

Meeting of January 22, 2014, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

**Agenda**

**I. Approval of Minutes:** November 20, 2013\*

**II. Report of the Chair**

**III. Old Business**

- A. Background Check Policy Update
- B. Other Old Business

**IV. New Business**

- A. Master's Program Update
- B. Discontinuances – MA and PhD in Theatre\*
- C. Other New Business

**V. Committee Reports**

- A. Executive Committee
- B. New Programs Committee
- C. Graduate Admissions
- D. Academic Senate Liaison

**VI. Adjournment**

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**Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of January 22, 2014  
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: A. Biswas, C. Chow, M. Clark, G. Deblase, P. Dubinsky, J. Dunbar, D. Dungee-Anderson, E. Faue, S. Firestine, W. Gibson-Scipio, J. Green, R. Holley, K. Jackson, A. Mathur, D. McGrann J. Moldenhauer, S. Ng, D. Patterson, K. Paesani, J. Pruchnic, L. Schwiebert, P. Sopory, S. Terlecky, D. Walster, C. Winston, H. Wu,

Members Absent with Notice: K. Braunschweig, M. Dickson, A. Feig, J. Martin, G. Mao,

Members Absent: G. Kapatos, P. Kernsmith, M. Malek, A. Yaprak, D. Yingst

Also Present: K. Lueckeman, L. Sabapathy, C. Sokol

The meeting was convened at 2: p.m. by the Chairperson, Ambika Mathur

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of November 20, 2013.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Background Check Policy Update

- Some benchmarking has been conducted, and the University of Michigan and Michigan State University have both adopted similar policies.
- There have also been questions related to whether or not doctoral admissions should be tied to eligibility for funding (i.e. the ability to pass a background check). U of M and MSU have both done this; all U of M doctoral students receive funding, while MSU has both funded and unfunded doctoral students. This issue is still up for discussion.
- The other pending issue concerns international students, residing outside of the United States, and whether they should be held to this policy in addition to the checks conducted by Homeland Security. General Counsel is attempting to verify the information collected by Homeland Security during the immigration process, in order to see if it meets with Wayne State's minimum requirements.

B. Other Old Business

- Vice President for Research Search Committee
  - The committee has identified twelve candidates, who will be interviewed in early February. This group will be narrowed to five or six for the second round of interviews.
- Graduate School Dean Search

- Members of the search committee stated that the process was in its final stages and a decision was expected in the coming weeks.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Master's Program Update

- Dr. Elizabeth Faue (History) is chairing a Master's Advisory Committee convened by the Graduate School. The committee has been formed to address recent university-wide declines in enrollment in master's programs at Wayne State University. The committee will discuss issues including: recruitment and retention, sources for new funds and how these would be used, the development of a centralized office for master's programs and its potential functions, and meetings with graduate directors and interested faculty.
- The Master's Advisory Committee includes:
  - Robert Holley (Library and Information Science)
  - Mahendra Kavdia (Biomedical Engineering)
  - Ratna Naik (Physics)
  - Debra Patterson (Social Work)
  - Pradeep Sopory (Communication)
  - Jeffrey Stoltman (Business)
  - Monica Tracey (Education, Instructional Technology)
  - Angela Trepanier (Molecular Medicine/Genetics)
- Dr. Stan Terlecky (School of Medicine) commented on a series of meetings in which administrators from each school/college met with the Graduate School to discuss current issues with master's programs. Dr. Terlecky said that the School of Medicine generated a proposal on recruitment, retention and general improvement strategies. He believes that these proposals and discussions should be used to inform the Master's Advisory Committee.
- Interim Dean Mathur responded that a spreadsheet, including summaries for each school/college, was introduced at the first meeting and made available to the group via file sharing.
- Drs. Faue and Mathur stated that the group hopes to be able to provide recommendations on the key issues within ninety days.

#### B. Discontinuances – MA and PhD in Theatre

- The MA in Theatre has had an admissions moratorium since 2007 and has no current students.
- The PhD in theatre has had an admissions moratorium since 2012. Plans have been made to accommodate all remaining active students. According to a chart provided by the program, there are a maximum of four active students, only three of whom have registered since Winter 2013. The program lacks a sufficient number of graduate faculty to maintain a doctoral program. Additionally, there are questions of the need for a PhD in Theatre and the ability to place graduates.
- MOTION was made, seconded and passed to approve the discontinuance of both the MA in Theatre and the PhD in Theatre.

