

Meeting of January 23, 2013, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2012*

II. Old Business

- A. Huron Report
- B. Other Old Business

III. New Business

- A. SWAN – PhD in Social Work and Anthropology*
- B. Graduate Exhibition – March 19, 2013
 - 1. Required participation for Rumble Fellows
- C. NIH Grant Proposal*
- D. Other New Business

IV. Report of the Chair

V. Committee Reports

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

VI. Adjournment

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**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of January 23, 2013,
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: M. Anderson, A. Biswas, L. Buis, A. Cano, C. Chow, M. Dickson, P. Dubinsky, J. Dunbar, D. Dungee-Anderson, A. Feig, J. Green, R. Holley, K. Jackson, G. Mao, A. Mathur, J. Moldenhauer, S. Ng, K. Paesani, R. Pauley, L. Schwiebert, P. Sopory, A. Tekleab, S. Terlecky, A. Weisz, C. Winston, H. Wu

Members Absent
with Notice: E. Faue, A. Kowluru, J. Yoon

Members Absent: M. Clark, J. Davis, G. Kapatos, P. Kernsmith, M. Malek, B. Neavill,

Also Present: C. Barduca, K. Lueckeman, L. Romano, A. Sankar, C. Sokol, P. Vroom

The meeting was convened at 2:06 p.m. by the Chairperson, Ambika Mathur

Upon convening the meeting, Interim Dean Mathur welcomed Deputy President Phyllis Vroom to the meeting.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of November 14, 2012.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Huron Report

- The Huron Consulting Group met with seven different faculty groups including the Graduate Council, the Executive Committee, the PhD Advisory Group, Academic Senate's Policy Committee, the Council of the Deans, and two different faculty groups (main campus and School of Medicine). Huron is working on a final report; an early draft is available by request. The conclusion was nearly unanimous that the Graduate School should remain independent.

B. Other Old Business

- Robert Pauley, Associate Dean in the School of Medicine, acknowledged the increase to graduate research assistantship stipends.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. SWAN – PhD in Social Work and Anthropology

- Andrea Sankar, Professor of Anthropology, and Arlene Weisz, Professor of Social Work, presented a proposal for a single doctoral program in Social Work and Anthropology.

Professor Sankar reported that the key to SWAN is jobs; faculty from both disciplines believe that students, trained in both Anthropology and Social Work, will be more competitive in the job market for academic positions as well as professions in national and international agencies (e.g. UN, USAID, etc.). A key to the degree is that all graduates will hold an MSW, so they will be certified social workers giving them a much wider range of opportunities.

- Professor Sankar believes that Detroit is a great setting for this type of degree. She said that the Department of Anthropology has been successful in recruiting outstanding junior faculty because many see Detroit as an “urban laboratory.” In the same way, the potential SWAN program would look to connect training to the urban issues associated with the city.
- Professor Sankar continued that the two disciplines similarly value qualitative research methodologies, especially with regard to human interaction. Each program also has a quantitative element, but this is much more rigorous in Social Work. Additionally, the proposal is in line with NIH and NSF recommendations for interdisciplinary programs and problem-based education.
- At this point, Professor Weisz took over to discuss the SWAN program from the Social Work perspective. She again focused on the job market, stating that in the field of Social Work there are more available academic positions than applicants, and the number of available positions is expected to grow. The chief criteria to land a faculty position in Social Work is an MSW, and all graduates from the proposed SWAN program would be required to attain an MSW. The PhD in Social Work is a relatively new program at Wayne State. Seven students have graduated from the program, and all have secured faculty- or research-oriented positions. She added that anthropology will add an international element to the Social Work PhD, opening the door to jobs with NGOs and other international government organizations.
- Professor Weisz went on to discuss the potential curriculum, which would draw mostly from existing courses in each discipline. One new course would be added in order to more fully integrate the two disciplines. Additionally, SWAN students would have distinct requirements for qualifying exams, committee assignments and the dissertation. SWAN applicants, entering the program without an MSW, would have to complete the requirements for an MSW; however, the practica generally associated with this program would also be tailored to fit the principles of the SWAN program.
- Ken Jackson, Chair of the New Programs Committee, reminded those in attendance that this meeting was for informational purposes, and the Graduate Council vote will occur at the meeting of February 20, 2013. He opened the floor to questions.
 - Council members had a series of general questions on applicants, requirements and funding. The proposers clarified that the program will be opened to new and continuing students, all anthropology students will be required to attain an MSW as part of the program, and there are plans to apply for the NSF interdisciplinary grant as well as other applicable NSF and NIH funding opportunities.
 - Simon Ng, Associate Dean in the College of Engineering, asked a question regarding the written proposal that was distributed with the meeting agenda. Professor Ng requested more information on the program at the University of Michigan, which was identified as “the only other formal PhD granting Social Work and Anthropology program in the US.” Professor Sankar responded that the U of M program has been active for about 10-20 years and is very theoretical; almost 100% of graduates from the U of M program find faculty placements. Professor Weisz added that WSU’s School of Social Work recently hired a faculty member from that program. Professor Sankar stated that they have sought advice from U of M during the formation of the SWAN proposal.
 - Andrew Feig, Professor of Chemistry, asked the proposers to elaborate on the suggestions from U of M. Professor Sankar and Weisz reported that most thought the program was too lengthy and theoretical. The U of M PhD in Anthropology and Social Work is technically two PhDs – two committees, two sets of exams, and one dissertation. Moreover, the program requires full time attendance; the WSU program would be open to part time students.
 - Professor Ng asked how the proposed joint PhD program would be more advantageous (or disadvantageous) than using a major/minor system to combine the

