



## **Graduate Council**

2 p.m., Wednesday, October 20, 2021

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/95227500340?pwd=Nk1aMk9jL3ptSjRCTHkzLzRyZzR0Zz09>

### **Agenda**

- I. Report of the Chair**
  - a. Approval of September 2021 minutes (page 2)
  
- II. Executive Committee (Fred Vultee, Chair)**
  - a. Amendments to Graduate Council Bylaws
  
- III. NPPR Committee (Todd Leff, Chair)**
  - a. Program Inactivations
    - i. DNP-Nurse Midwifery
    - ii. MSN-Nurse Midwifery
    - iii. Nurse Midwifery Graduate Certificate
  - b. New program
    - i. Joint MD/MBA
  
- IV. Provost Mark Kornbluh**
  
- V. Adjournment**

## Graduate Council

2-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 15, 2021

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/97833864313?pwd=SmpxRIZWMWNBS3MwQ1E4cStKMGJ0dz09>

### Agenda

- VI. Report of the Chair**
  - a. Review and approval of April 2021 minutes (page 2)
  - b. Graduate Council Bylaws
    - i. Article II, Section 3 (Objectives, p. 2 of Bylaws)
    - ii. Article III, Section 1 (Membership, p. 3 of Bylaws)
    - iii. Article III, Section 2 (Membership, p. 3 of Bylaws)
    - iv. Article III, Section 5 (Membership, p. 3 of Bylaws)
    - v. Article VI (Committees, p. 4 of Bylaws)
      - 1. Fellowships and Awards Committee
      - 2. Graduate Faculty Membership Committee
    - vi. Adding December and May Graduate Council meetings
- VII. Executive Committee, Fred Vultee, Chair**
  - a. Proposal for Zero credit master's maintenance course
- VIII. NPPR Committee (Todd Leff, Chair)**
  - a. Dual Title Programs
  - b. Experience-Based Credit Hours
- IX. Academic Standard Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)**
- X. Graduate Student report from Student Senate representative Asra Akhlaq**
- XI. Special Initiatives of Graduate Admissions (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**
- XII. New business**
- XIII. Adjournment**

### **Attendees:**

Asra Akhlaq, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Ed Cackett, Deborah Charboneau, Christine Chow, Mary Clark, Christine D' Arpa, Paul Johnson, Chera Kee, Loreleigh Keashly, Poco Kernsmith, Todd Leff, Jeffrey Martin, Larry Matherly, Mary Anne McCoy, David Moss, Golam Newaz, Debra Patterson, Sarah Pearline, Jeff Pruchnic, Sherry Quinn, Robert Reynolds, Preethy Samuel, Malathy Shekhar, Rebeccah Sokol, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, April Vallerand, Dan Walz, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak, Zhengping Yi

### **Absent with notice:**

Linda Beale, Steve Chrisomalis, Paul Dubinsky, Ramona Benkert

## **Absent without notice:**

Ken Jackson, Weisong Shi, Dan Walz, Linda Hazlett

## Report of the Chair

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

## *Graduate Council Bylaws*

The Dean said in Article II, Section 3 there is a statement concerning the actions and recommendations made by the Grad Council are to be submitted by the Dean to the Provost for implementation. She said this is a key function of the Grad Council as it relates to new programs, mothballing programs and policies. She then discussed the next sentence, which relates to the Graduate Council reporting its actions and recommendations to the President of the Academic Senate. The Dean asked the body if it would be appropriate to send the chair of the Executive Committee to the Academic Senate. The Dean was asked if she had discussed this with Linda Beale, Senate President. She said she would approach the Senate after getting input from the Grad Council. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea in terms of formalizing that reporting function. The Dean said she wanted faculty to be the representative and not the Dean. It was suggested that instead of going to the full Senate, the Grad Council liaison might go to the smaller Policy Committee, which meets weekly. Fred Vultee said it more be more plausible to attend the meeting once a month rather than weekly. The Dean said she would craft language in the bylaws reflecting this more formalized reporting to the Academic Senate Policy Committee.

Article III, Section 1 was next discussed. The Dean said she was concerned that language here states that faculty with terminal degrees may be elected to Grad Council. Is it reasonable to have people without regular grad faculty status serve on Grad Council? It was noted that grad faculty status enables faculty to chair dissertation committees. The Dean said the language regarding terminal degrees should be modified or all together removed.

The discussion next turned to Article III concerning membership. The Dean questioned why she was given the authority to appoint three members outside of the two members elected by the schools/colleges. She noted that the three additional members have traditionally come from CLAS. A Grad Council member said she had been appointed by a previous dean because of her experience in student career development. Another Grad Council member asked the Dean why she did not feel she had the authority to appoint the three other members. The Dean stated that faculty should have more say in Grad Council selection. She added that schools/colleges with greater numbers of graduate students and graduate faculty should have greater representation on the Council. Fred Vultee said collecting data on graduate faculty, graduate

students may help inform the discussion. The Dean added demographic data on graduate faculty would also be useful and we will discuss further once the data is available.

The discussion focused on Article III, Section 5 regarding the election process for Grad Council in the schools/colleges. The Dean said it would be useful to provide a list of all eligible graduate faculty to the schools/colleges six to eight weeks prior to the elections, which typically take place in April before the end of the academic year. The Grad School could also provide a ballot for the election.

