



Graduate Council

March 30, 2022, 2-3:30 p.m.

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/94762390926?pwd=cy9pY2Z5MWZySVA1NEMrZTREU3YzdzO9>

- I. **Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of February 2022 minutes (page 2)
- II. **Executive Committee (Fred Vultee, Chair)**
 - a. Proposal on three categories of graduate faculty appointments (proposal attached to calendar invite)
- III. **Academic Standard Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)**
 - a. Revised policy on requirements for posthumous degrees (proposal attached to calendar invite)
- IV. **New Programs and Program Review Committee (NPPR) (Todd Leff, Chair) (All three proposals attached to calendar invite)**
 - a. MS in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, College of Engineering
 - b. MS in Environmental Science (Track A), Environmental Science and Geology, CLAS
 - c. Graduate certificate in Museum Practice, Anthropology, CLAS
- V. **Graduate Student report from Student Senate representative (Asra Akhlaq)**
- VI. **Graduate Admissions Deferral Process (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**
- VII. **New Business**
- VIII. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
 - a. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
 - b. Ed Cackett, Research Committee
 - c. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
 - d. Paul Dubinsky, Budget Committee
- IX. **Adjournment**

Graduate Council

February 16, 2022, 2-3:30 p.m.

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/98122033548?pwd=bVNYTFBzRXZaa1Zlcjd0YUIPZ1BwQT09>

- I. Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of January 2022 minutes (page 2)
 - b. Proposed Graduate Council bylaw changes
 - i. Addition of two standing committees
 1. Awards and Fellowship Committee (Article VI, Section 5)
 2. Committee on Graduate Inclusive Excellence (Article VI, Section 6)
 - c. Blanket extension of time-to-degree limitations due to pandemic
- II. Executive Committee (Fred Vultee, Chair)**
- III. Academic Standard Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)**
 - a. Master's and PhD requirements for posthumous degrees (discussion only)
- IV. New Programs and Program Review Committee (NPPR) (Todd Leff, Chair)**
 - a. Certificate in Geographic Information Sciences, Urban Studies & Planning
- V. Graduate Student report from Student Senate representative (Asra Akhlaq)**
- VI. Graduate Admissions Updates (Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions)**
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
 - a. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
 - b. Ed Cackett, Research Committee
 - c. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
 - d. Paul Dubinsky, Budget Committee
- IX. Adjournment**

Attendees:

Asra Akhlaq, Linda Beale, Abe Biswas, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Ed Cackett, Deborah Charboneau, Christine Chow, Steve Chrisomalis, Mary Clark, Rosanne DiZazzo-Miller, Christine D' Arpa, Moira Fracassa, Paul Johnson, Chera Kee, Todd Leff, Carolyn Loh, Jeffrey Martin, Larry Matherly, Mary Anne McCoy, David Moss, Debra Patterson, Sarah Pearline, Jeff Pruchnic, Sherry Quinn, Robert Reynolds, Malathy Shekhar, Rebeccah Sokol, Sokol Todi, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, April Vallerand, Dan Walz, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak, Zhengping Yi

Absent with notice:

Dan Walz, Loreleigh Keashly

Absent without notice:

Linda Hazlett, Ken Jackson, Weisong Shi, Poco Kernsmith, Golam Newaz

Guests:

Paul Beavers, Rayman Mohamed

Notes:

The Dean shared news that a switch from Slate to GradCAS was done the previous evening for the MISB and the College of Engineering. She shared her screen to demonstrate how the new application looks. She noted the new system enables applicants to apply for various programs and to upload application materials. The company who provides the platform claims we will see an increase in the number of applications. She thanked Sherry Quinn for efforts to bring the new platform to fruition.

The Dean asked for a motion to approve the January 2022 minutes. Fred Vultee made the motion, it was seconded and the January minutes were approved.

A GC member asked about a centralized application system for EACPHS and what the timeline is for implementing GradCAS for programs such as occupational therapy. The Dean said it would be helpful to meet to discuss the specific needs of these programs.

Next, the bylaw changes were discussed. The addition of two new standing committees was up for a vote. The Dean read the proposed charge language for the two new committees. She said she hoped that GC members had a chance to review the language. The revisions occur in Article VI (Section 1, 5 and 6).

