

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

Members Present: C. Bell, R. Benkert, K. Braunschweig, C. Chow, H. Dillaway, P. Dubinsky, J. Dunbar, D. Dungee-Anderson, A. Feig, S. Firestine, T. Gates, W. Gibson-Scipio, J. Green, B. Haynes, K. Jackson, S. Lean, A. Mathur, D. McGrann, J. Moldenhauer, S. Ng, D. Patterson, J. Pruchnic, P. Samuel, S. Terlecky, D. Walster, A. Yaprak,

Members Absent with Notice: E. Ash, A. Biswas, M. Clark, C. Giurgescu, R. Holley, J. Martin, P. Sopory, K. Paesani,

Members Absent: S. Brown, G. Kapatoss, P. Khosla, A. Vallerand, D. Yingst

Also Present: P. Beavers, W. Evans, J. Granberry, S. Lanier, L. Romano, L. Sabapathy, A. Walter

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made by Dr. Dungee-Anderson, seconded Dr. Jeff Pruchnic, and passed to approve the minutes of November 19, 2014.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Dr. Steve Lanier, Vice President for Research

Dean Mathur introduced Dr. Lanier, who was invited to talk about his vision for research and how the Graduate School can work in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR).

Dr. Lanier joined Wayne State in June 2014 as the Vice President for Research. He discussed his background as a pharmacologist including stays at the Medical University of South Carolina, the Louisiana State University Health Science Center, and Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. In his brief time at Wayne State, Dr. Lanier has worked with consulting groups to look at OVPR and research initiatives at Wayne. In 2013, research funding at the university dropped considerably with the most notable decline being a \$20 million decrease in NIH funding from 2012 to 2013. Dr. Lanier noted there was a small uptick in research funds during 2014 and he hopes this is a sign that research funds are beginning to stabilize. Among the positive research, Dr. Lanier pointed to the BEST and BUILD grants in addition to the recent grant for the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES). In order to continue to reverse the past downward trend, Dr. Lanier said that we must focus on "setting a mission to nurture discovery and knowledge applications for the benefit of society and promote sustained growth of a dynamic and innovative research enterprise." Areas of emphasis will include

infrastructure, technology, physical space, core support, recruitment and retention of researchers, operations, workforce development and strategic partnerships.

Reports from two consulting groups, Battelle and Faegre BD, show that Wayne State has been competitive for individual investigator grants but not as much for programmatic grants. Dr. Lanier stated that the reports resulted in a few recommendations for translational thrusts for the institution to think about going forward. These include: maternal, child and lifespan development; genes; systems and biomedical engineering; cancer studies; urban environment research on cardiovascular health, neurological health, infectious diseases and workforce development. The consultants recommended housing the translational efforts in one institute, and there have been conversations about developing a center for translational thrusts that would report to OVPR.

Dr. Lanier discussed the new IBio building, and its importance to OVPR efforts. The building should be open in July 2015. It's about 200,000 square feet and has three each with a similar design. In the middle is a large, open wet lab space, surrounded by a fairly large expanse of open dry lab space with open offices and modular space for teams to assemble. On the first floor, there's also some clinical translational space for subject observation, and the Henry Ford Hospital occupies some space for their bone and joint program. Dr. Lanier said that as space in the building is allocated, it will be important to leverage the needs of internal programs versus recruitment. In the fall of 2015, the University plans to hold a conference and dedication, capturing some of the current themes.

Dr. Lanier highlighted the importance of recruiting and retaining faculty. He has worked aggressively on successful faculty retention efforts in the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He stated that he wants OVPR to support all all schools and colleges with recruitment and retention of faculty. This dovetails with efforts to improve infrastructure. The University is conducting a needs-based assessment of research buildings, and Scott Hall has been identified as priority for renovations. Likewise, the Graduate School's need for more space has been the radar. Other innovations have come in the areas of animal research and research equipment with OVPR allocating funds to the latter. Dr. Lanier commented that this was very popular, and he received over sixty applications to request funds for equipment.

