
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The Graduate Council, held on January 16, 2019,
2:00 p.m., David Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

Graduate Council Members Present: Ambika Mathur, Sharon Lean, Todd Leff, Sokol Todi, Mary Wood, Anthony Billings, Jeanne Barcelona, Ben Pogodzinski, Yinlun Huang, Jonathon Anderson, Eric Trofkin, Kafi Kumasi, Joan Beaudoin, Christine Chow, Eric Ash, Alina Cherry, Karen Beningo, Jeff Pruchnic, John Rothchild, Paul Dubinsky, Jeffrey Stanley, Nancy George, Margaret Campbell, Samuel Preethy, Faith Hopp, Jun Sung Hong, Sherry Quinn

Graduate Council Members Absent *with Notice*: April Vallerand, Steve Firestine, Suzanne Brown

Graduate Council Members Absent *without Notice*: Sung Chung, Xiangmin Zhang, Malathy Shekar, Suzanne Brown, Sharon Batelu

Graduate Officers Present: Paul Johnson, Simon Ng, Loreleigh Keashly, Linda Beale, Joy Ernst

Graduate Officers Absent: Cheryl Somers, Jeff Potoff, Ken Jackson, Dan Walz, Linda Hazlett, Ramona Benkert, Mary Clark (*with notice*), Peter Lucarotti

Others Present: Matthew Fountain, Amanda Walter

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Dean Ambika Mathur. Dean Mathur told the Council of her resignation from Wayne State and that she has accepted a new position at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The Council applauded her contributions to graduate education and she then turned the meeting over to Executive Committee Chair Jeff Pruchnic.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Pruchnic called for a MOTION to approve prior meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of October 17, 2018 and November 14, 2018.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Jeff Pruchnic noted that the Graduate Council has been asked to submit three names for

the Five-Year Review Committee of the Graduate School being formed by the Provost's office. A call for nominees went out in an email on Monday, however, no one has yet been nominated. He believes that the Graduate Council is looking for further detail on this review committee from the Provost, who was scheduled to attend today's meeting, but cancelled due to illness.

B. Academic Standards

Associate Dean Sharon Lean reported that an appeal of a denial of graduate faculty status was approved in December by the committee, however, moving forward, honorary graduate faculty status should be granted once a faculty member announces they are going on phased retirement. Further, those with honorary status should not take on additional advisees or chair dissertation committees. She also reported that the committee is working on streamlining AGRADE programs in various departments.

C. New Programs Committee

Associate Dean Todd Leff had nothing to report from the News Programs Committee

D. Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons

1. **Academic Senate Policy Committee.** Linda Beale commented on the Graduate School Review Committee and said the review committee should have representation from the major disciplinary categories including STEM, liberal arts and the social sciences. She also spoke of ongoing efforts to stress the importance of the Graduate School in the RCM steering and budget planning committees. She said a new committee called Administrative Unit Review (AUR) has launched. This committee will look at how efficiently administrative units are carrying out their functions. The Academic Senate will have two representatives on the committee. The first unit for review is purchasing. Linda Beale and Paul Beavers will serve on that committee.

Linda Beale said the Academic Senate Policy Committee has just sent comments to the U.S. Department of Education on implementation of proposed Title IX regulations. She noted the proposed regs set up quasi-criminal proceedings on campuses. She noted that the definition of sexual harassment in the regs allows a university to escape liability. She also said the university is only liable if the Title IX coordinator or person responsible for action has actual knowledge of an alleged harassment incident. Coaches, faculty and employees and others who have regular contact with students do not suffice even though students may consider them appropriate personnel to inform because they appear responsible and in authority. The Policy Committee has written a four-page memo detailing their criticism of the proposal. A copy of this memo will be emailed to the Graduate Council after the meeting.

2. **Academic Senate Research Committee.** Margaret Campbell reported that she attended

a recent meeting of the Academic Senate's Research Committee. She said it was an unproductive meeting and there was no agenda or previous meeting minutes. Dr. Beale added that she hopes the Research Committee will be more fruitful, as the Policy Committee has asked it to review the policies on research integrity at Wayne State, which lack adequate protections for accused faculty. There was additional discussion on funding mechanisms for GRAs and GTAs. Linda Beale said that under the RCM model funds will be disbursed to the deans and Provost, but it is unclear how the funds will be allocated to support graduate students.

- 3. Academic Senate Budget Committee.** Liaison to the committee, Associate Dean Sharon Lean reported that the budget committee met with Development and Alumni Affairs. A main item of discussion was that development should lower the "price" for endowed/named chairs, as Wayne State asks for more money than many of our peer institutions. If Graduate Council members have comments on this matter, Sharon would be glad to relay them. Linda Beale noted the Policy Committee has pushed this with Development. At other institutions, for example, 50% or more of the law faculty have some kind of named titles. Naming is good for faculty and the university as a whole. However, Development responds that potential donors are more interested in naming buildings and providing scholarships. She called on the Council to continue to push Development on the faculty naming issue.

