



## **Graduate Council May 15, 2024, 2 p.m. Meeting #1**

- I. **Report of the Chair**
  - a. Review and approval of April 17, 2024 minutes and amendment (pages 2-6)
- II. **Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel, Chair)**
- III. **Academic Standards (Jeff Pruchnic)**
  - a. PhD credit hour reduction
- IV. **Inclusive Excellence (Jeff Pruchnic)**
- V. **New Programs and Program Review Committee (NPPR) (Todd Leff)**
- VI. **Awards & Fellowships (Todd Leff)**
- VII. **Pathway to Faculty (Amanda Bryant-Friedrich for Angulique Outlaw)**
- VIII. **Recognition of outgoing GC members**
  - a. Tamara Hew-Butler, Kinesiology, College of Ed
  - b. Larry Matherly, Cancer Biology, SOM
  - c. Sarah Pearline, Theater and Dance, FPCA
- IX. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
  - a. Fred Vultee, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
  - b. Robert Reynolds, Facilities, Support Services & Technology Committee
  - c. Stella Resko, Faculty Affairs Committee
  - d. Jeremy Kodanko, Research Committee
  - e. Stephen Chrisomalis, Student Affairs Committee
  - f. Linda Beale, Academic Senate President
- X. **Adjournment**

## PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

### Graduate Council April 17, 2024, 2-3:30 p.m Meeting

- I. Report of the Chair: Review/approve 3/20/24 Graduate Council minutes (page 2)
- II. Academic Standards Committee (Jeff Pruchnic)
  - a. AR/IDP form revisions: [Annual Review /Individual Development Plan \(Academic Standards Committee Copy\)](#)
  - b. Academic Standards 9991/9992 revision proposal: *(attached)*
- III. Inclusive Excellence Committee Update (Jeff Pruchnic/Jasmine Ulmer)
- IV. Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel)
- V. NPPR update (Todd Leff)
  - a. Graduate Certificate in Premed Studies, SOM: [Course Leaf Proposal](#) (VOTE)
- VI. Awards and Fellowships Committee Update (Todd Leff)
  - a. Revised Rumble Report and Recommendations: *(attached)* (VOTE)
- VII. Pathway to Faculty Update (Angulique Outlaw)
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons
  - a. Mitra Santanu, Budget Committee
  - b. Fred Vultee, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
  - c. Robert Reynolds, Facilities, Support Services & Technology Committee
  - d. Stella Resko, Faculty Affairs Committee
  - e. Jeremy Kodanko, Research Committee
  - f. Stephen Chrisomalis, Student Affairs Committee
  - g. Linda Beale, Academic Senate President
- X. Adjournment

Upcoming meetings: 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday May 15, 2024: **HYBRID MEETING** (Location TBD)

**\*\*5/15/24 meeting will be a dual meeting for those rotating off the Graduate Council and welcoming new voting members elected in Spring faculty elections\*\***

**Attendees:**

Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Agbaglah Gbemeh, Linda Beale, Paul Beasley, Stephen Chrisomalis, Christine D'Arpa, Andrew Garrett, Linda Hazlett, Tamara Hew-Butler, Paul Johnson, Ulrike Klueh, Jeremy Kodanko, Jeffrey Martin, Todd Leff, Larry Matherly, Santanu Mitra, David Moss, Angulique Outlaw, Lisa Panisch, Jeff Pruchnic, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Bob Reynolds, Santanu Mitra, Andrea Tangari, Fred Vultee, Daniel Walz, Jennifer Wareham, Mary Wood, Zhengping Yi, Young Ro-Yoon, Kelly Young

**Absent:**

Christopher Kelly, Deborah Patterson, Leanne Nantais-Smith, Sally Villasenor, Preethy Samuel

**Absent without notice:** Sarah Pearline

**Guests:** Joseph Dunbar, Jamie Krueger, Sue Brown

The Dean called the meeting to order and said the first report would be from the Academic Standards Committee.