Article VI on committees was brought up. The Dean said the lack of transparency around the awarding of fellowships and scholarships from the Grad School has been a concern. She proposed a faculty committee. This Fellowships and Awards Committee would have representation from each school and college. The Grad School would still serve as first screeners to determine initial eligibility checks. A Graduate Faculty Membership Committee was also proposed. The final report of the Graduate Faculty Task Force was mentioned and all Grad Council members will be sent a copy of that report before the October meeting. Meeting were next discussed and the Dean noted that meetings are skipped in December and May and it would behoove the Council to hold these meetings for pressing matters such as new program approval. There was concern about a December meeting falling during finals week. The Dean said that in accordance with Robert's Rule of Order, matters would be discussed at one meeting and voted on at a future meeting.

#### Executive Committee

Vultee brought up last spring's proposed zero credit master's maintenance course. This course would enable students to stay enrolled as they completed a thesis or essay. Students would have access to the library and other campus services. One member asked about an enforcement mechanism to ensure students are signing up for the course. Students and colleges do not have the resources to enforce it. Vultee said the Grad School might take a role in enforcement. It was noted that this might be a good option for some students, but not all. It was further noted that many master's programs are course work only without a thesis or essay requirement. The Dean said the course would enable students to have access to CAPS. She added that we are also discussing the financial impact of this proposal looking at a decline in income for the university as well as the impact on students. It was asked if this requirement would stop students from graduating if they did not take the course. It was also noted that graduate students might be unhappy about paying for a zero credit course. Vultee noted that in some cases students might not need university resources. He said exemptions should be considered for students in the military, for example. The Dean said that when students are taking a semester off without a formal mechanism in place, they do lose services. An informational campaign may be needed to inform students about this course if it moves forward. She asked the Council to read the proposal and prepare to vote at an upcoming meeting.

#### New Program and Program Review (NPPR)

Todd Leff was introduced and he described the scope of NPPR, which includes program revisions, new programs and terminations. He then discussed two upcoming issues. The first is dual title programs.

These programs allows PhD and master's students to receive interdisciplinary training in a related field, which then shows up on the transcript as a dual title. 22 students are currently in dual title programs. Leff said the problem is that they are not being assessed and the HLC may have issues with them in the future. The Provost has asked us to find a solution. Leff said he would discuss these problems with the program directors for dual titles. The second matter concerns credits for work experiences. Engineering has proposed this. Engineering is currently putting together a detailed proposal and Leff said he would seek input from the Grad Council.

### Academic Standards

Associate Dean Jeff Pruchnic was introduced. He noted the committee had not met yet, but would be doing so in the next few weeks and he will have something to report back at the next meeting.

### Student Senate Representative

Asra Akhlaq was introduced as the new student representative. She is currently working on her master's in biology and said she was passionate about leadership, DEI issues and advocating for mental health. She noted that people from the campus community can speak at Student Senate meetings during the public comment portion of the meeting. She next described five initiatives recently discussed by the Senate. The first is purchase of the Calm app, which promotes wellness, however the cost of the app was prohibitive. You download the app on the phone and it provides reflections and meditation guides. The second initiative concerns personal pronouns. Students can no post their preferred pronouns of academic rosters and Canvas. The next was Mental Health Observance Day. Unfortunately, many classes and labs were not cancelled in observance. She hopes it will be on the calendar for the next academic year. The fourth initiative was the lowering of spring and summer tuition for undergrads and grads by 30% for those taking six credit hours. They are proposing that the credit hours be lowered to three for grad students since there are less courses available and many are working or doing research over the summer. One Council member said he thought the discount was only for undergrads. Akhlaq said she would check and report back at the next meeting. Finally, she said events for grad students were also in the planning stages. These events focus on networking, mentorship, mental health and research symposia.

### Graduate Admissions

The Dean said Sherry would not be presenting the admissions data as much as she had in the past. Instead, she will report out on special initiatives. Quinn said five initiatives would be discussed. She said there would be a common application across all programs. The vendor is Common Application Service (CAS). There will be business CAS, engineering CAS and graduate CAS, which covers all other schools/colleges. This will help increase our program outreach, recruitment and branding. She said this would be a behind the scenes initiative and academic units will not need to learn any new systems. There will be no changes to how applications are reviewed and decisions are made. It will go into effect in January.

Next, she announced that data analysts within her unit have been assigned schools and colleges to enhance service relationships. Debra Perrett and Nicole Wolgast have been assigned specific schools and colleges and Quinn with questions and concerns. She next discussed closer collaborations with OIRA to resolve data discrepancies and ensure use of the same data language. This also will help OIRA understand Grad Admission's data needs, particularly as it relates to enrollment strategies. Slate training will resume with graduate directors later this month. Slate access has been given to more than 400

faculty/staff. 92% of those individuals have had training. Individuals can sign up for Canvas training once the graduate directors are trained this fall. The Grad School Open House takes place Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6 p.m.

### New Business

The Dean announced she has established a Graduate Education Leadership Council to serve as an advisory group for strategic planning. The membership includes:

Todd Leff  
Jeff Pruchnic  
Paul Johnson  
Kiantee Rupert-Jones  
Sondra Auerbach  
Loraleigh Keashly  
Thomas Walker  
Ken Jackson  
Nikki Taylor Vargo  
Ramona Benkert  
Dan Walz  
Susan Davis

The group will meet monthly.

*There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved*

*The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.*

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