



Graduate Council

2-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, 2021

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/99173804025?pwd=VnFRYjd2RmJvNUJnL2M5M1VmV1M3QT09>

Agenda

- I. Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of February 2021 minutes (page 2)
 - b. AGRADE eligibility

- II. Executive Committee, Fred Vultee, Chair**

- III. Student Success Updates (Sharon Lean)**
 - a. Grade/No Pass Policy Winter 2021
 - b. Funding Updates

- IV. Graduate Admissions (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**

- V. New business**

- VI. Report from the Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons**
 - a. Sharon Lean, Budget Committee
 - b. Ed Cackett, Research Committee
 - c. Paul Johnson, Student Affairs Committee

- VII. Adjournment**

Graduate Council Meeting Notes

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

VIII. Report of the Chair

- a. Review and approval of January 2020 minutes (page 2)
- b. Update on Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force
- c. Review of Graduate School funding mechanisms
- d. Update on Master's Student Task Force
- e. Grade/No Pass Policy
- f. OIRA request for recoding five research doctorates to professional doctorates

IX. Executive Committee, Fred Vultee, Chair

X. 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

XI. TOEFL waiver proposal (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)

XII. Student Funding Update, Sharon Lean

XIII. Report from the Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons

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

XIV. Adjournment

Attendees:

Jonathon Anderson, Jeanne Barcelona, 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, Weisong Shi, Malathy Shekhar, Jeff Stanley, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, April Vallerand, Dan Walz, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak

Absent:

Poco Kernsmith and Ramona Benkert (excused), Ken Jackson (not excused)

Guests: Paul Beavers (School of Information Science), Mark Baskaran (Geology and Environmental Science), Ahmad Heydari (Nutrition and Food Science), Lauren Kalman (Art and Art History), Mary Width (Nutrition and Food Science)

Report of the Chair

The Dean asked if the Council had any additions or changes to the agenda and the January minutes. There was none.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January minutes.

The Dean noted a few additional items to be discussed, including adoption of a grade/no pass policy and doctoral student progression during the pandemic. Todd Leff would also discuss coding of doctoral programs as requested by the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis (OIRA). She said the Graduate Faculty Membership Task Force had its first meeting and asked for benchmarking information. They will complete their work by April 1st and their recommendations will come before the Executive Committee. She then turned to funding mechanisms, particularly the Dean's Diversity Scholarship. It is awarded for one year to cover up to 20 credit hours. The students are nominated by their S/C. The Dean asked the Council for their input on this particular scholarship. It was noted that this award only covers the in-state tuition rate. It would help if this could be used as a recruiting tool for out-of-state students at HBCUs. A question was asked about how the competition should be structured. The Dean said she had concerns about the current nomination process from the S/Cs. She discussed letting the students apply without a S/C nomination process. Lean said one award is made per college, with 10 currently budgeted. Several considered one per S/C equitable. The Dean suggested the Graduate School needs to develop a clearer picture of student need. She also suggested that the School could create an awards committee. There was discussion about the need for every S/C to receive a yearly scholarship. The Dean said time-to-degree and the success of underrepresented students (UR) are important factors to consider. In the past, the Dean ran a diversity fellowship program to which students applied directly. She noted that there are not that many diverse students, so we could perhaps attract people by making it known that Wayne is looking for master's students from diverse backgrounds. The Graduate School could manage this centrally. This would enable us to collect data and have a better understanding of student need. Members also raised the issue of international students, who are not eligible for the award and the possibility of providing the award for the second year of a master's program. The Dean said she is considering completion scholarships, but she noted students could also supplement the awards with loans.

The discussion turned to the Master's Student Success Task Force. To support graduate student productivity and quality at the doctoral level, we have to grow our master's programs and generate revenue. The Dean displayed slides showing the three-year graduation rate is between 50-60%, but for African American students the three-year graduation rate is significantly lower. The graduation rate for international students is high. Ideally, 80% of all students should finish in three years. Only the international students are currently achieving that goal.

