



## Graduate Council Agenda October 16, 2024

- I. **Report of the Chair**
  - a. Review and approval of September 18, 2024 minutes (pages 2-6)
  - b. Preparation for November Graduate Council meeting
  - c. Update on PhD credit hour reduction proposal
  - d. Seating committee on leave and appeal policies for graduate students
- II. **Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel, Chair)**
  - a. **10/9/24 meeting recap**
- III. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
  - a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee
  - b. Facilities, Support Services & Technology Committee
  - c. **Santanu Mitra**, Budget Committee
  - d. **Stella Resko**, Faculty Affairs Committee
  - e. **Bob Reynolds**, Research Committee
  - f. **Stephen Chrisomalis**, Student Affairs Committee
  - g. **Linda Beale**, Academic Senate President
- IV. **Adjournment**

## PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES



### Graduate Council Minutes September 18, 2024

#### Agenda

- V. Report of the Chair
  - a. Review and approval of May 15, 2024 minutes (pages 2-7)
- VI. Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel, Chair)
  - a. 9/11/24 meeting recap
  - b. Vacant position on Executive Committee 2024-25 (**VOTE**)
- VII. Academic Standards (Jeff Pruchnic)
- VIII. Inclusive Excellence (Jeff Pruchnic)
- IX. New Programs and Program Review Committee (NPPR) (Todd Leff)
  - a. New Programs (**VOTES**)
    - i. INSPIRE  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/?key=746>
    - ii. MED proposals  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/?key=771>  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/?key=770>  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/?key=772>
  - b. Discontinuances (**VOTES**)
    - i. Educational Psychology MED  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/courseleaf/approve/?role=NPPR>
    - ii. Pediatric Anesthesia Graduate Certificate (EACPHS)  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/courseleaf/approve/?role=NPPR>
- X. Awards & Fellowships (Todd Leff)
- XI. Pathway to Faculty
- XII. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons
  - a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee
  - b. Facilities, Support Services & Technology Committee
  - c. **Santanu Mitra**, Budget Committee
  - d. **Chris Kelly**, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
  - e. **Stella Resko**, Faculty Affairs Committee
  - f. **Bob Reynolds**, Research Committee
  - g. **Stephen Chrisomalis**, Student Affairs Committee
  - h. **Linda Beale**, Academic Senate President

### XIII. Adjournment

**Attendees:** Amanda Bryant-Friedrich Maha Albdour, Allana Clarke, Agbaglah Gbemeho, Stephen Chrisomalis, Christine D'Arpa, Andrew Garrett, ,Susan Gabel, Nancy George, Paul Johnson, Christopher Kelly, Ulrike Klueh, Jeremy Kodanko, Todd Leff, Amanda Miller, Kristen Purrington, Leanne Nantais-Smith, Angulique Outlaw, Lisa Panisch, Jeff Pruchnic, Kristen Purrington, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Bob Reynolds, Chris Roberts, Preethy Samuel, Andrea Tangari, Stephanie Tong, Mary Wood, Zhengping Yi, Young Ro-Yoon, Kelly Young

**Absent with Notice:** Paul Beasley, Linda Beale

**Absent without notice:** Santanu Mitra, Sally Villasenor, Linda Hazlett, Dan Walz

**Guest:** Tamie Augustine (College of Education), Sokol Todi (School of Medicine)

The Dean called the meeting to order and called for approval of minutes the May 15, 2024 minutes. Hearing no corrections or additions, the minutes stand as written. She next called the roll of voting Grad Council members.

The Dean reported that the PhD credit hour reduction was not on the September BoG's meeting agenda. She said it will be on the October agenda. She then announced the retirement of Associate Dean Todd Leff. There will be an application process to fill the position.

#### **Executive Committee (EC)**

Chair Preethy Samuel announced a vacancy on the EC following the death of David Moss. She said a leave policy and grievance policy will be discussed this year. She said the next order of business was to elect a replacement. The Dean said three nominations were made, but two rescinded their nominations. A call was made for nominations from the floor. Agbaglah Gbemeho from the College of Engineering put his name in nomination in addition to the previous nomination from Kristen Purrington from the School of Medicine. The Dean asked each candidate to speak to why they wanted to serve on the EC. Purrington said she would facilitate and prioritize positive change. Agbaglah said he would represent the voice of the students in his department. It was noted that there is currently no representation from the SOM on the Executive Committee and one committee member from Engineering is serving on the EC. The vote for the position will occur during the NPPR votes.

