



Minutes from January 15, 2020 meeting

Attendees:

Jonathon Anderson, Jeanne Barcelona, Linda Beale, Shantelle Cavin, Christy Chow, Faith Hopp, Yinlun Huang, Ingrid Guerra-Lopez, Mary Anne McCoy, Paul Johnson, Loreleigh Keashly, Sharon Lean, Todd Leff, Richard Marback, Debra Patterson, Simon Ng, Bijal Patel, John Rothchild, Jeff Stanley, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, Mary Wood

Absent:

Eric Ash, , Ramona Benkert, Karen Beningo, Suzanne Brown, Abe Biswas, Alina Cherry, Margaret Campbell, Sung Gon Chung, Mary Clark, Paul Dubinsky, Steve Firestine, Linda Hazlett, Ken Jackson, Kafi Kumasi, Peter Lucarotti, Richard Marback, Simon Ng, Sherry Quinn, Jami Pittman, Jeffrey Potoff, Preethy Samuel, , Malathy Shekhar, Cheryl Somers, Chin-An Tan, April Vallerand, Dan Walz

Agenda

Graduate Council

2-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 15, 2020

3rd floor Community Room, David Adamany Undergraduate Library

- I. **Approval of November minutes: attached on page 2**
- II. **Report of the Chair**
 - a. Graduate Council working group on formula for GTA allocations and white paper on GTA tuition management practices
 - b. PhD dissertation credit blocks-history and background
 - c. Evidence-based teaching project
 - d. Graduate Student mental health and wellbeing initiative (CGS)
 - e. Update on Graduate School dean search (Simon Ng)
- III. **Committee Reports**
 - f. *Executive Committee* (Faith Hopp, chair)
 - g. *New Programs and Program Review (NPPR)* (Todd Leff, chair)
 - i. Establishment of a new MS in Robotics, Engineering Technology, College of Engineering

- ii. Discontinuance of the Complementary Therapies Healthcare Graduate Certificate, College of Nursing
- iii. Discontinuance of the Transcultural Nursing Graduate Certificate , College of Nursing
- h. *Academic Standards Committee* (Sharon Lean, chair)
- IV. **Ahmad Ezzeddine and Jaclyn Assarian on the Office of International Programs (OIP)**
- 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**

Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

Report of the chair

Dissertation credit blocks

The Dean reported on the issue of the four dissertation credit blocks of 7.5 credits and a meeting with former Dean Hilary Ratner who provided background on the practice. She said the former dean said the Graduate School implemented this practice to ensure students were completing degrees in a timely fashion. The current system appears to work well for most students, however offering three blocks of 10 credits has been proposed as an option for those students who can complete the degree in three years. The Academic Standards Committee will explore this option at its next meeting. The Registrar will also be consulted as well. Paul Johnson recommended a survey of graduate directors. The Dean agreed and said consultation with other folks across campus will continue. Initial benchmarking with other Michigan institutions shows that Wayne State requires a higher number of dissertation credits than UM and WMU. However, this may be out of context as some of these institutions require a master's degree. Simon Ng said it may be useful to find the report from the 90s to better understand the issue. The Dean recommended that the Graduate School do more extensive benchmarking of our peer institutions around the country and report back at the next meeting. Faith Hopp said a student in Social Work did double up on credits with the approval of the Graduate School and Mary Anne McCoy said Nursing does offer a three-year PhD.

GTA/GRA allocations

In response to concerns from Graduate Council members about current GTA/GRA allocations and the Provost's openness to consider additional recommendations on reallocation from the

Graduate Council, the Dean said the 2017 GTA/GRA allocation committee's report will be circulated to the Grad Council. This will provide a good starting point for additional suggestions/recommendations and make the best use of everyone's time. In response to other concerns raised by Graduate Council members around externally funded assistantships, this concern is shared by faculty across the university as illustrated by an initial analysis of the issue conducted by CLAS. The Graduate Dean has asked her fellow deans to recommend people for a working group that would be charged with recommending solutions based on the underlying issues and their impact across WSU. Steve Lanier will also be asked to be part of the discussions. Jeff Stanley recommended a smaller group. Stanley said it may be wise to separate the groups to work on two specific questions. One, the fairness of the allocations; and two, the issue of the university absorbing tuition costs. He noted there are no incentives in the current system for students to submit fellowship grants. The Dean suggested beginning with a review of the 2017 allocation recommendations with just a few people, and keeping the one working group formed with S/C focused on the externally funded assistantships issue.

