

Meeting of November 14, 2012, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

**Agenda**

- I. Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2012\***
- II. Ron Brown, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs**
- III. Report of the Dean**
- IV. Old Business**
  - A. Other Old Business
- V. New Business**
  - A. PhD Annual Review – Survey Results and Report
  - B. Other New Business
- VI. Committee Reports**
  - A. Executive Committee
  - B. New Programs Committee
  - C. Academic Standards Committee
  - D. Graduate Admissions
  - E. Academic Senate Liaison
- V. Adjournment**

\* attachment

**Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of November 14, 2012  
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: A. Biswas, A. Cano, C. Chow, J. Dunbar, D. Dungee-Anderson, E. Faue, A. Feig, R. Holley, K. Jackson, G. Kapatos, P. Kernsmith, A. Kowluru, M. Malek, G. Mao, A. Mathur, J. Moldenhauer, B. Neavill, S. Ng, K. Paesani, R. Pauley, S. Terlecky, A. Weisz, C. Winston, H. Wu, A. Yaprak, J. Yoon

Members Absent  
with Notice: M. Anderson, L. Buis, M. Clark, P. Dubinsky, J. Green, P. Sopory

Members Absent: J. Davis, M. Dickson, J. Holbert, L. Schwiebert

Also Present: C. Barduca, R. Brown, P. Beavers, K. Lueckeman

The meeting was convened at 2:04 p.m. by the Chairperson, Ambika Mathur

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- MOTION was made by Delores Dungee-Anderson, Interim Associate Dean Social Work, seconded by Andrew Feig, Professor of Chemistry, and passed to approve the minutes of October 17, 2012.

\*\* Provost Brown was late to the meeting, and Interim Dean Mathur chose to rearrange the agenda as follows.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

- There was no old business.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

A. PhD Annual Review – Survey Results and Report

- Professor Feig reported on the progress of a survey that was previously distributed to all Departmental Graduate Directors, Graduate Program Officers and Graduate Council members. He stated that 31 people had responded with useful feedback. The survey will be used to help create an inclusive, university-wide PhD annual review form; however, programs will still be able to adjust parts of the form to address specific needs/variables. One of the goals of this project is to integrate this form with Banner, so that certain data fields can be auto-populated. Professor Feig said that the Graduate School hopes to be able to introduce a beta version of the review form for voluntary testing by the summer of 2013.

B. Other New Business

- Interim Dean Mathur thanked all of the council members who agreed to serve as liaisons to Academic Senate. She added that it is important that graduate education have representation at senate meetings
- Interim Dean Mathur welcomed back Arlene Weisz, Professor of Social Work, who will be acting as replacement for Eileen Trzcinski for the remainder of the academic year.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Interim Dean Mathur reported that most of the recent discussion has involved the outcomes of the Huron Report.

B. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

- Ken Jackson, Professor of English, reported that the New Programs Committee has discussed having a larger conversation with full Graduate Council about the future direction of graduate program proposals. Should Graduate Council advocate innovation, consolidation, or a combination of the two? During the winter term, Professor Jackson hopes to revamp the mission statement for the New Programs Committee, bringing more in line with these goals.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- Interim Dean Mathur reported that main topic of conversation at the recent Academic Standards meeting was the survey, which was already discussed by Professor Feig.

D. GRADUATE ADMISSIONS (note – this report occurred at the end of the meeting)

- Kathy Lueckeman, Director of Graduate Admissions, reported that new applications are up for Wayne State's future and open terms; likewise, admits are up as well. These terms include Winter 2013, Spring/Summer 2013 and Fall 2013. Ms. Lueckeman cautioned that spring/summer and fall numbers are based on a very small sample size. Moreover, Winter 2013 registration numbers are down for both new and continuing graduate students. She expressed hope that the numbers would change in the coming weeks.
- In reference to a point raised about time to admissions at the last Graduate Council, the Office of Graduate Admissions wants to clarify that "since the new application for admission process was implemented in the fall of 2010, application push processing time has been decreased by 92%. Other processing time is dependent on the applicant and the academic departments."