**Academic Standards Committee**

Jeff Pruchnic said the recommendation from the Provost's Committee on PhD Education called for the reduction of dissertation credit hours and elimination of the current four blocks of 7.5 credits. A secondary consideration is if these changes will apply to students currently in a PhD program. Pruchnic presented a model proposed by Academic Standards. Total PhD credit reduction would be from 90 to 78 and dissertation credits would reduce from 30 to 18. He said the goal of the proposal is to make it as flexible as possible using 9991 and 9992. This two-course model enables a wide range of credits in the dissertation sequence. The Dean called for discussion from the Council on the language stating that many programs will exceed the minimum coursework requirements. A Grad Council member said that surveys of other institutions showed that 60 was the average. He said the bar should be set at 60 and not 78. Another Grad Council member said that the current reduction is only to dissertation credit hours. Should we reduce to 60, it would mean 42 didactic minimum credits and 18 dissertation credits. A question came up regarding any programs at WSU that may currently require more than 30 dissertation credit hours. A graduate program officer noted that external program reviews indicate that we have too many didactic credit hours at the expense of research time.

There was next discussion about the current wording limiting the total credit number of dissertation credits for those with candidate status. A graduate program officer suggested the language could state at least 18 and not to exceed 30. The dean asked the Council if any members envisioned that any program would not decrease dissertation credit hours from 30 to 18. Another Grad Council member noted that we simply don't have the resources to support all the required didactic coursework. The financial implications for students were discussed and one Grad Council member said he was eager to move this forward and vote on the issue at hand. The dean said she expected a vote on the reduction of dissertation credit hours at the May meeting. The elimination of the four blocks of 7.5 credits was also discussed and what would happen to students already taking the dissertation credit hour blocks. A Grad

Council member urged the body to apply the reduction to students currently in the dissertation sequence. He also noted that the reduction from 90 to 78 will have minimal impact with students still unable to graduate. Many students are ready to graduate in three years, but they are unable to do so given the credit hour requirements. The ability to repeat the 9991 and 9992 course was next discussed and it was noted that the proposal allows students requiring more time to develop a proper dissertation the needed flexibility.

The dean stated that the reduction from 30 to 18 will be voted on at the next meeting and the removal of the current four blocks of dissertation credits. However, the issue of 'grandfathering' in current students will be discussed with the provost. A Grad Council member asked if a vote could be taken if a motion is made on the floor. This member further stated it appears that a subset of Grad Council can tell the rest of the Grad Council what they can and cannot vote on. The dean responded that the Executive Committee (EC) was given the recommendation from the Provost's PhD committee, which was then brought to the full Grad Council. The dean said a motion can indeed be made to reduce the PhD credit hours to 60. If it is approved, it will go to the provost. However, she said if the recommendation is for 60, we may be sitting on that recommendation for another year. Another Grad Council, who was on the Provost's PhD committee, said the reduction to 60 needs further consideration. She added that the Provost's PhD Committee did not have enough data to feel comfortable with a recommending a minimum of 60. She added that it's not helpful to approve a measure that will only be sent back. Another Grad Council members said the reduction to 18 is low hanging fruit. Take care of that and then get the data to make the further reduction to 60.

Discussion shifted to the issue of a minor in a student's plan of work. A Grad Council member noted that 10 years ago departments were given the discretion to include a minor or a three-credit course in another discipline. He said the change was made so students would not have to find random credits in other programs. The issue of dual degree programs was mentioned in terms of the reduction to 60 credit hours. The issue of 'grandfathering' in current students came up again. It was mentioned that international students currently in PhD programs would benefit from reduced dissertation credit hours.

### **Inclusive Excellence Update**

Pruchnic reported that the Dean's Diversity awards for this year were adjudicated and notifications went out. The Dean mentioned that a student who visited campus as part of the research symposium Scholar's visit was offered a Dean's Diversity fellowship. A faculty member from the student's prospective college was upset saying it was not equitable. The Dean noted that equity means granting access to those who normally don't have access. She welcomed comments or emails on the issue.

