



## **Graduate Council**

2-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, 2021

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/94210748510?pwd=VEpaNEMyNSs5R0tQOE1GZ2VpWk1zUT09>

### Agenda

- I. Report of the Chair**
  - a. Review and approval of March 2021 minutes (page 2)
  - b. Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force final report (overview)
  - c. Proposal for zero credit hour master's maintenance course
  
- II. Executive Committee, Fred Vultee, Chair**
  
- III. NPPR Committee (Todd Leff)**
  - a. *Program Changes*
    - i. *MPH program*
    - ii. *MPH Bridge Certificate*
  
- IV. Academic Standard Committee (Sharon Lean)**
  - a. Proposal for Dissertation Credit Reduction
  
- V. Graduate Student report from Bijal Patel, PhD candidate, Biomedical Engineering**
  
- VI. Graduate Admissions (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**
  
- VII. New business**
  
- VIII. Report from the Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons**
  - a. Sharon Lean, Budget Committee
  - b. Ed Cackett, Research Committee
  - c. Paul Johnson, Student Affairs Committee
  
- IX. Adjournment**

**Attendees:**

Jonathon Anderson, Jeanne Barcelona, Joan Beaudoin, Suzanne Brown, Abhijit Biswas, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Ed Cackett, Shantelle Cavin, Christy Chow, Stephen Chrisomalis, Mary Clark, Christine D' Arpa, Steve Firestine, Paul Johnson, Loreleigh Keashly, Poco Kernsmith, Ming-Chai Lai, Sharon Lean, Todd Leff, Mary Anne McCoy, Golam Newaz, Debra Patterson, Bijal Patel, Sherry Quinn, John Rothchild, Preethy Samuel, Malathy Shekhar, Jeff Stanley, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, April Vallerand, Dan Walz, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak

**Absent with notice:**

Linda Beale, Chera Kee, Richard Marback, Ramona Benkert

**Absent without notice:**

Ken Jackson, Weisong Shi, Dan Walz, Linda Hazlett, Paul Dubinsky

Guests: Paul Beavers, University Libraries; Rachel Mahas, Director of the Master's in Public Health program; Juliann Binienda, Professor, Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences; Nate McCaughtry, Assistant Dean, College of Education

Report of the Chair

*The Dean called for a motion to approve the March 2021 minutes. The motion was made, seconded and approved.*

*Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force Report and Recommendations:*

The Dean next provided a summary overview of the Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force. The seven recommendations include the following:

- State that research, clinical, adjunct and lecturers are eligible for GF status
- Maintain current single category for GF status
- Add an appeal mechanism for individuals beyond chair/dean
- Notify individual faculty on renewals and provide electronic form
- Include diversity training as a requirement for renewal
- Clarify the role of GF status, especially for programs with terminal degrees
- Create a review committee under the GC to review appointment applications and renewals

Fred Vultee said the EC would be discussing the report further and closely examining the recommendations. He added many of the recommendations are not big changes. One GC member who served on the task force noted that requirements for scholarly achievements should be over a five-year period and not four to coincide with the length of the appointment. Another member said they supported the inclusion of lecturers for GF status. Previously, this idea had been rebuffed with the sense that lecturers are simply hired to teach. It was added that lecturers often times have progressive

research agendas. This is an opportunity to acknowledge their many contributions. It was noted that in the arts for those who work in interdisciplinary roles, GF status is a means to acknowledge their work.

#### *Zero Credit Maintenance Course for Master's*

Sharon Lean said this idea was proposed years ago and has resurfaced as a way to keep students who have completed coursework, but are yet to complete a thesis or essay, registered and in the system and able to utilize campus resources. In the master's stop out project, it has been shown that many students take a few semesters off, but don't know how to come back and register for a course. One GC member asked if the fees associated with this course could be nominal. Lean said the fee is BoG-approved for doctoral maintenance credits. Lean said the \$350 fee covers the regular amount paid by any student plus a fractional percentage of a student service fee. She added a nominal fee can be an incentive for student completion. It was noted that many students are not on campus and don't necessarily use the library or fitness center. This fee may also cause a burden to graduate directors and staff. Lean said in the RCM environment it make be advantageous to have a clear continuous enrollment expectation. It was noted that many programs are getting dinged by their respective colleges for not having as many master's students because they fall off the books. It was added that this would be viewed by students as revenue generation mechanism. The Dean said a possible scenario is to have the Graduate School decide if the fees would be collected. She added the onus of tracking this should be left with the Graduate School. She acknowledged that programs/departments do not have the resources to track these master's students in these situations and the fact that there are disconnects between certain programs and the Graduate School. One GC member said it's important for departments to track all students to have a handle on start and completion rates. Another member said the real challenge comes in getting students to register for the zero credit course. It was noted that this would be advantageous to international students.

