

Meeting of January 19, 2011, 2:00 p.m.  
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

**Agenda**

- I. Approval of Minutes:** November 17, 2010\*
- II. New Business**
  - A. CGS video: *The Future of Graduate Education in the US*
  - B. Remarks: Provost Ronald T. Brown
  - C. Other New Business
- III. Report of the Chair**
- IV. Committee Reports**
  - A. Academic Standards Committee  
Dissertation Committee Presence at the Defense\*
  - B. Executive Committee
  - C. Graduate Exhibition
  - D. Graduate Enrollment Services
  - E. Graduate Student Coordinator
  - F. Research Office Liaison
  - G. Academic Senate Liaison
  - H. University Libraries Liaison
- VI. Adjournment**

\* attachment

**Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of January 19, 2011  
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: J. Abt, M. Anderson, A. Biswas, L. Buis, A. Cano, J. Casida, C. Chow, M. Clark, A. Duggan, T. Edwards, D. Ellis, K. English, J. Green, A. Kowluru, B. Li, A. Mathur, G. Nathan, R. Pauley, L. Schwiebert, J. Stoltman, R. Sundick, C. Waites, M. Wardell, C. Winston, A. Yaprak, J. Yoon

Members Absent with Notice: A. Butler, A. Dutta, G. Mao, D. Onolemhemen

Members Absent: J. Davis, P. Dubinsky, B. Neavill, M. Neely, A. Suits, Y. Xu

Also Present: C. Barduca, J. Dunbar, K. Lueckeman

The meeting was convened at 2:05 p.m. by the Chairperson, Dean Wardell.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of November 17, 2010.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CGS VIDEO: THE FUTURE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE US**

Members viewed and discussed the video based on the findings of the Commission on the Future of Graduate Education in the United States, an initiative of the Council of Graduate Schools and the Educational Testing Service. The Commission believes that graduate education is the foundation for the creativity and innovation necessary to maintain America's strong competitive position and leadership in the global society. Some challenges to maintain that position are internal: the changing demographic that will lead to fewer and less prepared students entering college and graduate school; low degree completion rates; longer times to degree; and availability of fewer tenure track positions in academia. External challenges include cultural and economic changes that have increased access to higher education in other countries, greater competition for students due to recognition of the benefits of a highly skilled workforce and the increasing quality of graduate programs outside the US. Universities must commit to increased recruiting, improving completion rates, expanding alternative career pathways and stronger professional development programs. Employer involvement and federal government support are also vital.

Members noted that other countries support education much more than we do. Programs must constantly change, evolve, grow to meet new demands or be downsized. Current training is aimed only at preparing students for academia. Alternative career pathways need to be recognized as legitimate and students' training must be diversified, be made more varied and flexible, so students can take their knowledge and skills to opportunities beyond academic, tenure-track environments. Non-traditional students are lost due to lack of support services,

such as childcare, and funding. Funding is especially important for these students. Funding can run out before PhD completion. Full-time students are more likely to complete than part-time. Completion rates are one key to how institutions are perceived by NSF and NIH, for example. Because of their convenience, online programs will continue to grow and siphon off students from traditional degree programs.

**B. REMARKS: PROVOST RONALD T. BROWN**

Provost Brown said he was pleased to meet with the Graduate Council, and that he is very proud of the many excellent doctoral programs that have brought recognition to Wayne State. He noted, however, that several challenges face the university. Providing competitive stipend levels in graduate awards has been an issue. And, given the state's budget problems, cuts in state appropriations to universities are likely.

The difficult times ahead will require the university to focus on deciding what it should be and recognize it cannot be all things to all people. This may necessitate elimination of some graduate programs that aren't training a lot of students. Research and scholarly accomplishments will be very critical as they increase our reputation and attract both students and funding. Terminal master's programs represent an area of potential growth and should be guided by the colleges.

