

Meeting of February 20, 2013, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:, January 23, 2013*

II. Report of the Chair

III. Old Business

- A. SWAN – final comments and vote
- B. NIH Grant Proposal
- C. Other Old Business

IV. New Business

- A. Proposal for an MS in Mathematics*
- B. Report on GEOC negotiations – Margaret Winters, Associate Provost and Vice President for Academic Personnel
- C. Other New Business

V. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee
- B. New Programs Committee
- C. Academic Standards Committee
- E. Graduate Admissions
- F. Academic Senate Liaison
- G. Liaisons to Academic Senate Committees

VI. Adjournment

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**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of February 20, 2013
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: A. Biswas, L. Buis, A. Cano, C. Chow, P. Dubinsky, J. Dunbar, D. Dungee-Anderson, A. Feig, J. Green, J. Holbert, K. Jackson, G. Kapatos, P. Kernsmith, A. Kowluru, A. Mathur, J. Moldenhauer, B. Neavill, S. Ng, R. Pauley, L. Schwiebert, P. Sopory, S. Terlecky, A. Weisz, C. Winston, H. Wu

Members Absent with Notice: M. Anderson, M. Clark, M. Dickson, E. Faue, R. Holley, G. Mao, K. Paesani, A. Tekleab, J. Yoon

Members Absent: J. Davis, M. Malek

Also Present: C. Barduca, D. Isaksen K. Lueckeman, L. Romano, C. Sokol, M. Winters

The meeting was convened at 2:04 p.m. by the Chairperson, Ambika Mathur

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of January 17, 2013.

II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

- Interim Dean Mathur reported that Wayne State University participated in Graduate Education Day on February 19. Three doctoral students attended the event, and each had an opportunity to meet with his/her representatives and staff members. There are plans among the universities in Michigan to hold more events and activities during Graduate Student National Week, which is the first week in April.
- Cindy Sokol, Manager of the PhD Office, discussed the 2013 Graduate Exhibition, which will take place on Tuesday, March 19, at McGregor. Set up will begin at 10:00am. The posters will be judged from 12:00 – 2:00pm, and the exhibition will be open to the public 2:00 – 4:00pm. In addition, oral presentations will take place 12:30 – 2:00pm, and these will be open to the public. Ms. Sokol said that the Graduate School received over 100 poster abstracts; however, she is still recruiting judges. She asked that anyone interested in judging please contact her.

Arlene Weisz, Professor of Social Work, noted that the abstract submissions were cutoff in advance of the posted deadline. She asked if students could still submit for this year's exhibition, and she suggested that the process be improved in the future. Ms. Sokol stated that the Graduate School is at capacity for 2013. Ken Jackson, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School, stated that growing the event is logistically impossible at the present. Both he and Ms. Sokol communicated that they would discuss future improvements to the submission process during post-event debriefing.

- Stan Terlecky, Professor of Pharmacology, mentioned that the 40th Annual Pharmacology Colloquium will be held at the Wayne State University School of Medicine in June 2013. The colloquium brings together graduate students and faculty from nearby universities including the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and the University of Toledo. Professor Terlecky stated that this would be a good opportunity to promote graduate education at the university and to impress the importance of graduate education upon local and other representatives. Interim Dean Mathur agreed and offered the Graduate School's support in promoting the event.
- The Graduate School awards for faculty and students have been announced. Ratna Naik, Physics, received the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award. Four faculty members received the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award – Annmarie Cano (Psychology) for the social sciences, William Beierwaltes (Physiology) for the health sciences, Arthur Suits (Chemistry) for the natural sciences, and Bruce Russell (Philosophy) for the arts and humanities. Additionally, two students received the Heberlein Teaching Award – Beth Fowler (History) and Benjamin Biermeir-Hanson (Psychology).
- Interim Dean Mathur reported on the progress of the plans for the Graduate School's data collection project. The project is still being discussed by university administration. Interim Dean Mathur has stressed the need for data system due to looming compliance requirements; however, there is concern about financing due to budget constraints. Interim Dean Mathur has asked the university to consider the reallocation of summer graduate student tuition revenue in order to support this and other Graduate School initiatives.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. SWAN – final comments and vote

- Interim Associate Dean Jackson introduced the Social Work Anthropology PhD program proposal for a final vote. David McGrann, Manager Graduate Council and Academic Affairs, asked if there was a plan for the administration of the program (e.g. will it be in the School of Social Work or the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences). Mr. McGrann suggested that the proposers include an outline for program administration in the document that will be sent to the Provost's Office. Professor Weisz said that they will discuss and develop a plan.
- Interim Associate Dean Jackson reiterated that this program will allow Wayne State graduates to be more competitive for tenure track faculty and research positions. He added that the New Programs Committee was very supportive of this proposal for an interdisciplinary PhD program in Social Work and Anthropology.
- The proposal was passed unanimously by Graduate Council.