#### C. Other New Business

- Dr. Delores Dungee-Anderson (Social Work) had a question on the status of a program proposal for a new graduate certificate. This led to a discussion of the status of graduate certificates at the university, gainful employment regulations, and the New Programs Committee. Proposals for graduate certificates are still being accepted by the Graduate School. Anyone proposing a certificate program should be mindful of the new federally enforced guidelines for gainful employment. The same holds true for all existing certificate programs. David McGrann commented that the Graduate School has received more than

twenty proposals for new programs or program revisions so far this year, so the Graduate School's response time has been slower than normal.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Interim Dean Mathur reported that the previous meeting was totally concerned with the Background Check Policy as representatives from the Provost's Office, Human Resources, and General Counsel attended to address possible concerns with the policy as it relates to graduate students.
- Dr. Marcus Dickson, committee chair, was unable to attend the meeting, so he provided a statement on the Executive Committee's involvement in the interview process for a permanent graduate school dean. The following is Dr. Dickinson's statement:

*The Executive Committee has been actively involved in the search process for the Dean of the Graduate School, meeting with each of the three finalists. Where possible, we also attended the public presentations by each candidate. Following each candidate's meeting with us, the committee debriefed together about the candidate, and then sent individual comments about the candidates to the email address developed for the search.*

*When the three candidates had all concluded their interview procedures, the Executive Committee discussed whether we should endorse a candidate collectively. Dr. Faue recused herself from those discussions, as she is a member of the search committee. The Executive Committee (minus Dr. Faue) unanimously concluded that we should endorse a candidate, and thus send the following email both to Dean Seeger as Chair of the Search Committee, and to the email address developed for the search.*

*Dean Seeger,*

*After discussion among the members of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council (a discussion from which Dr. Faue recused herself), the Executive Committee determined that we would like to express our collective sense of the candidate we believe is best qualified to serve as Dean of the Graduate School. Though each candidate would bring different strengths to the position, Dr. Mathur is clearly our preferred candidate. Her accomplishments during the brief time she has held the role of Interim Dean are substantial, and include both programmatic advances (e.g., substantial progress on individualized development plans and online annual reviews; 20-fold increases in both applications for and receipt of external fellowships) and relational advances (e.g., substantially improved relationships with the Academic Senate), as well as having coordinated the team that pursued and received the NIH BEST grant, making Wayne State one of the few programs in the country to receive that level of support.*

*We are not alone in this endorsement, as the Huron Group explicitly noted that Dr. Mathur has campus-wide support to serve as Dean, and recommended that she be so appointed. NIH explicitly acknowledged her leadership as key to the success of the BEST grant proposal.*

*In making this endorsement, we are speaking solely as the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council, and not speaking on behalf of the Graduate Council itself.*

*Each of us individually have or will have made comments to the Search Committee about the candidates, but we also felt the need to speak collectively. On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council, I submit this unanimous endorsement of Dr. Ambika Mathur to serve as the next Dean of the Graduate School at Wayne State University.*

*Best regards,*

*Marcus Dickson, Chair, Executive Committee*

**B. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

- The committee is currently working with the Department of Theatre and Dance to finalize the structure for a MA in Theatre in Dance, which will be administered either completely online or via a hybrid format. The committee will next meet at the end of January.

**C. GRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

- Ms. Kathy Lueckeman reported that Winter 2014 application numbers were down, however, admit numbers increased. She stated that she was still waiting for Institutional Research to provide the final census numbers. Both applications and admits are up for Spring/Summer 2014, while applications are down and admits are up for the Fall 2014.
- Mr. Paul Dubinsky, JD, asked if comparative data was available. Ms. Lueckeman suggested that Institutional research might be able to provide peer data.

**D. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISON**

- The Faculty Affairs Committee of Academic Senate has been discussing processes and procedures for peer evaluations and faculty mentoring.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David McGrann  
Manager of the Graduate Council