



Graduate Council

February 16, 2022, 2-3:30 p.m.

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/98122033548?pwd=bVNYTFBzRXZaa1Zlcjd0YUIPZ1BwQT09>

- I. Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of January 2022 minutes (page 2)
 - b. Proposed Graduate Council bylaw changes
 - i. Addition of two standing committees
 1. Awards and Fellowship Committee (Article VI, Section 5)
 2. Committee on Graduate Inclusive Excellence (Article VI, Section 6)
 - c. Blanket extension of time-to-degree limitations due to pandemic
- II. Executive Committee (Fred Vultee, Chair)**
- III. Academic Standard Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)**
 - a. Master's and PhD requirements for posthumous degrees (discussion only)
- IV. New Programs and Program Review Committee (NPPR) (Todd Leff, Chair)**
 - a. Certificate in Geographic Information Sciences, Urban Studies & Planning
- V. Graduate Student report from Student Senate representative (Asra Akhlaq)**
- VI. Graduate Admissions Updates (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
 - a. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
 - b. Ed Cackett, Research Committee
 - c. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
 - d. Paul Dubinsky, Budget Committee
- IX. Adjournment**

Meeting minutes

Graduate Council

January 19, 2022

Attendees:

Asra Akhlaq, Linda Beale, Abe Biswas, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Ed Cackett, Deborah Charboneau, Christine Chow, Steve Chrisomalis, Rosanne DiZazzo-Miller, Christine D' Arpa, Moira Fracassa, Linda Hazlett, Paul Johnson, Chera Kee, Loreleigh Keashly, Poco Kernsmith, Todd Leff, Jeffrey Martin, Larry Matherly, Mary Anne McCoy, David Moss, Golam Newaz, Debra Patterson, Sarah Pearline, Jeff Pruchnic, Sherry Quinn, Robert Reynolds, Malathy Shekhar, Rebecca Sokol, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, April Vallerand, Dan Walz, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak, Zhengping Yi

Absent with notice:

Mary Clark

Absent without notice:

Sarah Pearline, Ken Jackson, Weisong Shi

Guests:

Paul Beavers, Doreen Head

Notes:

The Dean asked if there were any changes to the November 2021 meeting minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and the minutes were approved.

The Dean said several bylaws changes would be considered at the meeting. She noted that only voting members of the Graduate Council were allowed to vote. She said minor wordsmithing changes for Article II, Section 1; Article II, Section 4 and Article VI, Section 3 would be conducted as a single vote.

A poll was launched on the changes for the minor edits and the motion carried.

The next item discussed was striking language in Article III, Section 1. This section currently states that the Graduate Council are elected by and composed of members of the regular graduate faculty. A change being proposed is to add "the Graduate Dean" to the first sentence in section 1. It was noted that changes to Article II were skipped and the discussion turned to the changes being proposed in the objectives portion for Article II, Section 2. These changes concerned the description of the Grad Council's responsibilities. The Dean noted the changes were not substantial, but did provide stronger wording and language. The discussion turned next to Article II, Section 3 which states the chair of the Executive Committee should report actions and recommendations periodically to the President of the Academic Senate. Linda Beale noted graduate faculty status is an educational policy that falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate. She added that changes should come before the Senate before they go to the President. The Dean thanked Beale for the clarification.

A poll was launched for both Article II, Section 2 and Article II, Section 3. The first measure passed; the second measure did not, but one voting member said she misunderstood and switched her no vote to yes. Both measures passed.