B. NIH Grant Proposal

- Interim Dean Mathur mentioned that a group has been meeting, and they are making progress. The group is still in its initial planning stages, and more information will be available in the future.

C. Other Old Business

- Simon Ng, Associate Dean in the College of Engineering, commented on the new Tuition Incentive Program (TIP), which is designed to provide faculty incentive to fund graduate students on external research grants and to increase the number of graduate students so supported. Joe Dunbar, Associate Vice President of Research, stated that this is a repurposing of the money used for the competitive GRA. The default position was to start with new grants for affordability reasons. Professor Ng worried about the negative effect of

ending the competitive GRAs along with only allowing new grants to participate in TIP. Professor Dunbar acknowledged Professor Ng's concerns, and stated that a phasing-in process would have been too difficult and expensive. Professor Dunbar explained that TIP is a pilot program that will be reevaluated after three years.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposal for an MS in Mathematics

- Dan Isaksen, Professor of Mathematics, delivered a brief presentation on this proposal. Recently, the Department of Mathematics conducted a comprehensive review of its graduate programs, consisting of a PhD in Mathematics, a Master of Arts in Mathematics, a Master of Arts in Applied Mathematics, and a Master of Arts in Mathematical Statistics. Professor Isaksen stated that all of the programs received minor changes; however, the Master of Arts in Mathematics will be undergoing more substantial changes. This latter program is intended to be a PhD preparatory program. The department increased requirements to make the program more rigorous, and it would like to change to a master of science because this is a stronger title nationally. He concluded that essentially the program will be changing from a Master of Art in Mathematics to a Master of Science in Mathematics.
- Professor Ng asked Professor Isaksen to clarify the changes. Professor Isaksen responded that the credit hours will increase from thirty to thirty-two, and the number of required 6000-level courses will also be increased.
- Professor Ng asked why the MA in Applied Mathematics and the MA in Mathematical Statistics were not being changed to MS degrees as well. Professor Isaksen replied that the reasoning stemmed from different expectations and outcomes. The Applied and Stats degrees are generally terminal degrees with the students entering industry upon graduation. He restated that the MS designation is more prestigious, and it is viewed as a more rigorous training program for students planning to continue on to a PhD program.
- Andrew Feig, Professor of Chemistry, asked if one additional course is really going to get them from where they are currently to being PhD ready. Professor Isaksen admitted that this is somewhat subjective, yet it is something that will be notable to a graduate admissions officer. He stated that the best answer is yes, this does make it more rigorous.
- Robert Pauley, Associate Dean in the School of Medicine, asked if the program would be discouraging the thesis option (Plan A). Professor Isaksen confirmed that they will continue to discourage the thesis because it is difficult to find suitable problems for master's-level mathematics students that are original in nature.
- Professor Terlecky stated that the New Programs Committee found the credential to be simply more valuable. The committee unanimously favored the change to a master of science.
- After the discussion concluded, Interim Associate Dean Jackson thanked Professor Isaksen for his time.

*Professor Isaksen left the meeting at 2:30pm.

B. Other New Business

- Professor Ng brought up a scholarship program in China in which students receive up to \$20,000 to fund non-tuition related costs. He asked if the university would be willing to cover tuition for these students, or at a minimum, would consider waiving the non-resident fee.
- Interim Dean Mathur responded that the Graduate School does not have a standard waiver for non-resident tuition fees, so this would not be an option. She stated that she currently has three proposals in various stages, aimed at helping with non-resident costs. She cautioned that with the current budget climate that nothing could be guaranteed. She did, however, agree that Wayne State University should consider some form of incentivized recruiting for

these students. Professor Ng stated that even if it is just five or ten students, WSU should find a way to participate.

*Margaret Winters, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel, entered the meeting at 2:46pm.

