



## Graduate Council Agenda

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/94745844117?pwd=NHRUOUxjdWFWcFRzM2VsMUxXQ2JmUT09>

2-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 17, 2021

- I. Report of the Chair**
  - a. Review and approval of January 2020 minutes (page 2)
  - b. Update on Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force
  - c. Update on Master's Student Task Force
  - d. Review of Graduate School funding mechanisms
- II. Executive Committee, Fred Vultee, Chair**
- III. New Programs and Program Review (NPPR), Todd Leff, chair**
  - a. *Revisions*
    - i. MA and MFA in Art, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts
    - ii. MS in Physics, Physics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
  - b. *New*
    - i. MS in Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
    - ii. MA in Environmental Science, Environmental Science & Geology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- IV. Student Funding Update, Sharon Lean**
- V. New business**
- VI. TOEFL waiver proposal (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**
- VII. Report from the Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons**
  - a. Linda Beale, President, Academic Senate
  - b. Sharon Lean, Budget Committee
  - c. Ed Cackett, Research Committee
  - d. Paul Johnson, Student Affairs Committee
- VIII. Adjournment**

## Graduate Council Meeting Notes

2-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 20, 2021

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/98494836601?pwd=MktaMHFld3hWSnRVdTBPTFpTa2hHdz09>

### **IX. Report of the Chair**

- a. Review and approval of November 2020 minutes (page 2)
- b. Seating Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force
- c. Discussion on COVID-related matters (30 minutes)
  - i. Student progress-to-degree
  - ii. Admissions
  - iii. Modification of plan of study/research paradigm

### **X. Executive Committee, Fred Vultee, Chair**

### **XI. New Programs and Program Review (NPPR), Todd Leff, chair**

- a. *Discontinuances*
  - i. MED in Reading, College of Education
  - ii. MED in English Education – Secondary, College of Education
  - iii. MSN, Women’s Health, College of Nursing
  - iv. Nurse Practitioner certificate, College of Nursing
- b. *New*
  - i. MA in Program Evaluation, College of Education

### **XII. Academic Standards Committee, Sharon Lean, chair**

- a. Clarification of AGRADE language in the bulletin

### **XIII. New business**

### **XIV. Graduate Admissions (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**

### **XV. Report from the Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons**

- a. Linda Beale, President, Academic Senate
- b. Sharon Lean, Budget Committee
- c. Ed Cackett, Research Committee
- d. Paul Johnson, Student Affairs Committee

### **XVI. Adjournment**

#### **Attendees:**

Jonathon Anderson, Linda Beale, Joan Beaudoin, Abe Biswas, Suzanne Brown, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Ed Cackett, Christy Chow, Stephen Chrisomalis, Mary Clark, Christine D’ Arpa, Paul Dubinsky, Steve Firestine, Paul Johnson, Loreleigh Keashly, Chera Kee, Poco Kernsmith, Ming-Chai Lai, Sharon Lean, Todd Leff, Richard Marback, Mary Anne McCoy, Golam Newaz, Debra Patterson, Bijal Patel, Sherry Quinn, John Rothchild, Preethy Samuel, Jeff Stanley, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, April Vallerand, Dan Walz, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak

**Absent:**

Jeanne Barcelona (excused), Malathy Shekhar (excused), Ken Jackson, Weisong Shi

Guests: Paul Beavers (School of Information Science)

**Report of the Chair**

The Dean asked if the Council had any additions or changes to the November minutes. There were none.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the November minutes.*

The Dean began her report by discussing the membership and diversity of those who have agreed to serve on the Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force. The task force roster was displayed.

The Dean next turned to a discussion on COVID-related items. She said student progress-to-degree has been discussed anecdotally, but she wanted to get numbers on how many students are not actually completing on time. She said the focus would be on doctoral students. There was discussion that some students have been delayed who conduct face-to-face research. It was noted that the Graduate School has been flexible in granting extensions. Other issues were identified such as getting human subjects research approved by the IRB, which delays the prospectus and has long-term consequences.

An important issues is leaves of absence since they do not stop the seven-year clock imposed by the Graduate School. Leaves for students also raise issues concerning admission of new students. Sharon Lean said it was important to have perimeters around leaves, but there should be flexibility so that we strike the right balance. The Dean noted that a best practice across the country is to adopt a leave policy that addresses a mechanism for those returning. Funding after taking a leave is another concern, as well as losing health insurance or visas. This may leave international students in a difficult position. The Dean noted that in conversations with colleagues some universities keep students affiliated with the university so they can keep their visas and health insurance. A GC member turned the discussion to fluid leaves that may present challenges for students on grants. Once a student returns after a year or so, the grant funding may have gone away. It was noted that leave policy for professional students in EACPHS was recently updated with firm timelines for informing faculty/staff of a student's return. Another issue is the mindset of mentors and dissertation committees that may demonstrate a lack of adaptability, resulting in students having to stay longer. The Dean noted the difficulty in facilitating a paradigm shift in terms of expectations.