### **New Programs and Program Review Committee**

Leff said a graduate certificate in pre-med studies requires Grad Council approval. The proposed SOM program has been successful over many years and essentially was a faculty volunteer program where students were given help in terms of getting into medical school. The grad certificate converts it to a formal program. Joe Dunbar said the certificate would enable the students to be full-time with all of the university's administrative processes in place. A question came up about the requirement for first generation students for admission. It was agreed that the first-generation requirement be expanded to

be more inclusive. Dunbar said students in the program are not/will not be guaranteed admission to the SOM. A minimum of 12 credits is required for the certificate, but it could go up to 15.

### **Awards and Fellowships Update**

Todd Leff said the Rumble report and recommendations were up for a vote following discussion at last month's meeting. He said the SOM representatives would want to make comment. Leff noted that the SOM would take reductions in fellows if the recommendations are adopted, whereas the College of Ed would gain fellowship slots. A graduate program officer said time-to-degree was not a metric considered for distribution in the proposed recommendation. He noted that SOM students in training grants who go on to receive an independent fellowship support line start out as Rumble fellows. Reducing the Rumbles will diminish the SOM's opportunity to seek external support. He added that STEM and social science programs are starkly different. STEM programs have time to degree and external grant support issues to contend with. He said a certain number of Rumbles should go for STEM and a certain number for other disciplines. He added the reduction to SOM will hurt recruitment five years from now and negatively impact the ability to get training grants. There are 110-120 PhD students at the SOM and the Rumble supports them at different points in their programs. Another Grad Council member noted that students on T32 grants are tracked for 15 years with many going to the best centers across the country. Leff said the committee looked at a variety of parameters that would be useful to all programs at the university regardless of discipline. For example, it was impossible to compare someone in an MFA program with a cancer biology student. The parameters of success are so different.

A Grad Council member noted that in 2019, the College of Ed lost 11 GPS scholarships since a committee found they were over-funded. An SOM representative said they do not have GTAs. He added that CLAS has the discretion to shift Rumbles between the social sciences and STEM whereas the SOM does not have that option. Another Grad Council member noted that the proposal addresses a wrong that has been at WSU during his 33 years at the university. He said this proposal is more equitable and fair. There was discussion about how the recommendation would work if a department shifts to another school/college. Leff said a provision could be included in cases where abrupt changes are made.

*A poll was launched to forward the Rumble report and recommendation to the provost for further consideration. The vote was **12 yeas** and **5 nays**. The motion did not carry.*

*A second poll was launched to approve the graduate certificate in the School of Medicine. The measure passed with **15 yeas** and **1 abstention**.*

*A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wood  
Graduate School Program Director

**Amendment to 4/17/24 minutes:**

The Rumble report and recommendation was approved by the Graduate Council following a routine post-meeting validation conducted through Zoom. Twenty-four (24) members of the Graduate Council are eligible to cast votes requiring a simple majority of **13 votes** for a measure to pass. However, the number of voting council members present at the time of the vote was 15, substantially smaller than at the beginning of the meeting (20) according to Zoom. Additionally, three votes were disqualified (2 yeas and 1 nay) since those voting do not have voting privileges in accordance with Graduate Council bylaws. One voting member present did not cast a ballot.

The final vote tally was **10 yeas** and **4 nays** of those who cast ballots. Since 13 members constitute a quorum, the motion passed by a **simple majority** in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (8 is considered a majority vote for 14 votes cast). The Rumble Report will be forwarded to the provost's office for further consideration.

**(PDF of 4/17/24 poll report attached as separate document)**



## **Graduate Council May 15, 2024 Meeting #2**

- I. Welcome from the Chair**
- II. Introduction of new GC members (2024-25)**
  - a. Susan Gabel, Teacher Education, College of Ed
  - b. Amanda Miller, Teacher Education, College of Ed
  - c. Kristen Purrington, Oncology, SOM
  - d. Allana Clarke, Art and Art History, FPCA
  - e. Stephanie Tong, Communication, FPCA (for Fred Vultee, Fall 2024)
  - f. Nancy George, College of Nursing
- III. Election of three Executive Committee members for 2024-25**
  - a. **Nominees**
    - i. Uli Klueh, Biomedical Engineering, ENG
    - ii. Jeremy Kodanko, Chemistry, CLAS
    - iii. David Moss, Law School
- IV. Adjournment**