C. Report on GEOC Negotiations

- Margaret Winters, Associate Provost and Vice President for Academic Personnel, reported that the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee (GEOC) contract was ratified on January 1, 2013 and went into effect on February 1, 2013.
- Associate Provost Winters then gave a summary of some of the major changes:
 - There was a discussion about grievances where the grievant did not want to be named, so that the union would be bringing forward a grievance with a nameless grievant, for protective reasons. It was agreed that the grievant could remain anonymous until step three of the GEOC grievance procedure, or the point at which the grievance reaches the office of the Associate Provost and Vice President for Academic Personnel.
 - Protections were added for graduate teaching assistants (GTA) and graduate student assistants (GSA) in terms of work assignments outside of their duties. A procedure has been set up in which these graduate assistants can refuse extra work without risk of repercussions. Associate Provost Winters stated that GTAs and GSAs would receive support from her office on this matter.
 - The graduate teaching assistants asked to be named to every faculty committee. A compromise was reached with their being named as non-voting members to the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching Committee, the Faculty Promotion and Tenure Committee and the General Education Oversight Committee.
 - If a GTA or GSA is not reappointed based on his or her academic record, then the student will receive notification in writing. This will reinforce to students that they are students first and must prioritize their academic record. It is also a way of helping departments remember about the kind of advising that needs to be done.
 - GSAs received improvements to the time off in the form of sick and personal days, and GSAs no longer have to make up time for university closure days (not including snow days). In addition, GSAs and GTAs now have a process for parental leave of absence.
 - Compensation levels were addressed by bringing GSA and GTA in line with part time salaries. The fact that part time employees do not receive benefits was considered in the calculations.
 - GSAs and GTAs will now be reimbursed for the SEVIS fee, which is currently \$50.
- Associate Provost Winters stated that this was a negotiating process and the GEOC asked for many other concessions. She believes the final product was reasonable.
- Professor Feig commented that, in the future, he would like to see a medical withdrawal process. Graduate Assistants, who withdraw for medical reasons, not only face steep bills, they lose their medical insurance. Professor Feig believes that the university should consider protections for such students. Abe Biswas, Professor of Marketing, agreed and discussed a recent situation with a student in the School of Business. Associate Provost Winters also agreed that this is something that will need to be addressed.
- Carole Barduca, Director of Business Affairs, clarified that the SEVIS reimbursements are only for graduate assistants during the current semester. The reimbursements are not retroactive and do not include anyone other than graduate assistants.
- Interim Dean Mathur thanked Associate Provost Winters for taking the time to discuss the GEOC contract. The contract is available on the Provost's website: http://provost.wayne.edu/pdf/geoc-wsu_cba_proofs_2012_15_w_toc.pdf

*Associate Provost Winters left the meeting at 3:09pm.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Interim Dean Mathur reported that the NIH grant proposal and the follow-up visit from the Huron Consulting Group were the two main topics.

B. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

- Interim Associate Dean Jackson reported that the main topic at the previous New Programs meeting was the proposal for the MS in Mathematics. The next meeting is on Monday, February 25.

C. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISON

- Lou Romano, President of the Academic Senate, reported that the board approved the \$92 million bond proposal, which is mostly going to fund the new multidisciplinary biomedical research building. He announced that the administration has also agreed to remodel the classrooms on the basement and second floor of Manoogian. The other buildings that may be remodeled include the Student Center Building and the Macomb Center.
- Professor Romano stated that Joe Rankin, Interim Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Affairs, spoke on a new Department of Education mandate concerning text books. All text books choices for Fall 2013 courses must be available online by June 1. A memo has been circulated to faculty.
- Corinne Web, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, spoke to Academic Senate about student withdrawals. If a student completely withdraws from all of his or her classes, the university has to repay their financial aid. This past year, complete withdrawals cost WSU \$1 million. In response, the university is working on new withdrawal policies and procedures. Steps will also be taken to make faculty aware of the potential repercussions of student withdrawals.
- According to Professor Romano, Deputy President Vroom is compiling a list of candidates for the Interim Provost position. The Deputy President will interview the candidates before making a decision.

D. ACADEMIC SENATE LIAISON

- Interim Associate Dean Jackson reported on the Budget Committee. He stated that much of the discussions have centered on the best use of funds. He reported that he is encouraged to hear that renovations to main campus classrooms have been prioritized.
- Professor Terlecky reported on the Curriculum and Instruction committee. He specifically focused on the APEX program, designed for students without the traditional admissions requirements. Last summer, they put eighty-eight high school students into this program, and eighty-four of the eighty-eight students continued on in higher education. Eighty were enrolled at Wayne State. Professor Terlecky noted that the students reportedly have shown an increase of one point in their current college GPA versus their high school GPA. He said that the program has been viewed as a success. Professor Romano added that the APEX program needs to be expanded to appropriately accommodate all of the students eligible for the program. Administration plans to closely monitor APEX students as a cohort in order to better gauge the program's success.
- Delores Dungee-Anderson, Interim Associate Dean in the School of Social Work, reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee has been discussing strategies to improve faculty mentoring. Professor Romano remarked that Academic Senate believes department chairs should be responsible for faculty mentoring. Moreover, he feels that communication could be improved from the provost to the deans to the chairs.

- Professor Dunbar commented on the Research Committee. The Office of the Vice President for Research made a presentation on the university's research activities, showing current numbers to be relatively flat. Professor Dunbar reported that some research funding is up, but time will show if this will continue.

E. Graduate Admissions

- Kathy Lueckeman, Director of Graduate Admissions, announced that Spring/Summer 2013 applications were up and registrations are now open. She stated that while fall applications are flat, the number of admits is up. She noted that a lack of increase in the number of applications is not necessarily a negative thing. It is important to identify the best students and admit them in a timely matter.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David McGrann
Manager of the Graduate Council