A poll was launched for each of the three revisions and all were approved with a 2/3 majority.

The next agenda item concerned blanket time extensions for PhD students. The Dean shared her screen to show the current policy. Students have seven years to complete all requirements. Beyond seven years there is a request which must be made for time extensions. Beyond the 10-year mark requires validation of credentials through retaking qualifying exams. The total time for earning a PhD is 12 years. She asked if a blanket extension on the seven-year time limit was warranted. One GC member spoke in favor of the extension citing the pandemic and delays for those doing field work. He noted it's important to identify which years and the length of the extension. He has heard a one-year extension has been given out by other institutions.

Another GC member said accreditation agencies place a time limit on degree completion. The Dean noted that currently extensions are given on a case-by-case basis. Vultee recommended granting the extension to students who make a request. For those students approaching the 10-12 year limit, Vultee asked if an extension should be granted to those who may be a few months from completion. The Dean said the consensus in the discussion thus far sounded like we want to stay with the current approach where students apply for an extension. A discussion with extensions to the tenure clock with the Provost and President noted a concern that faculty felt the request for extension would have a negative impact on their application. A GC member said first extension requests are usually easily approved. However, he noted it would be much easier to grant a one-year extension now before a student hits the seven-year limit. A concern was brought up about extensions and students in research labs when the funding ends. One GC member said his department does not cut off students who research year seven. They are given a GTA if they are no longer a GRA. The Dean said the Provost will expect a recommendation from her and she asked GC to send her an email with their input.

Executive Committee Report, Fred Vultee, Chair

Vultee said he is taking the lead on coming up with a proposal with different levels of graduate faculty membership. He said current criteria focuses on advising PhD students. He said other important contributions to graduate education are not addressed currently in the current criteria. Graduate faculty status should consider many other factors. The Dean said that at a recent Deans Council meeting it was noted that grad faculty status was connected to workload. She added that it's connected to the fact that research active faculty with grad faculty status teach very little in the classroom. One GC member said in his college there may be one or two faculty members with grad status and students seek them out to chair dissertation committees resulting in an increased workload.

Academic Standards, Jeff Pruchnic, Chair

Pruchnic outlined proposed changes to the posthumous and compassionate degree policies at the master's and PhD level. There is a proposal at the undergraduate level to lower the threshold without getting BoG approval. In the current policy, if you meet a particular threshold, then the degree can be granted. Part of the discussion centered on how thesis and dissertation credits are counted. With the changes proposed by the committee, it would make it a little easier for a degree to be granted to a deceased student. The master's and PhD language requires 75% of credit hours completed and completion of comprehensive exams. A GC member asked what the definition of a "critically ill" student is. Pruchnic said critically ill is viewed as not in the condition to complete the degree. He added he is looking for additional clarification on the definition. He added that lowering the threshold may encourage more people (relatives) to apply for a posthumous degree. The revised policy will be voted on at the March GC meeting.

NPPR, Todd Leff, Chair

Todd Leff introduce Rayman Mohamed from Urban Studies and Planning to provide an overview of the graduate certificate in geographic information sciences. Mohamed said the program is about spatial analysis and software based. Students can use this training in a broad spectrum of disciplines. They also can learn Python programming used in spatial analysis. The entire program can be completed online. The program is 12-14 credits depending on the combination of classes a student takes. The Dean asked if this program is offered at other universities. Mohamed said EMU has a master's degree in GIS, but we are not in direct competition with them. He said the WSU certificate would be marketed nationwide with the goal of charging all students in-state tuition. The Dean said we may want to consider offering a master's program collaboratively with another institution. There was some discussion about providing the Course Leaf proposals to the full GC before meetings and it was decided that this would be done going forward.

A poll was launched and the graduate certificate in geographic information sciences was approved.

Report of the Student Senate Representative Asra Akhlaq

Akhlaq reported that Naloxone will be available on campus for those who are overdosing on opioids. She said the RAs in the dorms are not allowed to administer the Naloxone treatment or touch students, but they are advised to contact campus police in these situations. The contract with the RAs clearly states that they cannot touch students. Another idea discussed by the Student Senate is a single use parking pass for students due to the high cost of parking. Funds were secured to provide students with passes in the WSU Food Pantry. 500 passes will be available. A recruiting table will be set up in the Student Center

to recruit student senators and encourage them to run for Senate. This would be a leadership opportunity for students. Two new senators were recently recruited. It was recommended that the Student Senate work with the Campus Health Center on the Naloxone issue. It was also suggested that Tim Michaels also be contacted regarding this situation. Akhlaq said she would get clarification on the issue and report back at the next meeting. One GC member asked if the campus shuttle would resume its pre-pandemic service levels.