E. Report from Graduate Admissions

Sherry Quinn reported that Winter 2019 PhD enrollment is down 13% as compared to Winter 2018. Master's enrollment is up 5% from last winter. Fall 2019 applications are coming in, but it's still too early to tell if there will be an increase or decrease.

III. Nomination of Student Representative to replace Evan Bitzarakis

Jeff Stanley nominated Matthew Fountain, a fourth year PhD candidate in the School of Medicine, to replace Evan. Matthew was introduced and then left the meeting for the vote. Stanley made a motion to approve Matthew's nomination, it was seconded and approved. Matt rejoined the meeting.

IV. Report of the Chair

The Graduate School Review Committee was discussed. Karen Beningo asked if an external review of the Graduate School would be part of the Five-Year Review Committee's deliberations. Linda Beale noted that with the loss of Dean Mathur and the implementation of RCM, it is imperative that the Graduate Council weigh in on the five-year review. Jeff Stanley echoed the importance of this Graduate School Review, which will give an opportunity for the committee to generate a convincing report for the value and impact of the Graduate School and the full services it brings to the ecosystem of WSU. He said the perspective of the Graduate Council would be helpful in providing a useful picture of the

Graduate School. There was some discussion on how a review committee would be staffed, and Dean Mathur noted that she used her executive assistant when she chaired a review of the Honors Committee a few years ago. Paul Dubinsky noted that a purely internal review committee would not provide an understanding of graduate school governance at other institutions. Dean Mathur said she asked for the review of the Graduate School in February 2018. Two days before the 2018 holiday closure she was contacted by Associate Provost Baltes and asked to submit nominees for the review committee. Now that she is departing, an expansion of the review timeline is necessary.

Linda Beale noted that the Provost's office has missed the collective bargaining agreement timelines in some cases. The Policy Committee will suggest that the Provost provide more time for this review given the lateness of initiating it. This review should be done carefully and take into consideration faculty viewpoints. If the timeline is too rushed, the review will not be worthwhile. Dean Mathur noted that at last week's Council of Deans meeting, Provost's office staff said they would look at enrollment and credit hours as part of the review. This is irrelevant to the Graduate School review since we don't use those metrics. She would urge the review committee to focus on the value-added activities of the Grad School. She noted that the Graduate School stands at a crossroads, particularly with the implementation of RCM. Karen Beningo asked what topics the Provost would address when he comes before Grad Council. Ambika Mathur said he perhaps would discuss RCM, among other topics. Sharon Lean said more information should be provided before we make nominations to the review committee. Jeff Pruchnic suggested extending the deadline for nominations. Karen Beningo asked if a communication should go to the Provost asking for an extended timeline for the review. Jeff Stanley noted that there is a not whole lot of mystery surrounding the purpose of this review. He said the nominees for the review committee would play a role in educating the Provost and providing a full picture of the many value-added activities provided by the Graduate School. Linda Beale added that the Provost might think that graduate recruiting is not clearly delineated between departments, schools and colleges and the Graduate School.

The discussion returned to composition of the review committee. Ambika Mathur said that a postdoc should also sit on the review committee, since they are rarely given representation on these kinds of committees. Linda Beale noted that the contract does not explicitly name postdocs for inclusion in the committee, but perhaps a postdoc could serve in an ex-officio role. Karen Beningo said the Graduate School is in a vulnerable position given things happening on campus. In a recent meeting in her college, there was talk about reorganizing the Graduate School under OVPR. Linda Beale noted that we had tried that organization and it failed miserably; and the suggestion is complicated by the fact that OVPR receives about \$21 million in funding with little accountability on spending. Ambika Mathur mentioned an evaluation of the Graduate School conducted by Huron Consulting, which concluded that research institutions such as Wayne State should have separate graduate schools and research offices, and not combined. Christy Chow noted that the schools and colleges may be ill-prepared to handle additional work if the Graduate School is weakened.

Sharon Lean made a number of announcements for upcoming events and deadlines including the Research Scholars Visit, a grad school funded recruitment visit held in tandem with the Graduate and Postdoc Research Symposium. She also mentioned the Graduate Recruitment meeting, the Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium deadline for abstracts, and the deadline for schools/colleges to submit nominees for the 3-Minute Thesis Competition. She also mentioned the deadline for the Graduate Professional Scholarships and nomination deadline for the Dean's Diversity Fellowships and Recruitment Rumbles. Finally, she announced that Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium will be March 5, 2019. A complete list of deadlines and events will be sent via email to the Graduate Council.

Ambika Mathur announced that Sharon Lean will take over as PI for the KCI grant and Christy Chow will be the new PI for the BEST grant. Linda Beale announced that there are finally guidelines for nominations of faculty for the Distinguished Service Faculty Award, for the first time since the Board of Governors created the service award in 2007. She encouraged Grad Council members to nominate their colleagues for this prestigious service award.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Wood
Program Director
Graduate School