

Meeting of November 19, 2014, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

**Agenda**

**I. Approval of Minutes:** October 22, 2014\*

**II. Report of the Dean**

**III. Committee Reports**

- A. Executive Committee
- B. New Programs Committee
- C. Academic Standards Committee
- D. Academic Senate Liaison

**IV. Old Business**

- A. Other Old Business

**V. New Business**

- A. Approval of the Closure of the Graduate Certificate in Analytical Toxicology\*
- B. University Strategic Plan – Provost Winters and Dr. Romano
- C. Graduate School Strategic Plan\*
- D. Other New Business

**VI. Adjournment**

\* attachment

**Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of November 19, 2014  
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: E. Ash, C. Bell, R. Benkert, A. Biswas, K. Braunschweig, S. Brown, C. Chow, G. DeBlase, H. Dillaway, P. Dubinsky, D. Dungee-Anderson, A. Feig, S. Firestine, W. Gibson-Scipio, J. Green, B. Haynes, R. Holley, K. Jackson, S. Lean, A. Mathur, D. McGrann, K. Paesani, D. Patterson, J. Pruchnic, P. Samuel, P. Sopory, S. Terlecky, A. Yaprak,

Members Absent with Notice: M. Clark, T. Gates, G. Kapatos, J. Martin, J. Moldenhauer, S. Ng, D. Yingst

Members Absent: J. Dunbar, C. Giurgescu, A. Vallerand, D. Walster

Also Present: P. Beavers, P. Johnson, L. Romano, M. Winters

The meeting was convened at 2:06 p.m. by the Chairperson, Ambika Mathur.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION was made by Dr. Bob Holley, seconded by Dr. Abe Biswas, and passed to approve the minutes of October 22, 2014.

**II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

- Dean Mathur reported that Wayne State University has officially been awarded one of ten BUILD (Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity) grants awarded by the NIH Common Fund. Wayne State University is a member of a consortium including the University of Detroit-Mercy, Wayne County Community College District and Marygrove College. The Detroit-based group is one of ten consortia around the country to be awarded this grant worth \$21.2 million over a period of five years. Dean Mathur commended the work of the group, which included contributions from close to 90 faculty members.

Dean Mathur noted that Wayne State University has joined the University of California San Francisco as one of only two universities to receive the BEST and BUILD grants (both awarded by the NIH Common Fund) over the past two years. This speaks to the recognition of Wayne State's leadership in graduate education.

**III. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Dr. Pradeep Sopory, Executive Committee Chair, announced that the committee did not meet in November.

**B. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

- The New Programs Committee, on behalf of Graduate Council, approved the deletion of five bridge graduate certificates in Kinesiology. (Per university procedure, the creation, deletion and revision of bridge graduate certificates requires approval from the New Programs Committee of Graduate Council, the Graduate School Dean and the Provost). The Provost has also approved this request.
- The committee also reviewed minor revisions to the PhD in Anthropology, and the MA in Sports Administration.

**C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

- Associate Dean Andrew Feig reported that Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) training was the main topic for the November meeting of Academic Standards. There has been some discussion of creating a standardized curriculum across the university. The Academic Standards Committee discussed the logistics of introducing university-wide RCR training that would be inclusive of the needs of all disciplines. Associate Dean Feig invited council members to provide input.

**D. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISON**

- Dr. Lou Romano, President of the Academic Senate, reported on some recent topics in Academic Senate.
  - The Dean of Students Office (DOSO) is sponsoring a “Care Report” for faculty to handle disruptive students through the submission a form available on the DOSO website. The Dean of Students will intercede and use the report as a mechanism to help the student(s) in question.
  - The Director of the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) unit, which is part of student services, presented to Policy Committee. According to Dr. Romano, this unit is now well-staffed and functioning very well.
  - Dr. Romano also announced that Provost Winters is looking for people to serve on the Accreditation Committee. She will also be looking for a faculty member to serve as a co-chair of the committee. Anybody interested in serving in either role should contact Dr. Romano or Provost Winters.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Other Old Business**

- Graduate Open House
  - On November 13, the Graduate School helped to coordinate the first Graduate Open House in several years. Every school and college participated and around 140 people attended. The Graduate School will be reviewing the cost/benefit margin for the event, but minimally, the intention is to make this an annual event.
- Master’s Innovation Fund
  - Associate Dean Heather Dillaway announced that the Graduate School received 36 submissions in response to the Request for Proposals. The proposals will be reviewed by the Master’s Advisory Committee and awards will be announced by mid-December.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Graduate Exhibition is scheduled for March 2015. Because the exhibition is geared toward doctoral students, the Graduate School will be introducing a Master’s Showcase in April 2015. More details will follow.

*Provost Winters joined the meeting.*

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. University Strategic Plan

- Provost Winters gave a presentation on the process for creating a new University Strategic Plan. *Complete details, including the planning process, committee membership and focus groups are available at <http://wayne.edu/strategicplan>.*
  - When President Wilson joined WSU in 2013, the University Strategic Plan was out of date; however, he wanted to get acclimated before starting the process of creating a new strategic plan. The current process began in spring 2014 and was led by Provost Winters, Chief of Staff Michael Wright and Vice President of Administration Richard Nork. The full Steering Committee was filled out with other administrators, two regular faculty members, and one student representative. After a series of interviews, the University has contracted with the Barthwell Group to consult on the planning process. Additionally, the Steering Committee has created separate focus groups for students, staff, administration, alumni and faculty.