The Dean next showed a slide indicating that overall enrollment has declined in the past five years. Part-time students outnumber full-time students. At the next meeting of the task force, they will look at specific programs to determine where the declines and increases are occurring. The discussion turned to doctoral student enrollment and it was noted that 2020 spring-summer numbers were down by 12%, 2020 fall down by 4% and 2021 winter down by 2%. Fall 2021 will be an important indicator. There were decreases in PhD milestones in 2020. She asked the Council if students were having difficulty filing plans of work and prospectus filings. Lean mentioned that she had heard that there have been delays in scheduling qualifying exams. She noted that prospectus filings might be down since students are unable to get IRB approval. There was discussion about a delay in scheduling committee meetings because of research delays and parents who are homeschooling children. It was noted that faculty might be pushing students to continue with research while easing up on the completion of a prospectus and qualifying exams.

The discussion turned to the grade/no pass policy recommended for winter 2021 in response to the continued pandemic disruptions to students. Lean said a clear advantage is that funded students will not be liable for tuition should they not complete the class. Programs opt into the program. Only a small number of students have taken advantage of the policy; however, it has provided a safety net for students in difficult circumstances. Lean said faculty must provide this option if a program has opted in, so a reminder to chairs on the policy might be helpful.

Executive Committee

Fred Vultee recapped some of the items discussed at Executive Committee already discussed by the Dean. Revoking graduate faculty status for a faculty member was also brought up and the consensus in the Executive Committee was that the Graduate School did not want to set a precedent and revoke graduate faculty status in mentor-trainee disputes. He also said there was discussion about creating a Graduate Council awards committee. He then asked the Council for a vote on supporting the grade/no pass policy for winter 2021 and moving the March Grad Council from March 17th to March 24th because of spring break.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the grade/no pass policy. The motion was approved.

A motion was made and seconded to move the March Graduate Council meeting. The motion was approved.

TOEFL waiver (Sherry Quinn)

Sherry Quinn said the new policy would allow international students currently enrolled in a US master's program a TOEFL waiver if they have completed two full-time semesters equated to 16 credit hours with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Programs would make a request for the waiver through Slate. Quinn would then review the applicant and admit temporary. The applicant would be required to submit the final degree transcript prior to enrolling at WSU.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the TOEFL policy. The motion was approved

New Programs and Program Review (Todd Leff)

MA and MFA in Art, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

Todd Leff introduced Lauren Kahlman from Art and Art History who said the revisions to the MFA would enable the degree to be a thesis-backed track. For the MA, it would switch from an essay track into a coursework-based track because many students are returning educators who will see pay raises upon degree completion.

A motion to approve the revisions to the MA and MFA programs was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

MS in Physics

Todd Leff moved on to revisions in the MS in physics. Ed Cackett represented the department and said there have been declines in enrollment. To reverse this trend, there will be three new concentrations that will draw from popular undergraduate majors/concentrations. The revisions will also provide a pathway to the PhD program.

A motion to approve the revisions to the MS in physics was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

MS in Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science

Mary Width from Nutrition and Food Science was introduced. She said the certificate program was being elevated to a master's program. They plan to start the program in fall 2021. Width indicated the new program is accredited for 40 spots, but they may only start out with 15 in the first year and grow enrollment thereafter. Eastern Michigan is WSU's primary competition, but our program is clinical and attracts science-based students. There are two ways to get a registered dietician credential: a coordinated program and a didactic program with an internship. The coordinated program, which is what Wayne State's program will be, is the best method for getting the credential since a supervisor practices within the program.

A motion to approve the new MS in Dietetics was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

MA in Environmental Science

Mark Baskaran was introduced. He noted that the Geology Department started in 1956 and changed its name last year to Environmental Science and Geology. The program will specifically look at environmental change. There are 150 undergraduates in the department. Current faculty will teach the courses as well as a faculty member from the Law School. It's a 100% online program. The Dean asked if this master's would be offered as an AGRADE program, and Baskaran said an AGRADE proposal would be forthcoming.