two disciplines. Professor Sankar stated that the key advantage to combining the two programs is competition in the job market. She and others have spoken to people in both academia and governmental agencies, and these people seemed receptive to the degree. A PhD in Social Work and Anthropology seems to carry more weight than a PhD in Anthropology with an MSW or PhD in Social Work with an MA in Anthropology.

- Joe Dunbar, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, asked if the one new course was the only real addition to the program. Professor Weisz said that there would only be the one aforementioned new course, which would integrate the two disciplines and be taught by the faculty member recruited from the joint PhD program at U of M. She added that the typical number of hours for the degree will be 90-93 hours, although, she reminded the group that the time to degree will be much faster for applicants holding the MSW.
- Professor Feig asked about enrollment. Professor Sankar said that initial estimates were for two students per year; however, if there is enough interest, the number could increase to four to five.
- Judith Moldenhauer, Associate Dean of the College of Fine Performing and Communication Arts, asked if Detroit was going to be used as an incubator for an urban context that could be applied internationally. Professor Sankar replied that in general the focus will be on an urban context, and students could use faculty with international contacts to find placement in places such as South America, Africa, or Asia.
- Professor Pauley asked how many qualified faculty members have been identified to participate in the program. The proposers responded that the SWAN steering committee would help students identify appropriate faculty members with whom to work. They did add that they could generate a list if requested.
- Interim Dean Mathur thanked Professor Sankar and Professor Weisz for presenting.

*Professor Sankar left the meeting.

B. Graduate Exhibition – March 19, 2013

- Interim Associate Dean Jackson Jackson spoke briefly about the 2013 Graduate Exhibition. The event will again consist of poster presentations, art exhibits and oral presentations. The latter are intended for students in the Humanities (Communication, English, Languages and Philosophy).
- Interim Associate Dean Jackson Jackson also touched upon the exhibition participation requirement for Rumble fellows. He said that Rumble fellows are encouraged to participate but will not be penalized for not participating.
- Interim Dean Mathur added that the Graduate School would also host abstract writing and poster presentation workshops.
 - Charlotte Winston, Graduate Student Representative to Graduate Council, reported that the abstract writing workshop was held on January 11th with twenty-five students in attendance. The poster presentation workshop is planned for February 8. Twenty-four students have registered for the event.

C. NIH Grant Proposal

- Interim Dean Mathur announced that the Graduate School would be taking the lead on the preparation of a grant proposal for a recent NIH FOA (notice number: NOT-RM-13-005). The grant is biomedically-oriented but has interdisciplinary application. Interim Dean Mathur stated that the FOA is in response to recent NSF and NIH reports (*Empowering the Nation* and *The Biomedical Research Workforce* respectively). The reports are geared toward establishing best practices for pre-doctoral and postdoctoral training, as well as beyond. Data collection, student tracking and individual development plans for trainees (IDPs) are central themes in these reports. Beginning in 2014, all institutions receiving NIH and NSF grant funds will need to provide certification that they are collecting IDPs for trainees.