In terms of the planning process, Provost Winters stressed that the University is “not starting from scratch”. She stated, “There are places where we thought that, for strategic reasons in defining where the university is going, it was worth simply talking about things we already do; other times where we thought that they have to be mentioned because they have to be enhanced, and there are few where it’s just plain we have to start from scratch.”

- Provost Winters introduced the six focus areas for the Strategic Plan:
  1. **Student Success** – “. . . we want to cultivate a culture, an entity, a university entity where everybody thinks about the students.”
  2. **Teaching Excellence** – “What do we do to value teaching? What do we do to promote teaching?”
  3. **Research** – “We have to maximize how we focus on certain strengths without forgetting the other areas, without forgetting also the basic research that leads to applied research and translational research.”
  4. **Entrepreneurship** – “. . . this is one that we feel – ‘we’ being the steering committee, the president, [and] the university ultimately – it pervades everything we do.”
  5. **Community Engagement** – We need to do a better job of tracking civic engagement in order to “support it and proclaim it as what Wayne State is.”
  6. **Financial Stability** – “We need to improve our processes, and make sure that once they’re improved, we keep an eye on them. . . . And in some cases, it means becoming effective rather than more efficient. It doesn’t necessarily mean cutting back on things because this circles us right back to students are our number one priority.”
- Provost Winters recommended council members visit the website for more information, <http://wayne.edu/strategicplan>, and submit any comments to the email address provided there.
- She concluded her presentation by announcing two tasks for each school and college:
  1. Those schools and colleges with current strategic plans should review these to be sure they are in alignment with the current direction proposed in the University’s new strategic plan. Any school or college without a strategic plan should develop one as soon as possible.

2. Each school or college plan needs to be reviewed to determine how it will be implemented among departments (i.e. which departments are responsible for which areas).
  - Dr. Romano, who is a faculty representative on the Steering Committee, added, “. . . [E]verything in this strategic plan is going to have to be done by the faculty;” therefore, faculty should be engaged in and participate in the planning process. Dr. Romano stated that success in these areas will lead to a better image for Wayne State University regionally and nationally.
  - Dr. Holley asked if other institutions had been benchmarked during this process. Provost Winters responded that the consultants provided numerous examples relevant to the proposed focus areas.
  - Paul Dubinsky, J.D., asked about measuring and defining the success of the strategic plan. Provost Winters and Dr. Romano agreed and replied that metrics will be built into implementation plans, defining metrics for success.
  - Dean Mathur added that a goal, focusing explicitly on graduate education, has been included in the student success area,. Provost Winters pointed to Dr. Romano as being a spokesperson for graduate education during the planning process.

*Provost Winters exited the meeting.*

B. Closure of the Graduate Certificate in Analytical Toxicology

- According to information provided by the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, The Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences Program in the Department of Health Care Sciences was closed by the Board of Governors at its meeting of September 21, 2011. Closure of the Graduate Certificate program in Analytical Toxicology was not included in the Board’s action to close the Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences program. The three Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences courses required for the certificate are no longer offered. As a result the Certificate has remained dormant since 2010.
- MOTION was made by Dr. Jeff Pruchnic, seconded by Dr. Ramona Benkert, and passed to approve the dissolution of the Graduate Certificate in Analytical Toxicology.

C. Graduate School Strategic Plan

- Dean Mathur stated that the Graduate School administration is working on creating a new strategic plan in accordance with the University’s broad plan. She asked Mr. McGrann, who is coordinating the effort, to provide an update.
  - Mr. McGrann reported that a draft has been created and revised to align the Graduate School’s goals with the university plan. The revisions were made after reviewing the “Key Priorities and Metrics” outlined in the most recent draft (November 2014) of the University’s Strategic Plan.
  - The following are areas of focus for the Graduate School to use as a starting point for the strategic plan:
    - Increase the six-year graduation rate, improve overall retention, and grow enrollment
    - Eliminate the gaps in graduation and retention between students from underrepresented populations and students from majority populations
    - Ensure that faculty and advisors work make better use of available data
    - Expand the percentage graduate students involved in research

- Increase community engagement initiatives
- Strengthen relationship with OVPR
- Encourage Entrepreneurship
- Several council members provided comments.
  - Mr. Dubinsky suggested that the Graduate School's plan need to include a defined international student component.
  - Dean Mathur agreed and stated that postdoctoral trainees must be considered as well.
  - This was followed by a general discussion of the scope of university support and services for the Graduate School and graduate education. Dr. Romano said that Graduate Council members could improve the awareness of graduate education at Wayne State University by volunteering to act as liaisons to Academic Senate Committees where they could provide a larger voice. He added, "There are very few people who think about the Graduate School except the people doing graduate research, and the ones with graduate students."
  - Council members continued to discuss elements of the strategic plan including the enrollment, research and community engagement components.
- Dean Mathur encouraged all council members to help with the creation of the strategic plan. Anyone interested in volunteering was directed to contact Mr. McGrann.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David McGrann  
Manager of the Graduate Council