A motion to approve the new MA in Environmental Science was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

OIRA Request

Todd Leff moved on to a request from OIRA to change coding for five programs from a research to a professional doctorate. In general, a professional accreditation body oversees these professional degree programs. According to national standards, they are miscategorized as research doctorates. Recoding will bring them into uniformity with national standards. This is important because the US Department of Education runs a database from programs across the country, and it requires that every program be coded appropriately. The five programs are:

- Doctor of Audiology: AUDIOD
- Doctor of Medical Physics: DMP
- Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice: DNAP
- Doctor of Nursing Practice: DNP
- Doctor of Physical Therapy: DPT

This change would affect only recoding and classification of our programs in the national IPEDs database and would not have any operational effect on how we operate these programs. There was a brief discussion on whether the recoding would impact scholarship funding.

A motion to approve recoding the five programs was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

Update on Student Funding Mechanisms, Sharon Lean

Lean provided a number of deadlines for student funding opportunities. The Graduate Professional Scholarship is due March 1st. She also made note of a clearinghouse for private scholarships which reflect a donor's wishes. They generally are smaller awards. The Graduate School is not involved in the administration of these private scholarships, which are generally housed in the S/Cs. She reported that we are considering moving up the application deadline

for AGRADE scholarships. The Rumble Scholarships are due March for those wanting to use them for recruitment, whereas retention Rumbles are due May 15th. Nominations for the Dean's Diversity award is due March 12th so we can notify programs whether they're successful in receiving one those scholarships for their students. The Dean added that any changes to the various funding mechanisms discussed earlier in the meeting will not be made until a future funding cycle.

Report from the Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons

Linda Beale, President of the Academic Senate

Beale reported that the Senate is moving forward with creation of an Academic Senate Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee and hopes to have it added to the Senate ByLaws as a standing committee of the Academic Senate during the fall 2021 term. It will be integrated in with the Senate's other standing committees. Also, the larger administrative DEI Committee is going forward: she expressed disappointment that the Senate function has essentially been bypassed in the plan for that committee. The Senate has also charged each of its standing committees to consider the Future of Higher Education, as part of the Senate's contribution to the university's strategic planning. The charge to the committees and the direction each will take in considering the issues raised will be discussed through the summer and fall.

The Provost search is ongoing. Semi-finalists have visited campus. Beale indicated that she pushed for both the Academic Senate Policy Committee and the Graduate Council to have time with the candidates; however, only Policy Committee was given an interview slot (of 30 minutes) with the semi-finalists.

She next discussed the status of the various centers and institutes at WSU, both those within the S/Cs and those at the university level. There has been discussion about their charters, whether they have been appropriately reviewed and their budgets approved. Policy Committee is attempting to get a better understanding of which centers and institutes have gone through the required approval or review process. She turned to the S/C review process and said Policy has pushed to have the five-year reviews made available to the S/C faculty and then, shortly thereafter, to the Senate and university at large. Both Provost Whitfield and Interim Provost Clabo have committed to making those reviews available. Also, it is an established precedent now that one of three people appointed to a S/C review committee by the Provost will be a person selected by the Senate.

Beale then briefly addressed budget planning for next year. RCM has been delayed yet again due to the pandemic. The Budget Planning Council will be starting up its hearing process a bit later than last year.

Sixty Bold Moves proposals were submitted to the Steering Committee, which will be narrowed down to 10-15 finalists. The meetings of this committee have been lively with a few more meetings to go.

A question was asked about not having a town hall for a provost. Beale responded that there had been a town hall and Policy Committee meeting with Provost Whitfield once he was announced as the finalist, but it is not clear whether there will be any such open meetings in this search. She said her experience on search committees elsewhere involved a much more open process. She considers it important for faculty to have input on administrators such as the provost who have such broad responsibilities.

Sharon Lean, Academic Senate Budget Committee

She reported the committee last met on January 25th and reviewed capital projects. They will next meet on March 8th. It was noted that CFO Bill Decatur had since departed the university and Rebecca Cooke has returned.

Paul Johnson, Student Affairs Committee

The First Year Seminar, general education requirements, the Academic Success Center and information on learning communities were discussed on January 20th. There was nothing related to graduate education. Beale added that she has requested data on student success initiatives such as the APEX program and Warrior Way Back from Monica Brockmeyer and Brockmeyer has agreed to provide that data. It's important to have this data to measure success and identify barriers for students.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wood
Program Director, Graduate School