Dr. Lanier then touched upon plans for the future. First, OVPR will look to identify and support thematic initiatives that leverage strengths across schools and colleges. Second, Dr. Lanier would like to establish an office of research development within OVPR that would enhance strategic programmatic funding opportunities. This office would have the expertise to identify opportunities early and to help coordinate the development of applications. The office could also serve as a home for bio-sketches, table training grant information, and boiler plate information. In addition to these two items, Dr. Lanier hopes to find ways to diversify Wayne State's funding portfolio by targeting federal agencies and to strengthen strategic affiliations with local business and industries.

Dr. Lanier left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

B. Other New Business

Dean Mathur introduced two new Graduate School Staff members:

- Ms. Jameshia Granberry, Director of Graduate Admissions
- Ms. Claire Ofiara, Associate Director of Recruiting

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Other Old Business

- Master's Innovation Fund and Master's Scholarships

- Associate Dean Heather Dillaway reported that the Graduate School received 36 proposals for the Master's Innovation Fund and granted 13 awards. There were a full range of proposals from every college and school.
- Dr. Dillaway also discussed scholarships for master's students. Twenty-five scholarships to encourage completion were awarded for Winter 2015, and a similar competitive program will be available for the spring/summer semester.
- **GRA Competitions**
 - The Graduate School has sponsored three separate GRA competitions: 1) for those in the arts and humanities 2) for individual investigators in any discipline 3) for teams of faculty who are preparing to submit (or who have recently submitted) proposals to support interdisciplinary doctoral training grants. The GRA competition for the arts and humanities is an existing program; the other two competitions are new and will only be offered one time only. Applications to these competitions are currently under review.

B. Graduate School Strategic Plan

- A draft of goals and objectives for the new strategic plan has been prepared and reviewed by the Barthwell Group, a consulting firm that has been engaged to assist the university in developing its strategic plan. The next step will be to create a Tactical Action Plan (TAP). Mr. Walter Evans, Chief Operating Officer of the Barthwell Group, joined the meeting to discuss the TAP. The TAP is an implementation plan for the goals and objectives, and its purpose is twofold. First, the TAP is a great way to develop specific details and metrics about how to achieve and measure the goals and objectives. Second, TAPs will provide a measure of how the schools and colleges are going to assist the university in accomplishing its goals and objectives. Mr. Evans stated that the TAPs will be in a standardized format across the university in order to develop aggregate data for the university as a whole.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dean Mathur reported that the strategic plan was the focus of the December Executive Committee meeting.

B. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Associate Dean Dillaway reported that the committee did not meet in November, but a meeting is scheduled for December.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Associate Dean Andrew Feig stated that AGRADE programs and Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) were the two key topics. On the former, the committee reached consensus that AGRADE students should not be eligible for graduate assistantships prior to complete the undergraduate degree. As for RCR courses, the committee is leaning toward recommending that this training be incorporated at the department level

D. GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Ms. Granberry reported that applications for Winter 2015 were up; however, the number of incomplete applications has almost doubled from last winter. She stated that she is working to identify the issue – is it a communication issue or an issue with application and related procedures. Ms. Granberry invited council members to contact her with recommendations.

Dean Mathur stated that the Graduate School is considering re-introducing the application fee with the belief that this could help to cut down on incomplete applications. Mr. Paul Dubinsky, JD, expressed some concern with this. He stated that applications to the LLM programs have risen since the fee was removed. According to Mr. Dubinsky, the \$50 fee is not the issue, but some

international applicants lack the proper mechanisms to arrange for payment. Dean Mathur stated that this issue has been taken into consideration, and that v considering

E. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISON

Dr. Lou Romano, President of the Academic Senate discussed various issues.

- Mr. Joe Sawasky, Chief Operating Officer for C&IT, met with senate to discuss the transition from Zimbra to Microsoft Office 365 as Wayne State's email server. Office 365 will include free student access to all Microsoft Office products as well as free cloud-based storage for all users. This change is expected to be implemented during the fall of 2015.
- Dr. Joe Rankin, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Affairs, presented on the course scheduling policy.
- Dr. Gloria Hepner, Associate Vice President for Research, presented on changes to the Indirect Cost Return Policy. These changes are part of a larger plan to improve overall research funding at the university.
- There is an ongoing search for a new Vice President for Finance. The consensus of the committee and what was made clear to the search firm is that this new person will need to have some background in academia.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

David McGrann
Manager of the Graduate Council