Lean noted the lack of a Graduate School leave policy and suggested a general framing policy that could encourage programs/departments to create a leave of absence policy. The Dean

asked the associate deans about the procedure for coming up with a new policy. The Academic Standards Committee could be tasked to consider developing such a policy. The Dean noted that the policy is from the academic program and not an HR/employment issue. This policy could come from the Graduate School and be vetted through the Academic Senate and Provost and President. The Dean asked for a show of hands among the GC of those who supported the development of a leave of absence policy and received unanimous support. The Dean noted that it's important that such policy comes from the Graduate Council and not the Graduate School administration.

The discussion next turned to suspension of PhD admissions. The Dean said that path is not in the best interest of WSU, research and even students. She noted the decision on admissions may be based on funding and the lack of capacity to take on new students. Departments with limited funding do see some value in taking a pause to take care of current students who may be delayed in graduating. There is a general sense the PhD programs need to justify themselves in the current climate. One Council member suggested that programs that do not admit students, may be put on the chopping block. Perhaps admitting at least one student can help a program avoid elimination. The Dean questioned the argument she has heard that we can reduce the number of PhD students yet remain a R1 institution: the level of research is questionable with those reductions. The suspension of PhD admissions at U-Minnesota in several programs is worrisome. It is important to continually make people aware of the importance of PhD students. Faculty and students work together to make a great university. Furthermore, faculty are attracted to universities by the caliber of students. It was noted that faculty shortages in nursing are making it imperative to produce PhD students. The Dean asked the GC to continue to provide her with feedback on these issues.

#### *Executive Committee*

Fred Vultee said tuition support for externally funded students came up at EC and a comprehensive evaluation and analysis of the issue should be completed by the end of the semester. He noted that the Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force will be looking at different levels of grad faculty membership. He reported that clarification on language governing the procedures at the oral examination has been made and restrictive language on the appropriate moderator has been struck from the guidance language on the web to give programs more flexibility.

The charge for the faculty membership task force was displayed and the Dean went over the three primary objectives of the task force. The first is to evaluate the current process; the second is to evaluate the effectiveness of the current process; and the third concerns culturally competent mentoring to minimize bias and train in inclusive excellence and mentoring. She added that she has received many comments from colleagues across campus on the importance of DEI in graduate education.

#### *New Programs and Program Review Committee*

The MED in reading was discussed first. It was noted that the State of Michigan now requires a credential as a literacy coach and so enrollment in the reading specialist program declined significantly. The change will enable the College of Education to meet market demand. This will be a replacement to the master's in reading. The discontinuation in English Education was brought up next. It was noted that in 2016, the College of Ed closed eight master's programs and they were merged into a Master's of Education and Teaching and Learning. Enrollment in the English Education was low so it will be offered as a concentration in the Master's of Education and Teaching and Learning and not as a stand-alone program. English Education will now be part of a sustainable program.

*A motion to approve the two discontinuances in the College of Education was made and seconded. The motion was approved.*

Todd Leff moved on to the two discontinuances in Nursing. It was noted that these two programs have been subsumed so there is no need to continue them. He next turned to a new MA in Program Evaluation in the College of Ed. It was noted that this is a fully online master's program. It draws on strengths from existing faculty and courses and will allow WSU to stay current with national trends. There is a large demand for program evaluators. Students around the country could be pulled into this program.

*A motion was made to approve the new MA in Program Evaluation and seconded. The motion was approved.*

*A motion was made to approve the two discontinuances in the College of Nursing and seconded. The motion was approved.*

#### *Academic Standards Committee*

Lean reported that time extensions have been made for students who have had complications reaching the necessary milestones at 7, 10 or 12 years. An additional semester is being granted with the endorsement of their advisors. Accommodations have also been made to students who have advanced to candidacy. A student can now register for the first course in the dissertation sequence in the semester that the student is expected to complete the written qualifying exam.

Language related to AGRADE in the bulletin was also approved by the committee to make it easier for students and programs. Students were applying too early for graduate admission due to the confusing verbiage that only seniors could apply. In addition, the word "highly" was also removed from the previous version.

