.

Discussion returned to the assistantship and a question came up from Paul Johnson on how the current allocation system was established. The Provost said at least two committees in recent years have been formed to look at the allocations, and only one of those committees came up with recommendations, though they were not concrete enough to implement. CLAS would have been negatively affected with a changed system. Further, he noted that revising the current system is more art than science. There will be winners and losers on any change of the allocation formula. The RCM model of providing these funds to the deans means that any changes will be done within colleges, where the dean can more readily understand the pros and cons, rather than attempting reallocations across the entire university. He added that Wayne State pays its GTAs a lower salary than the national average. As a result of discussions about these issues, he plans to use some of the Provost's strategic initiative funds to supplement GTA funding for S/Cs as we implement RCM. He agreed, however, that it might be worthwhile to consider whether the Graduate Council could devise an allocation formula to present by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Now would be the time to do this. Steve Firestine brought up the idea of waiving tuition for grant-funded students. The Provost said departments with extensive grant funding, such as chemistry, should find a way to fund and support their students.

The Provost said it might be helpful to bring in a consultant or external expert to lead discussions with S/C budget committees. Changing course will be a major responsibility under the RCM model. We should strive to communicate change before implementation. The culture should be more communicative and collaborative as we transition. Steve Firestine brought up forgoing tuition to grow the graduate student population and build something that's mission critical. The Provost noted that under the RCM model, we should build on strengths and ask the question "where do you want to be in three years?" Those S/C that require subventions will be asked how they will reduce subventions. By 2021, the S/C should have their sea legs.

Kafi Kumasi asked if templates would be developed for the S/C budget committees (BACs) and where BAC members could go for information. Would it be the business affairs officers (BAOs), associate dean or dean? The Provost recommended attending the Senate's budget committee meetings. He noted the chart of accounts are a disaster and that members do not need to see all the details. Linda Beale noted that the Academic Senate Budget Committee hosts an annual meeting, usually in March, for all of the members of all of the unit BACs to provide information on current budgetary issues. She also noted that BAC members have the right under the

collective bargaining agreement to ask for the unit's full financial statements and recommended that they do so. The Provost recommended that BAOs and associate deans who work with BACs should also attend the Senate meeting.

Sharon Lean asked about the permanent dean search. The Provost said the search committee would hold a meeting in December with airport interviews to follow. There should be a decision around May/June. He said with a good interim in place, there is no need to rush. At this point, a costly external search firm will not be used to conduct the search. There will be extensive advertising and it's still a national search.

*The Provost leaves the meeting at 4:41 p.m.*

The recruitment recap resumed with Shantelle Cavin. She reported that recruitment event "leads" would be sent on Monday. Beale asked if it would be customized and individualized. Cavin said it would be general in the first year of Slate, but become more customized later. S/Cs will be provided an excel spreadsheet with information on the students who have expressed interest. Beale and others suggested that a sample of the letters sent be provided as well, so that everyone is aware what information has been provided at the Graduate School level.

Lean reported on the Research Scholars Symposium, which is part of the March 3, 2020 Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium. This year the program will bring 15 students to campus who have been admitted or who are applying to graduate school. The students will spend the morning in their prospective departments and attend the symposium in the afternoon. She suggested that S/Cs coordinate any active recruitment events they hold with the symposium date.

Academic writing for graduate students will be offered winter 2020 by the English Department. Look for the callouts for four-credit AGRADE scholarships in early December.

### **Graduate Council/Academic Senate Liaison**

Beale said the Pay Equity Subcommittee of the President's Commission on the Status of Women has shared its tentative recommendations with the Student Senate and Academic Senate for comments. Policy prepared a response supporting some of the recommendations and noting significant concerns about others. Another issue discussed recently by the Policy Committee is our bookstore's promotion (with about \$5000 in incentives) of a service called Bartleby Learn where students can pay \$10 a month and have "experts" available 24/7 to answer a limited number of specific questions each month. They also offer a service that helps students write papers. Policy members are concerned that promoting such a service through the campus bookstore encourages students not to do their own work. Policy was informed that our

Academic Success office is supportive of this service, so the Policy Committee has invited Michele Brunner to attend the 12/2 Policy Committee meeting to explore this further.

Beale indicated that the dispute between the President and the split BoG continues to be a fraught issue for all of us. It clearly has done reputational damage to the university. Susan Burns, VP for Development and Alumni Affairs, says that previously the SOM accounted for 25% of our philanthropy. Now it's only 11% and donors mention the unstable situation in hesitating to give. There have been a number of statements on the issue—by Chair Trent, Governor Busuito, and President Wilson—since the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the full Board where a vote (that may or may not have been valid) to oust the President was taken. Beale indicated that she would provide those statements to anyone interested who had not seen them. She also noted that people have begun to ask various members of the Senate whether there will be a no-confidence vote by the Senate.

**The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m..**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary E. Wood  
Graduate School Program Director