The Dean mentioned that President's email following the verdict in the Derrick Chauvin trial noting that our students come from varied backgrounds and places in the world and be dealing with this much differently than we are. She said to pay attention to your students and their mental health. Next, she said budget hearings are going on across campus. In terms of operational funds, she presented a slide with three priorities:

- # 1 Strategize Master's Recruitment to Increase Enrollment and Tuition Revenue
  - Centralized Application Services (CAS) through Liaison enhancing global draw & applicant experience
  - Active Collaboration with schools/colleges/programs on market needs in redefining offerings
  - Strategically promote revenue through Innovative Program /Price packaging
  
- # 2 Reorganize Graduate School to Support Student Growth
  - Redefine responsibilities to enhance team specialization and increase cross functionality
  - Enhance role of graduate council & faculty
  - Reallocate current resources supporting full lifecycle application-matriculation-graduation-career readiness

- # 3 Increase Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Graduate Student Engagement
  - Build our brand of Restorative, Inclusive Excellence
  - New models of community increasing engagement and career preparation
  - Explore grant funded pipelines enhancing current/future revenue growth

She next discussed the new AMP (Accelerated Master’s Program) program saying she realized that AGRADE needs to stay in place based on last month’s discussion in GC. However, this new program will be different in several ways and will be housed in the Graduate School. Grad School would advise students on how to apply and to which programs. Students can apply 12 credits towards both an undergraduate and a graduate degree in AMP and application will be in the Fall of the third year or the semester when 75 credits have been achieved. A set minimum GPA for admission for AMP is 3.3. AMP would allow for a multi-disciplinary approach. The Dean then highlighted some of her outreach activities which included a CGS panel, an interview on WWJ News Radio 950 and the Today@Wayne podcast. She finished her presentation outlining her reorganization of the Graduate School into the following areas:

- Graduate Student Affairs
- Graduate Academic Affairs
- Graduate School Administration
- Admissions and Enrollment Management
- Office of Postdoc and Trainee Development

She then announced that Sharon Lean was returning to faculty in late summer. An internal search will be conducted to find her replacement. Some asked why CAS was being used for applications and the Dean said the system will relieve much of the paperwork for processing applications and letters of recommendation. CAS does have an application fee, but the university will absorb that cost for students.

Executive Committee

Vultee recapped the discussion in Executive Committee on the proposal to reduce the number of dissertation credits from 30 to 24. Lean summarized the proposal saying it would reduce the current 90 to 84 credits for the PhD. Benchmarking revealed we are well above our peers. Most PhD students are supported through tuition awards, which may mean under RCM, then this reduction would have a neutral impact on college budgets. She said it would also accelerate time-to-degree. She added that external reviews consistently question our 90 credit requirement. It also becomes a concern during T-32 grant reviews because of our long time-to-degree. She added that we must consult with the Provost, Registrar and Academic Senate. One GC member that a double opt in (either 4 blocks of 6 credits or 3 blocks of 8 credits) may be considered for programs.

NPPR Committee

Todd Leff introduced the two proposals from the MPH program. The first is for multiple revisions to the program itself and the second is for multiple revisions to the Public Health Bridge Certificate program. He said the rationale for making these changes is to meet the requirements from the accreditation body.

There was discussion in NPPR on the overlap in names of courses in the MPH program and those in the Community Health MS in the College of Ed. The MPH program agreed to alter the names of her courses and program names to reduce confusion. Rachel Mahas next provided an overview and said her program would be up for re-accreditation in December 2023. The plan is to roll out the revised program in fall 2021 in preparation for re-accreditation and a site visit. The changes to the program were recommended by an advisory committee made up of MPH alumni and faculty. She noted that the changes are basically a rearrangement of courses in the current curriculum. Nate McCaughtry from the College of Ed spoke briefly and said he appreciated meeting with the MPH program to identify overlaps. This meeting led to an agreement to change the name of a concentration back to its original names and a commitment to meet going forward.

*There was a motion to pass MPH program revisions #1 and #2. The motions were seconded. Both measures passed on separate votes.*

*Next, a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal to reduce the required dissertation credits from 30 to 24. The motion was seconded and approved.*

*Student Senate Report from Bijal Patel, PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering*

Bijal Patel said students had five main concerns: mental health resources, advising resources, expectations and guidelines, funding and housing resources. Most students have a hard time getting into CAPS. Advising and dealing with academic issues is another concern. The DOSO office is more for undergraduates. She said it would be helpful to have an advocate specifically for graduate students. There is confusion with hard copy handbooks and the fact that requirements are changed on the web, but students are still using the hard copy handbooks and end up taking more classes than they need to. Funding is another concern. There can be a hyper-competitive environment in some departments as students compete for funds. The increased cost of housing on campus is also concerning. There was discussion about the bulletin being the best source for curriculum and program requirements, whereas the handbooks are more focused on policy. The Dean asked Patel to make an appointment with her so they discuss her concerns. The Dean then asked Sherry Quinn to share her presentation with the Council via email given that the meeting was 15 minutes over.

*Ed Cackett, Liaison to Academic Senate Research Committee*

The fairly new VP for Facilities, Planning and Management (FP&M) met with the committee to discuss problems with excessive heat in university buildings, in particular Scott Hall where many labs are located. Frozen cooling towers have caused the problem in the HVAC systems and installing heaters at the bottom of the towers may prevent these problems. Cackett said FP&M is moving to a preventative maintenance program with funds from the recovery act which has money for higher education infrastructure. He added more fresh air is being pumped into campus buildings and filters have been installed. Finally, the Research Committee is splitting into 4 separate subgroups to address what research will look like post-COVID.

*A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary E. Wood, Program Director, Graduate School*