Report from Graduate Admissions, Sherry Quinn, Director

Sherry Quinn reported on the Scholars' Visit, which is part of the Graduate Research Symposium. The Scholar's Visit is for domestic students who are underrepresented and have been admitted to a PhD program. She presented a slide with the number of students who are eligible. An announcement went out recently to all graduate directors asking for nominations. It was noted that 29 students were eligible, but only one person has been nominated. The Dean noted that the students who participate attend the symposium and also meet with people in their programs. Quinn said demographic information on the students is available in Slate. She also said there is a question on the application which asks students if they are first generation. The Dean noted that first generation students who are considering various programs often times select the program where they feel accepted and a sense of belonging. She added that she is willing to talk to any of the students who are being offered a slot.

Report from Linda Beale, President of the Academic Senate

Linda Beale reported that the search has begun for a new General Counsel and she is looking forward to the results of this search. She then brought up a recent snow day when the university was closed, and the Senate meeting was cancelled. The Senate's report on the future of the university post-pandemic was supposed to be approved at that meeting. Beale asked if the report could be sent to GC for comments. She asked GC to read and see if anything about graduate education had been left out. She said the report does emphasize the importance of PhD students at a R1 university and the need for graduate student housing.

She returned to the snow day discussion. The question has come up do we offer the class online even though the university is closed? She said the consensus thus far is that when the university is closed it should be handled how it was pre-pandemic and classes should be cancelled. Another question has come up regarding the day after a snow day when the roads were still in bad condition. Should faculty be able to offer an in-person class online in those situations? She welcomes any comments on these two issues connected to the recent snow day in terms of graduate students and graduate faculty as these issues will be discussed next week by the Policy Committee. She said a poll may be taken at the Academic Senate meeting to get views. It was noted that many graduate students are instructors of record for many classes. The part-time faculty pool at WSU is large and they have different sorts of concerns. One GC member said it's important to avoid devising policies that end up being punitive for those who have the least amount of power in the institution. Another GC member spoke in favor of blanket closure. She also said flexibility during bad weather when the university is not closed would be appreciated. We have developed good alternatives during the pandemic, and it doesn't make sense to drive to campus if the class can be delivered remotely. Beale said the consensus is for blanket closure when the university is closed, but there are mixed views on the second question regarding online class in case the roads are bad, but the university is open.

Beale said she invited the new EACPHS Dean to speak with the Policy Committee and it was a productive discussion. The University is once again proposing a code of business ethics and conduct to adopt for all university employees. The first two or three iterations of this proposal were horrible in that they imposed ridiculous requirements. For example, if your neighbor had been an employee of a contractor to the university you could not talk to them without violating the code. If our federal funding exceeds a certain amount, we are required to have this code of business ethics and conduct. Another example is problematic language which said you could not personally benefit from anything you did for the university, which is absurd since publishing benefits faculty as well as the university. Changes were recommended to the latest draft, and it has come back to the Policy Committee. If these changes are not made, however, the issue may come up at the next Academic Senate meeting.

Report of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Liaison, David Moss

David Moss reported that a proposal is coming from the Provost's office that affects how withdrawals appear on a transcript after the ad/drop period. They either have a "WP" meaning they are doing passing work; a "WF" meaning they were doing failing work; and a "W" meaning there is no graded work. The proposal is to have all withdrawals simply marked with a "W". Moss said he was the lone person on the committee who disagreed with the proposal. However, the other committee members felt WSU was the only university in the state using the current system and all others just use a "W". He said he welcomed input from GC on how this change may impact grad students.

Report of the Research Committee Liaison to the Academic Senate, Ed Cackett

Steve Lanier presented to the committee and the bottom line is that research funding in 2021 was up 13% from 2020 and totals \$320M approximately. A copy of his PowerPoint will be emailed to the GC.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wood

Graduate Program Director