- Interim Dean Mathur emphasized the importance of accurate data for securing future grants. Data will need to be reported from the application phase through a minimum of the first ten years past graduation. Interim Dean Mathur acknowledged that the ALeRT system created by C&IT and Office of Graduate Admissions will facilitate applicant information, and she stated that she was impressed by the recent advances in data collection made possible by the system. With this in mind, the next focus must be on the period from matriculation to graduation and then extending through student career outcomes. To this end, she reported that Professor Feig, Interim Associate Dean Jackson, and David McGrann from the Graduate School have created a proposal for a data collection system and submitted it to the university. At the time of the meeting, C&IT was still deliberating on the proposal. Interim Dean Mathur explained that the Graduate School will develop and automate centralized tools, common templates and common fields which can be adapted to any program. The information from the PhD annual reviews (and eventually the IDPs) will be automated, and it will be provided to the Graduate School by the graduate program. The Graduate School will act as the central housing unit for all graduate student data (e.g. time to degree, enrollments, publications, etc.). This streamlined process will ensure that only one university-wide dataset exists for WSU graduate students. As part of the grant proposal, the team will be looking to develop new curriculum workshops, modules, internships, lecture series, etc.
- Interim Dean Mathur stressed the importance of remaining/becoming more competitive with external grant applications. Currently, Wayne State funds only 14% of its graduate students; the majority of WSU's peer institutions are funding 40-60%.
- Time to degree has also been a subject of focus. The NIH recommendation is five years for doctoral students. Interim Dean Mathur admitted that this might not be a one-size-fits-all type of recommendation as time to degree can vary by discipline. She did, however, state that the university needs to address extreme scenarios where time to degree can be as much as twelve years.
- According to Interim Dean Mathur, another key talking point is the job market. Only 20-25% of doctoral students nationwide are securing tenure-track positions in academia. One of the goals of the NIH (and NSF) is to encourage innovative programs and mechanisms for training, which enhance traditional research or reentry training in multiple career pathways
- Interim Dean Mathur stated that the NIH grant application will help the Graduate School begin to lay the ground work for restructuring and aligning with the future direction of graduate education. She continued that we need to be creative and focus on WSU's strengths, which includes our urban partnerships.
- Specific details on the grant are available on the NIH website:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-RM-13-005.html>
- There were numerous questions on the plan for a centralized data system to be maintained by the Graduate School. In summation and as currently proposed, the Graduate School will act as the centralized repository for graduate student data and for certifying compliance of graduate student data collection to federal funding agencies. Some information will be mandatory; however, departments will be able to adapt much of the submitted data to meet specific program needs. Interim Associate Dean Jackson reiterated that maintaining accurate data is a university-wide issue.

IV. REPORT OF THE DEAN

- Interim Dean Mathur stated her discussion of the NIH proposal and related issues would suffice for her report.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Marcus Dickson, Chair of the Executive Committee reported that the group had met with Deputy President Vroom to discuss the future of the Graduate School, especially with regard

to the issue of consistent leadership. Professor Dickson stated that he and the committee members accept the current impediments to a long-term solution to the Graduate School's leadership turn-over, and he believes that Deputy President Vroom also wants to work toward a solution.

B. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

- Interim Associate Dean Jackson reported that the SWAN proposal was the main topic at the November meeting. He mentioned that he would like to use committee time this year in order to develop program guidelines that are respective of the current trends in graduate education.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- Professor Feig stated that the PhD annual review and survey results were the focus of the November meeting. The next steps involve identifying required fields, and then developing a list of optional fields.

D. GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

- Kathy Lueckeman, Director of Graduate Admissions, discussed the numbers from the winter semester census date, January 18. Graduate student numbers were up 3.5% for new and down 8.5% for continuing, yielding a net loss of 5.1%.
- Interim Dean Mathur added that we cannot recruit our way out of a retention problem. She will be looking at the data for those continuing students who did not return and work with the Office of Graduate Admissions, Graduate Directors and others in an attempt to improve retention.
- Interim Dean Mathur also reported on a pilot proposal last year that involved giving scholarship money to colleges with high masters enrollment (Business, Education, Engineering, and Library Science). This program was mostly successful with a high yield. The numbers from Engineering, however, show that our programs are not as successful with international students because of high nonresident tuition rates. She said that this could be one indicator of our retention problems.
- The master's scholarship program will be in place again for 2013-14, but the details are not yet available.

E. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISON

- Lou Romano, President of the Academic Senate, discussed the university's campus plan, which was developed about ten years ago by a joint administrative faculty committee. The plan was recently updated this year by administration with no faculty consultation. According to Professor Romano, this led to a number of changes that weren't necessarily priorities for faculty, who are most concerned about outdated teaching facilities at State Hall and Manoogian. Two of the top priorities identified for funding were renovations to the Student Center and the development of a research facility near the Macomb campus. Professor Romano argued that improved and enhanced teaching facilities on main campus would be of greater benefit to the current and future Wayne State students. He said that Academic Senate is lobbying for a meeting in order to discuss the faculty's concerns.
- Professor Romano stated that quality control of online courses is also an issue. Academic Senate has reached out to Deputy President Vroom and Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President of Educational Outreach and International Programs, to help address this issue.
- Professor Romano commented on current enrollment numbers, specifically with regard to graduate programs. He noted that many of the major schools and colleges have experienced drops in enrollment. The only program showing a notable increase was the College of

- Engineering with a 4% increase. Professor Romano reported that undergraduate enrollment numbers are also down, and this will have an effect on the university's budget.
- Professor Romano concluded by discussing the presidential search, which is ongoing. Both he and Deputy President Vroom are on the committee, and they are currently collecting files on potential candidates. They anticipate hiring a new president by the summer.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David McGrann

Manager of the Graduate Council