



Graduate Council

2-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 19, 2020

3rd floor Community Room, David Adamany Undergraduate Library

- I. Approval of January minutes: attached on page 2**
- II. Report of the Chair**
 - a. WSU Graduate Student Lifecycle Portal (Mustafa Ziyad)
 - b. External Funding of Assistantships Task Force
 - c. Dissertation Credit Benchmarking
- III. Committee Reports**
 - a. *Executive Committee* (Faith Hopp, chair)
 - b. *New Programs and Program Review (NPPR)* (Todd Leff, chair)
 - i. **Discontinuance of the Master of Music in Music Education,**
Department of Music, FPCA
 - c. *Academic Standards Committee* (Sharon Lean, chair)
- IV. New business**
- V. Graduate Admissions (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**
- VI. Recruitment recap (Shantelle Cavin, Graduate Programs Outreach Specialist)**
- VII. Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons (Linda Beale)**
- VIII. Adjournment**

Notes from February 19, 2020 meeting

Attendees:

Jonathon Anderson, Eric Ash, Jeanne Barcelona, Linda Beale, Karen Beningo, Suzanne Brown, Shantelle Cavin, Christy Chow, Mary Clark, Faith Hopp, Ingrid Guerra-Lopez, Paul Johnson, Loreleigh Keashly, Sharon Lean, Todd Leff, Mary Anne McCoy, Simon Ng, Bijal Patel, Sherry

Graduate Council

February 19, 2020 meeting minutes

Page | 1

Quinn, Preethy Samuel, Malathy Shekhar, Jeff Stanley, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, Mary Wood, Yuning Wu

Absent:

Ramona Benkert, , Abe Biswas, Margaret Campbell, Alina Cherry, Sung Gon Chung, Paul Dubinsky, Steve Firestine, Linda Hazlett, Yinlun Huang, Ken Jackson, Kafi Kumasi, Peter Lucarotti, Richard Marback, Debra Patterson, Jami Pittman, Jeffrey Potoff, John Rothchild, Cheryl Somers, Chin-An Tan, April Vallerand, Dan Walz

Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

Report of the Chair

WSU Graduate Student Lifecycle Portal (Mustafa Ziyad, Associate Director of Data Management)

The new lifecycle portal will streamline processing forms and in obtaining approvals/signatures. The new system will be accessed through Academica. Among the 216 students who graduated in 2019, 4,600 signatures total were required over the course of their PhD training (7.5 years time-to-degree) for Individual Development Plans (IDPO). The portal will officially launch in fall 2020 and will reduce much of this administrative burden. Ziyad demonstrated a prototype of the portal. The Dean noted that the system would prompt students for outstanding forms. Ziyad said information collected in the forms will be stored in a database as part of the Ellucian workflow. Information such as Banner I.D. will be pre-filled. Currently the portal is not integrated with Degreeworks, but such integration may take place in phase II of the project. Questions arose on completed forms still showing up and a status bar so students can determine what is overdue. Ziyad said his office was working with a company called Dynamic Forms and advanced features will be implemented as the project rolls out. The dean said the basic features would be mastered before moving to more advanced features, much like what was done in the SLATE implementation. Signatures will be verified. Ziyad said he would look into the issue of routing documents to non-WSU faculty if there are external faculty on a dissertation committee.

External Funding of Assistantships Task Force

The Dean reported that this new task force met for the first time before Graduate Council with representatives from all affected S/Cs. The current practice of paying tuition from grant funds is negatively affecting highly productive research faculty. The Provost attended the meeting

and asked the task force to come up with a set of solutions to address the problem. The VP for Research did not attend the meeting. Fixing this problem will serve as a powerful incentive to research while also helping to recruit and retain good faculty. It would be ideal if the task force could come up with a policy recommendation to present to the Provost and President by the end of the semester.

Dissertation Credit Benchmarking

The Dean reported that Academic Standards Committee would go into a further analysis of the benchmarking conducted by the Graduate School at their March meeting. From the data, it appears that Wayne State's 30-credit-hour requirement is on the high end of the spectrum. Sharon Lean said most institutions require 24 credit hours; however, six more credit hours are required for the coursework portion. The Dean said this discussion is critical in terms of offering a quality PhD program. Paul Johnson said there should be consideration of increasing the credits in the coursework portion to remain competitive with other universities. Lean said Academic Standards wants to closely examine offering a 10/10/10 credit block. She noted that we do allow students to double up if they need to. A one-page summary of Academic Standard's findings and conclusions will be forwarded to Grad Council. The Dean said additional people with varied perspectives could attend the March 90-minute meeting. Simon Ng requested additional benchmarking with specific engineering programs at the peer institutions.

Recruitment Recap

Shantelle Cavin reported that five prospective graduate students have been recruited to participate in the Research Scholars visit that coincides with the Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium March 3, 2020. Three more additional students have until the end of the week to confirm their attendance.

Graduate Student Appreciation week is coming up in April and she urged graduate programs to hold some kind of program, large or small, to celebrate students.