Here are the current and revised versions:

*Several Colleges have established an accelerated combined undergraduate and graduate program (AGRADE) in which highly qualified seniors in the college may enroll simultaneously in some undergraduate and graduate programs of the College (current language).*

*Several Colleges have established an accelerated combined undergraduate and graduate program (AGRADE) in which qualified juniors and seniors in some programs may enroll in graduate level courses to simultaneously fulfill requirements for both undergraduate and master's programs (proposed revised language).*

The changes will make AGRADE more attractive and less daunting to students. It was noted that these changes will help AGRADE programs, particularly the new ones coming on board. Lean said the next grad directors meeting will have an agenda item at the end for grad directors with AGRADE programs. The goal is to increase clarity across the university and share best practices.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised AGRADE bulletin language. The motion was approved.*

*There was no new business so the Council moved to the Grad Admissions Report.*

### **Graduate Admissions Report**

Sherry Quinn Quinn shared a few observations before presenting enrollment data. Because of the change to the criteria for application submission with Slate, W21 submitted applications are understated. Changes will be made to correct this for F21. Completed applications represent applications which have received a decision.

Submitted applications for research doctorates are down 35.3% over last year. Those with decisions are down 6.5%. Admitted students are up by 176.5% over the same time last year due to fall deferrals. The admit rate for doctoral students is 54%. We enrolled 157% more international students this term than last year. The majority of our incoming doctoral students are male and diversity is spread across non-resident alien at 78.3% and 13% for US citizens or permanent residents. Overall enrollment for research doctorates decreased 0.2% compared to last year. Master's programs submitted applications are down 52% over the same time last year. Overall master's enrollment is down 7.7% and international master's students are down 35.8%.

((Please see attached PowerPoint for more details))

Quinn turned to the Board of Governors language regarding English proficiency for non-native students, which states they must complete a bachelor's degree at an accredited US institution or one where English is the language of instruction. She said she would like to add a TOEFL waiver for those students in a master's program if they meet two conditions: (i) having a 3.0 GPA after (ii) completing at least 16 credits. Some GC members thought this would be a good way to streamline. Quinn said an applicant who has earned a master's degree would automatically receive a TOEFL waiver. A question was brought up about students in a master's program in the UK, for example. It was noted that in the current competitive environment to

attract students it would be helpful to remove impediments. Quinn noted she needs to conduct an evaluation on non-US transcripts for equivalency. One GC member said the language should include any degree, not just a baccalaureate, from an accredited institution. The Dean said the Executive Committee will take up this policy related to English proficiency at their next meeting.

### **Report from the Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons**

*Linda Beale, President of the Academic Senate*

Beale reported that she met with the President recently regarding the post pandemic university. She reported the Senate standing committees would be asked to explore this issue. The President was supportive of the Senate's plans. She asked GC to send along names of those who may want to participate in this important work.

She then brought up the Social Justice Action Committee. Policy had an extensive discussion with Marquita Chamblee and Boris Baltes in December. Beale said hiring and faculty recruitment fall under the Senate's jurisdiction. To this end, the Senate will establish an Academic Senate ad hoc Diversity, Equity and Inclusion subcommittee with faculty and staff representation, as well as representation from the coalition of unions. It is expected to be smaller than the 41-member administrative committee, but it will serve as the voice of the faculty and academic staff. The goal is for it to become a permanent standing committee of the Senate through approval of ByLaws amendments during the Fall 2021 term.

She next turned to an announcement made in early January concerning an expectation that all faculty must teach face-to-face in the fall. This pronouncement was interpreted incorrectly, in part because it was not vetted through the Academic Restart Committee. Considerable confusion resulted. This pronouncement was discussed by the Restart Committee and there was consensus that faculty should have the choice to say the class would start online in the fall with the ability to move to face-to-face once they are comfortable. Faculty should have this discretion while keeping students safe. Academic Restart faculty members representing the Senate have suggested a new category (traditional-modified or TRM) that would start as a SYNC course with the plan to move to in person when the faculty member regarded it as appropriate (assuming the university had already approved moving to in person).

*Sharon Lean, Academic Senate Budget Committee*

The Academic Senate Budget Committee has not met since the last GC meeting. Lean will have a report at the February GC meeting as they are meeting on January 25th.

*Linda Beale (for Ed Cackett), Research Committee*

She reported that the Research Committee met December 10th and had a good discussion on research at Wayne State and the importance of doctoral students to our research mission. She will put together a summary and post it.

*Paul Johnson, Student Affairs Committee*

Faculty were able to opt out of SET scores for winter 2020. Johnson reported that faculty in 12% of courses opted out (n=806), whereas faculty in 88% of courses participated (n=6014).

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. The motion was approved.  
The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wood  
Program Director, Graduate School