**V. Ronald Brown, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs**

- Provost Brown thanked everybody who participated in meetings with the Huron Consulting Group during mid-October. He stated that initial feedback from the consultants showed that it was clear the most of the university favors maintaining a Graduate School that is separate from the Office of the Vice President for Research with a separate dean. He continued that the separate model will be his recommendation to the president and officers of the university.

Provost Brown also touched upon the vision for Graduate Education at Wayne State University. He indicated the desire to stress quality over quantity. He expressed concern over funding graduate students, and he wants to ensure that Wayne State doctoral graduates are competitive for academic positions at peer institutions. Provost Brown admitted that much of

his tenure has been focused on improving the undergraduate programs at the university; however, he believes that he can now begin to shift emphasis to the graduate programs.

Jina Yoon, Professor of Education, asked what Provost Brown felt the faculty could do to improve placement for PhDs. He responded that faculty should be actively mentoring students to improve skills related to research, scholarship, and teaching. He firmly believes that the enhanced graduate faculty criteria will help to ensure that doctoral students are working with the most active faculty members. He added that graduate training is labor intensive; faculty have to be committed and have professional contacts in order to help students to best succeed after graduation.

Professor Feig asked if the provost had plans to strengthen on-campus interviews and industry partnerships at the graduate-level for those not pursuing academic careers. Provost Brown said that the university would be employing consultants to review the Career Services office and agreed that this was an area in need of improvement. He suggested that various deans and graduate directors should be actively canvassing their industry contacts in order to determine employment trends and to inform them of how Wayne State graduates can benefit them.

Robert Pauley, Associate Dean in the School of Medicine, stated that the policies of providing the tuition and benefit shortfall are important functions of the Graduate School that enhance quality. Provost Brown concurred; full financial support is integral to student quality. He added that reduced support from the state level has increased the challenges of supporting students, and this is an area that Wayne State needs to work to improve.

Provost Brown invited the group to contact him with any further questions and thanked everyone for their comments and participation.

\*\*Provost Brown left the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

## **VI. REPORT of THE CHAIR**

- Interim Dean Mathur announced that she was recently invited to present her vision for the Graduate School to the Policy Committee of the Academic Senate and the full Academic Senate. Topics that she covered included: quality of students, funding, training grants, and the need for innovative and interdisciplinary programs.
- Interim Dean Mathur discussed the GTA re-allocation committee of which she is a member. Currently, the university has 598 graduate assistant slots, however, these are slots are being allotted using an outdated formula. The committee is working to determine a format more conducive to present needs and trends. Additionally, she stated that she has been in contact with university officials to devise a plan to increase the number of available graduate assistantship slots. This will be costly, and funds will most likely need to be secured externally through grants and possibly philanthropy.
- Interim Dean Mathur echoed Professor Feig's earlier statements about the necessity to help graduate students identify careers outside of academia. She mentioned entrepreneurship and technology commercialization as two possible avenues as well as incentive programs for students who apply for external fellowships. Interim Dean Mathur has led an incentive program that provides \$1,000 to every student who applies for an external fellowship with a competitive agency. So far this program has been extremely successful with the number of external fellowship applications increasing tenfold in the past calendar year. The key to this increase has been annual fellowship writing boot camps during the spring/summer terms. The bootcamps usually admit about fourteen to fifteen students; however, she believes that with more faculty involvement, the bootcamps would be able to accommodate more students and numbers of external fellowships would continue to increase. The national average success rate for securing external applications is 25%; Wayne State's MD/PhD program's

- current success rate is 65%, so increased emphasis is justified. Mathur directs the MD/PhD program and mandates every student in the program to apply for external fellowships.
- Interim Dean Mathur also led a discussion about how graduate education would fit into Provost Brown's anticipated strategic planning meetings, which were scheduled for late November 2012. These meetings, however, were cancelled. The discussion will be revisited if new meetings are planned.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David McGrann  
Manager, Graduate Council