Provost Brown announced the establishment of a post-doctoral program office, with Associate Dean Ambika Mathur as its coordinator. It will set uniform policies for these positions university-wide and provide professional development opportunities, such as fellowship writing. Associate Dean Mathur said she has been seeking input on policies from the colleges; the office will be established February 1.

The Provost invited members to express their concerns and ask questions with regard to graduate programs and issues. Members brought up a wide range of topics. The status of accelerated programs, those that admit undergraduates early, was discussed. Medstart had a rocky beginning but now is a serious program. Research indicates that undergraduate research opportunity programs are successful. Seventy per cent of participants in our undergraduate research programs continue to graduate programs, though many go to other institutions. Provost Brown suggested that we need to market our graduate programs better to our own undergraduates and to develop more accelerated 3 + 2 programs. Such programs can also draw undergraduates to WSU.

Provost Brown suggested we need to look at PhD programs to make sure they are performing to standards. Most of the faculty are outstanding, but some faculty don't publish, and they should not be training PhD students. Some programs are not training students for positions at comparable institutions, and we need to be concerned about that. Our resources are spread thin, and we either need more resources or think carefully about what we want to do.

Members discussed the funding available. The Dean's Diversity Fellowship is helpful in recruiting underrepresented students. The Provost asked members what they thought of the University Graduate Research Fellowship, which was revised this year so that awards may be used for recruiting or as year-long dissertation awards; 20 were allocated to colleges for award and 25 remained at the Graduate School as competitive awards. Members agreed they preferred the original centralized competitive system and saw no benefit from two simultaneous programs that complicate the application process for departments. Distribution of the Fellowships at the college level is also challenging. The Fellowships have been helpful in recruiting students from good undergraduate institutions, and that is helpful to faculty applying for training grants and national fellowships. Provost Brown said he wanted the most workable situation.

The Graduate Faculty appointment system was also discussed. The possibility of elevating the appointment criteria was introduced. Provost Brown suggested that different criteria should apply in different fields. That would be possible, and should be encouraged, within the current system.

In a college with widely diverse disciplines, more specific uniform criteria could not be developed. A very high teaching load impacts faculty members' ability to do research. The Academic Standards committee has examined some of the Graduate Faculty appointment issues and can pursue further the ideas raised.

The discussion turned to the budget. The state budget has not been presented yet, but Provost Brown expects a cut in state appropriations. Wayne State has always valued accessibility, so increasing tuition to cover the shortfall would be difficult. Philanthropy and grant revenues will become more important sources of revenue. At the same time, university costs are ongoing.

To attract graduate students, we need unique programs, we need to raise our visibility through publications and conference presentations and we need to increase the number of grants so that student funding can be increased. Innovative curricula between departments and cluster hires of faculty can create a productive synergy that will enhance programs and our reputation. We should be training doctoral students for research careers at comparable institutions, as that is another way to demonstrate the success of graduate programs.

### III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Associate Dean Mathur said that the current policy states all members of the dissertation committee must be present at the Defense. The Academic Standards Committee noted that electronic tools are available today for participation in the Defense, in the event someone cannot be present physically. She read the proposed policy and members discussed it. It was suggested that for clarity the term "mentor" be replaced by "dissertation committee chair(s)."

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the following policy on attendance at the dissertation defense.

The Graduate School expectation is that the student and all members of the dissertation committee be physically present at the student's Final Defense of the dissertation. At the very least, the student and the dissertation chair(s) must be physically present. For committee members who cannot attend in person, synchronous audio-visual access, such as Skype, is required. The Defense will be held during business hours, Eastern Standard Time. Electronic signatures on the Defense form will be accepted, but each committee member must sign the title page of the dissertation.

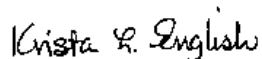
#### B. GRADUATE ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Kathy Lueckeman reported that applications are up 173% for Spring/Summer and 143% for Fall.

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Krista L. English  
Secretary of the Graduate Council