Membership matters in Article III, Sections 1 and 5, were returned to. The Dean said Article III, Section 2 had been discussed by the EC and withdrawn for consideration today until further discussion. This change concerned the S/C elections to the GC prior to the end of the winter semester. Currently they state they must be done the first week in April, which was problematic. The Dean noted the Graduate Faculty Task Force addressed issues related to getting grad faculty status that have not yet been codified. She said changes in the bylaws can change how grad faculty status is obtained. Beale noted that grad faculty status is something that should come before the Academic Senate. She noted the one member of the Council who does not hold currently grad faculty status could be kicked off Grad Council if the language is amended. She said the proposed changes to Section 1 in Article III would mean that anyone who was in a unit that did not have graduate faculty under the current definition of graduate faculty could not serve on the Council. The Dean said there would be a grace period between now and the time of elections. She asked the Council for input on what should come first: should we vote to elect only regular graduate faculty or should we change the definition of graduate faculty? Beale said the whole provision should be decided at the same time that graduate faculty criteria is determined. The Dean provided her rationale for these changes. She said the University should have policies that are inclusive enough that people can become graduate faculty members. The Dean noted the current language states that for S/Cs that do not have faculty with regular graduate faculty status, that faculty with a terminal degree in the field involved in graduate education may be elected. She said basically we can put up people who haven't achieved graduate faculty status as members of Grad Council. One member noted that it is important that units who are affected by Graduate Council policy have representation in the body. One GC member asked what the word "regular" faculty meant. It was also noted that grad faculty status enables a faculty member to chair a dissertation committee. Should this be redefined to be broader and include advising master's students? The Dean said that changing the bylaws is chipping away at a big iceberg and can change institutional and graduate culture. It was decided that Article III, Section 1 would be deleted from the poll. It was suggested Article III, Section 5 be reworded to state "...elections for Graduate Council are to be conducted prior to the end of the winter semester. However, the Dean said the Council should be given a month to review this change and all changes to Article III were pulled from consideration.

Article IV, Section 1 to add meetings in December and May was next on the agenda.

A poll was launched and the measure passed.

Article VI, Section 1 was next. This adds the Awards and Fellowships Committee and the Graduate Inclusive Excellence Committee. A vote will not be held on this provision until the description of these committees is reviewed by the Graduate Council. Section 2 concerns the appointment of the chair of the Academic Standards Committee by the chair of the Executive Committee. Section 1 in this article was revisited and it was noted language stating that standing committees are elected or appointed by the "Graduate Council" was changed to "Graduate Faculty". This was done to make it clear that standing committee members don't need to be on Grad Council. It was decided there would be no vote on Sections 1 and 2 until the graduate faculty piece is done.

A poll was launched for Article VI, Section 4 and 5 and the measures passed.

It was decided that the Executive Committee would continue to review bylaws changes.

Report of the Chair of the Executive Committee

Fred Vultee reported that work continues on the options for graduate dissertation credit blocks. He said Executive Committee has forwarded to the Council a proposal to add Nigeria to the list of TOEFL-exempt countries. A Council member asked if there had been clarifications on students from Quebec. The discussion returned to S/C representation on the Grad Council and if it is equitable. He said it's important that smaller programs do have representation. He then mentioned the March Graduate Research Symposium.

Report of the Chair of Academic Standards

Jeff Pruchnic discussed procedural changes to renewing graduate faculty status. In the fall, a new system was launched. A list of expiring graduate faculty goes to the chair before the October 1st expiration date. Faculty can renew their status electronically through Dynamic Forms. Faculty can check their status in the online roster of current graduate faculty. There is discussion about emailing faculty in case chairs do not notify them of the need to renew. Linda Beale recommended the notifications go directly to the faculty in case the chair does not notify them. Pruchnic said they would make that change. One Grad Council member suggested getting out the notifications three to six months in advance.

Report of the Student Senate Representative Asra Akhlaq

She reported that the Student Senate met with the President and the Provost. Some of the areas they are focused on include food initiatives, mental health and graduate housing. They also met with Finance and Facilities to learn about renovations to State Hall and changes to Keast Commons. Student Senate members have been added for residential and housing and the extension center. Linda Beale said Keast Commons is being developed to serve as an outdoor gathering place with big screen projections and the like.