Executive Committee

Faith Hopp recapped the conversation at the Executive Committee meeting on Feb. 12, 2020. She said the previous GTA/GRA allocation committee came up with a universal and negotiable portion, but the Provost preferred a single formula he could use in discussions with deans, thus there was no movement on the committee's recommendations. She turned to dissertation credit hour blocks and said changes will affect advising, financial aid and Visa requirements.

She concluded by referencing the revised document on grad director responsibilities saying it should be intended as a best practices document and not an iron clad dictum.

New Programs and Program Review Committee (NPPR)

A motion was made and seconded to discontinue the Master of Music in Music Education. The motion was approved.

Academic Standards Committee

Sharon Lean reviewed the revised document on graduate directors' responsibilities. She said she would send the document to the council for review. Eric Ash noted that some advisors provide inaccurate information to advisees and graduate directors end up clarifying and correcting that information. Fred Vultee said there should be some information on the need to verify that the department has completed their Stage III portion of RCR training.

Admissions

Sherry Quinn debuted the new SLATE portal. Because of technical difficulties, she was unable to display the live view on the screens. She reported that a reference guide similar to the system in ALERT would be available. There was discussion about how admissions committees will function in SLATE. Quinn reported that bins will be used and she urged faculty to take full advantage of SLATE's timesaving features. Lean reported reviewers will see applications in their cues and there will be no need to print out PDFs.

Quinn addressed the issue of the Corona virus in China and its impact thus far on admissions. She said we could expect delays for processing applications from China as standardized tests have been postponed for February.

Graduate Council/Academic Senate Liaison

Bartleby Learn

Linda Beale said she had good news on this issue. Faculty had experimented with this system and found it was providing answers to textbook answer manuals. A math professor submitted a stats problem to Bartleby Learn and it provided a failing answer. A meeting was held with Tim Michaels to discuss this system promoted by our bookstore. Following this meeting, Wayne State severed its ties with the company. She noted that students were charged \$10 a month for the service, and they may continue to be subscribed despite Wayne State's dropping this service. Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) members urged that a notice go to students letting them know that copying answers from these types of online services could lead to cheating and or plagiarism academic misconduct charges.

Grading Policy/Bullying/Budget Planning Council

There are a variety of grading issues across the university. For example, there is a clear difference between the undergraduate A-F grading scale and the Graduate School's A-C grading scale (in which a C- is a failing grade). It would be helpful to have information that makes that clearer. A more significant grading issue is the inconsistency between schools and colleges regarding procedures for grade changes. ASPC discussed this with Boris Baltes and agreed that we needed to take steps to develop a clear and consistent university policy that would be followed by each of the deans. The recent climate survey revealed that bullying and intimidation are key concerns on campus. In conversations with the Provost and Boris Baltes, it became evident that a more responsive statement is needed. Baltes committed to drafting a charge to a small group that will develop such a statement. If anyone is particularly interested in serving on that group, please let Beale know. The university's Budget Planning Council has begun its hearings of the S/C and administrative units for determining budget enhancements or reductions to be recommended to the Provost and President.

Interdisciplinary Hiring Initiative

Various faculty had expressed concerns that this initiative did not work well in the first year. In some cases, the interdisciplinary hires may have been the only hires in a department, which needed other kinds of faculty lines as well. The Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee and Curriculum & Instruction Committee has just held a joint meeting with the Provost to discuss the program and address concerns about the process.

University Press

Three staffers were abruptly fired two weeks ago. A lot of negative press coverage ensued and more than 60 authors signed a letter of protest regarding the firings. The Press was moved from Dean Jon Cawthorne of the School of Information Sciences to the President's Office under Michael Wright. The interim director that handled the firings has resigned, and the prior interim director who retired in 2019 has agreed to return. In addition, the production designer who resigned in protest of the firings has agreed to return. The Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) and the Press's faculty Editorial Board have urged that there be a complete "reset" by bringing back the fired employees.

Bold Moves

The Wayne State Foundation plans to collect ideas from the faculty for the upcoming capital campaign. The so-called "Bold Moves" campaign will be discussed at the March 4, 2020 Academic Senate. Senate meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Graduate Council members are encouraged to attend; however, they must petition the Senate if they want to speak at the meeting.

Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

The president of the HLC is coming to campus following complaints from administrators and former consultants regarding the BoG. ASPC invited the HLC President to meet with it to discuss shared governance during the visit, but Governor Marilyn Kelly discouraged such a meeting as “inappropriate.”. This HLC/Wayne State meeting comes amid the ongoing conflict among the BoG members and President.

Salary Issues

Karen Beningo asked about questions on the AAUP-AFT survey about equity and salary processes. Beale noted that the survey is intended to gather input from a broad group of union members, but the questions about these pay issues arose because of preliminary surveys and statements of concern that the union knew it needed to get more information on, especially regarding the lack of equity funding, but also regarding problematic bullying behaviors and failures to follow the bargaining agreement review process. On the bullying issue, it is hoped that the process begun with Boris Baltes will help clarify the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Wood
Graduate School Program Director