Evidence-based teaching project

The Graduate School has consulted with key stakeholders around campus to develop an evidence-based teaching course targeted at graduate students. These stakeholders include the OTL, the Academy of Teachers and a survey of graduate students in the Pedagogy Journal Club and Graduate Student Writing Retreat as well as other informal conversations with students and faculty. The GS and OTL did teach an introductory teaching course once and the plan is to use the existing course (GS-7900) to graduate students starting Fall 2020 with revisions to reflect the priorities expressed in campus wide conversations. The course would serve as a standard baseline for graduate students and offer fundamentals such as creating an effective syllabus, developing assessments, engaging students in the classroom, inclusive teaching, and using evaluation data for course improvement. This course will not replace GTA orientation, or departmental teaching of GTAs or departmental mentoring.

Graduate student mental health and wellbeing

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is leading a national conversation on graduate student mental health. The Graduate School has submitted a proposal to the CGS to hold a listening session with graduate students on the mentor-mentee relationship. This listening session would be followed by a 1.5 day workshop with a select group of deans from around the country in fall 2020 to develop best practices and resources on this issue, which has drawn increasing attention and concern.

Graduate School dean search committee

Simon Ng reported on the search committee composition, campus interview dates and itineraries as follows:

Committee members:

Graduate Council
February 19, 2020
Page | 3

Roland Coloma - Chair of the committee, Professor and Assistant Dean, Education.
Marcus Dickson – Professor, Psychology
Bertie Greer – Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Business
Larry Matherly – Professor and Associate Center Director for Basic Science, SOM
Simon Ng – Professor and Associate Dean, Engineering
Bijal Patel - graduate student representative, BME
Jeff Pruchnic – Associate Professor, English

Advertisement: <https://provost.wayne.edu/gsdeansearch>

Timeline:

Feb 27 – Evaluation of candidate for Airport Interview (10)
March 21 Airport Interview
March 28 Airport Interview

Campus interview dates:

April 21
April 22
April 24
April 27
April 28

Proposed campus interview itinerary:

8:00 am – 9:00 am. Breakfast with Search Committee
9:30 am – 10:00 am President M. Roy Wilson
10:00 am – 10:30 am Provost & SVP for Academic Affairs, Keith E. Whitfield
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch with Graduate School – Assoc Deans & Staff
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm Town Hall with Graduate Students, Faculty, and Staff
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Meeting with Graduate Students
3:45 pm - 4:30 pm Meeting with Graduate Council
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm Search Committee

Office of International Programs (OIP)

Ahmad Ezzeddine and Jaclyn Asarian were introduced and they provided an overview of OIP's activities and services. The OIP consists of the Office of International Students and Scholars, the Office of Study Abroad and the English Language Institute (ELI). They also handle affiliation agreements with international universities and the Fullbright Program. They have four key strategies.

1. Increase international enrollment: We have lost 1,000 international students in the last few years, primarily those coming from India and China. Meanwhile, Canada is aggressively recruiting. Canada is even recruiting our domestic students! To combat the loss of Indian students, a recruiter has been hired to stay in touch with applicants and provide information about prospective students.
2. Increase mobility of faculty and students by offering scholarships to students who get passports and create an endowment for students to study abroad.
3. Provide support to postdocs who are attending international conferences
4. Increase the global impact of faculty by maximizing engagement with these faculty. OIP can provide Wayne State-branded gifts to faculty when they are travelling overseas and encourage faculty to visit international partners. Jaclyn Assarian also said she can help prepare faculty applications to the Fullbright Program and can suggest ways to navigate that process.

There was some discussion on lowering tuition for international students, but Ezzeddine opined that if we deeply discounted tuition our perceived worth may suffer in comparison with our peer institutions.

New Programs and Program Review Committee (NPPR)

A motion was made and seconded to establish a new MS in Robotics, Engineering Technology, College of Engineering. The motion was approved.

A motion was made and seconded to discontinuance the Complementary Therapies Healthcare Graduate Certificate, College of Nursing. The motion was approved.

A motion was made and seconded to discontinue the Transcultural Nursing Graduate Certificate, College of Nursing. The motion was approved.

Academic Standards Committee

Sharon Lean reported that Academic Standards is scheduled to meet on Jan 28. The committee is reviewing posted guidance about the role and responsibilities of graduate faculty members and graduate directors and expects to bring these revisions to the Graduate Council next month.

Admissions

Sherry Quinn reported that the SLATE build is on schedule. All applications for Winter 2021 and subsequent terms will be processed in SLATE. The Winter 2021 application will open in February, and training dates for SLATE users will be announced soon. Census data for Winter

2020 is not yet available, so updated information on the Winter 2020 admission cycle (applications, admits and enrollment yield) will be provided at the February meeting.

Recruitment Recap

Shantelle Cavin shared results of her fall recruitment activities. This is the beginning of the Graduate School sharing outreach data. Campus visits and grad fairs yielded 475 contacts, and 352 interactions out of which 27% submitted applications. A GRE list purchase provided 1600 leads, out of which 13% submitted an application. A main focus of Graduate School recruitment activities is diversity, equity and inclusion.