Report from Graduate Admissions, Sherry Quinn, Director

Nearly 80% of our 14 Michigan peers have granted a TOEFL exemption to Nigeria. This change was reviewed with OISS and the ELI and they agreed a change was needed. One Grad Council member asked how many applicants we had from Nigeria. Another member noted that a TOEFL requirement may discourage people from even applying. One member noted that India is not on the exempt list and that all higher education there is conducted in English. Quinn said she would look into the current best practices in graduate admissions for countries such as India and Pakistan. Another Council member noted that English use is very rigorous in higher ed in China. It was also noted that for those who received their higher education in English, the TOEFL exam was ridiculously easy. Another Council member said we ought to pay attention to what language the student was instructed in and not the country. Linda Beale suggested that the unit reviewing the student's application should be the place where the decision is made because it is being made on an individual basis. The Dean noted that there is not consistency in the admissions processes and procedures across departments. TOEFL is important to establish minimum standards.

Report from Linda Beale, President of the Academic Senate

Beale thanked Akhlaq for mentioning graduate student housing since it has been on the Senate's agenda for at least six years. She said the housing piece is important in recruiting grad students. She thanked the Dean for her recent visit to the Policy Committee to discuss the Pathway to Faculty program, which will be presented to the Academic Senate in February. She also appreciated the Dean's responsiveness to the issue of having a faculty vote before promotion and tenure of these appointments.

She said reports have been written from each of the standing committees of the Senate which have been looking at the future of the university post pandemic and critical challenges. The various reports will be merged into a single document by the February 2nd plenary Senate session for votes on specific recommendations in the report. She noted there are many concerns around online education modality of choice, student success issues and ensuring that we remain an R1 research institution, which means we continue to be attractive to doctoral students. She said anyone who would like to see the latest draft can email her. She welcomes comments from Grad Council.

She said a request from the Student Senate has been made to institute a two-day fall break due to mental health and stress. It presents challenges to create another two day break with the Thanksgiving holiday and may require starting earlier to accommodate this break. This also could interfere with internships and summer work projects. An ad hoc committee has been set up to discuss this fall break. She encouraged Council members to provide comments on this proposal adding that we receive a lot of undergraduate input with little consideration of graduate students, especially doctoral students and how it affects their progress.

A second ad hoc committee is looking at student data privacy. Some organizations have accumulated data about students and they then contact students as occurred with the situation with the bookstore. Chegg is another company which contacted faculty about course materials which they then used in programs where students can sign on to get answers to exam questions. She said another member was needed for that particular committee and asked anyone interested to send her an email.

She reported that the Provost wants to reduce the 'siloiing' of information among the units that report to him, such as financial aid, admissions and student success. She then brought up concerns related to structural deficits in the SOM relating to research and clinical faculty. The Dean of Medicine came to the Policy Committee to talk about challenges. It was a productive discussion. University centers and institutes were discussed next. They come to the Policy Committee for initial chartering, however there is a need to stay up to date with the centers and institutes to ensure they are chartered as is required.

Report of the Research Committee Liason to the Academic Senate, Ed Cackett

The Committee met with Gail Ryan, SPA Associate Vice President. SPA has been down 5-6 positions during the pandemic. No deadlines were missed, but it created a lot of stress among the staff. They deal with about 1800 proposals a year. She urged people to submit materials long before the deadline day. The committee has written it's post pandemic report referred to earlier by Beale. He said the pandemic has made it difficult to for students in lab settings, hampered communication between advisors and students and created mental health challenges. Recruiting international students has been impacted. In the report, the Research Committee recommends finding as many ways possible to fund graduate students. This can be done through tuition waivers for students on external grants. Another suggestion was to have the Graduate School help train students in preparation of NIH grants. This training could be offered through professional development seminars.

Report of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Liaison, David Moss

A draft of the universitywide strategic plan has been circulated. It is expected to be voted on by the Board of Governors in late January.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wood

Graduate Program Director