She reported on the second Research Symposium Scholars Visit, which dovetails with the March 3, 2020 Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium. The Research Symposium Scholar Visit is designed to help master's and PhD programs at Wayne State recruit outstanding domestic students who are underrepresented in their discipline or program, including first-generation students. The deadline to submit a nomination is January 28th. Participants receive up to \$500 in travel costs, plus an overnight stay. They will attend a welcome dinner and mixer with current students on March 2nd; visit departments and tour campus facilities on March 3rd and participate in the Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium March 3rd. Richard Marback reported a positive experience in 2019 in connection with the English Department's recruitment of a student from Fayetteville State in North Carolina. He said the program was well-run and the interactions with other graduate students while on campus were helpful.

Graduate Council/Academic Senate Liaison

Data bases monitoring faculty performance

Linda Beale reported that two databases have been purchased to monitor faculty and student performance. Academic Analytics provides an aggregation of publicly available information on each faculty member and Academic Performance Solutions provides information on student matters. Those faculty who have reviewed their own profiles on Academic Analytics, for instance have found them to be laden with errors. The Senate Policy Committee reviewed some of the ways administrators can use Academic Analytics. Though there are positive uses, as with any database there is significant concern that the database can be used in harmful ways, such as by choosing benchmarking criteria that cause particular individuals to compare badly with others in their fields. Allan Goodman from economics was asked to head a Senate Task Force to review the databases and make recommendations regarding their use. The Academic Senate Policy Committee has reviewed and endorsed the recommendations from the committee. The full Senate will receive the report and a proposed resolution endorsing the recommendations at its February 2020 meeting, with a vote expected at the March Senate meeting. The recommendations include:

1. Convene an oversight committee that has access to the full database, as an accountability mechanism
2. If comparisons are done, print the report and share with the faculty member(s) to whom applicable
3. If the information in the profiles is used for budgetary decisions, share this information with the appropriate budget advisory committees
4. Provide training to faculty so they can monitor their own profiles

Accountability, checks and balances are needed to ensure these databases are properly used.

Sustainability on campus

Beale reported that she had discussed sustainability and environmental concern with Stuart Baum, the president of the Student Senate. Discontinuing use of plastic straws on campus, less use of plastic and disposables by Aramark, composting, and environmentally sound drainage solutions such as bioswales were among the issues discussed. Daryl Pierson, the director of campus sustainability, will present to the Academic Senate at the February 2020 meeting. Dawn Medley, AVP for Enrollment Management, has also been asked to an upcoming Senate Policy Committee meeting to discuss the various programs such as RaiseMe and Heart of Detroit that promise scholarship dollars for “points” earned on apps through particular acts of “engagement” with the campus. While these may serve a PR purpose and may in fact bring Wayne State to a student’s attention, they may offer some misleading information about how much scholarship a student would receive, whether or not engaged through the app. Policy wants to get a fuller picture to be sure it is clear how these programs are working and how the university is funding the payment of the licenses for the apps..

BartelbyLearn

Beale said this service being touted by the Barnes and Noble bookstore is worse than originally thought. Faculty who have logged onto the program (after we were given access by B&N) have discovered that students will be given answers from teachers’ manuals to textbook questions, wrong answers to homework problems that are not in teachers’ manuals, and badly written and outright incorrect essays. Still, the main campus bookstore is incentivizing students to participate (\$5000 this semester provided as an incentive). This is propagating bad knowledge and bad learning techniques. The Senate Policy Committee plans to continue raising this issue with Auxiliary Services and the Bookstore.

President and BoG conflict

A pep rally-like atmosphere at the December Board meeting was genuinely disconcerting, and these events, as well as press releases critical of specific members of the Board, are apparently being organized by Chief of Staff Michael Wright and others in connection with the ongoing conflict. Concerns continue to run high over the conflict and the harm it’s doing to the university in terms of donations, faculty recruitment, and student recruitment. It is a highly

unusual situation, since public discord in a university board generally gets resolved quite quickly with a resignation or resolution. A new member has been appointed to replace Kim Trent, so that may auger well for a future resolution. On a positive note, the search for a Vice President for Health Affairs/ dean of SOM has concluded successfully. The faculty were well-represented on the search committee and their perspective prevailed. The BoG unanimously supported the search committee's recommendation. There is new hope that the fresh approach of the incoming dean will help, particularly with the pediatricians now affiliating with CMU.

Paul Johnson noted that new programs proposed in the Academic Affairs Committee of the BoG were not passed because of 4-4 votes. Beale said she expects that these issues will be back on the agenda at the next BoG meeting and should meet with approval at that point.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Wood
Graduate School Program Director