Samuel returned to the need for a grievance policy. Jeff Pruchnic noted that a general appeals policy is in place, but it's not connected well with the individual college policies. A Grad Council member said a new policy may add unneeded layers between the college and the university level. The Dean cautioned that future discussions should be mindful of the needs of the entire

university. Another question came up about how a grievance policy would intersect with the GEOC policy given there a clear division of labor between grievances and complaints from represented GAs. There could be situations where students would have two different venues for grievances. The Dean noted that people come to Graduate School in various situations with no pathway forward because they are unsure which jurisdiction they fall under. A policy would provide clarity and pathways for different kinds of complaints. Another Grad Council member noted that a general policy would eliminate the need to “reinvent the wheel” with each individual case since it would provide guidance. It was noted that a policy should provide clear instructions on where to appeal, however, appealing to the Grad School is new. The Dean said that in many instances situations are complicated and they end up in litigation since there is no specialized group that interacts with students during a grievance. A Grad Council member said the basis is to provide a place where different types of problems can be identified. It would help to categorize the general category of grievances, so students don’t feel as if they are all alone. The Dean noted that there is not a clear understanding of the process across campus.

The next topic was a graduate student leave policy. It was mentioned that GTAs do have maternity leave in their contract. It was mentioned that this can be complicated when students are paid off a grant. A Grad Council member cautioned against the Grad School intervening in employment issues. He stated that some issues clearly fall under the Grad School, however employment issues do not. He added that the Grad Council should not be resolving disputes between advisors/Pis and students.

The Graduate Student Association was discussed next. They have received recognition from the DOSO office and have set up a website and social media accounts. They are students at all levels and across disciplines.

### **Sherry Quinn, Director of Graduate Admissions**

Quinn said that following a summer ruling by the Supreme Court that applicant reviewers will no longer be able to view race and ethnicity information. She said the information will be available if a report is requested, however the information will be de-identified.

### **Jeff Pruchnic, Academic Standards Committee**

Pruchnic reported that the committee reviewed bulletin language which will need to be changed if the BoG approves the PhD credit hour reduction proposal. Currently, students must have completed 50 credits to qualify for candidacy. Standards proposed that the candidacy threshold is 75% of the total curriculum credits of a program. The current standard of 50 is at 83% of the total curriculum credits. The second change concerns the 7,000-level requirement. Currently 30 out of 60 credits are required. The Standards proposal lowers that to 15 credits, which is about 36% of the curriculum credits. The Registrar’s office has said they will facilitate the change once the Grad Council approves the measure. It was noted that the 15-credit

standard is a minimum standards and programs can go above that threshold. No changes were recommended at this time to the transfer credit policy.

### **Inclusive Excellence Committee**

Pruchnic reported the committee met September 9<sup>th</sup> and at the October meeting will revise the application process for the Dean's Diversity Award.

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

Todd Leff said that six proposals require Grad Council approval (two are discontinuances). Sokol Todi said the INSPIRE program has over 70 faculty from across campus. The program accommodates all types of neuroscience at WSU. The administrative home for the program is EACPHS. Students will take a core set of courses then diverge into specific fields. A Grad Council member asked if the 90-credit degree will be changed once the BoG votes on the PhD credit hour reduction. Todi said INSPIRE plans to reduce the program to 64 credits. A second question came up regarding faculty workload. Todi said a plan is in place to streamline courses that are offered early on to avoid duplication and reduce teaching load. He added that the Provost has provided a letter of support dedicated to funding for 1-2 years for the four schools in the INSPIRE program. Additionally, a T-32 award and the ability of students to write F awards will provide financial backing. Todi said he hopes to enroll four students in Fall 2025. The intention is to have all courses listed as interdisciplinary across the various departments and programs.

The discussion shifted to three new master's programs from the College of Education. Tammy Augustine said the revisions were necessary due to changes from the Michigan Department of Education. This same process was used to align undergraduate programs and now they are being done at the master's level.

Leff said the vote will be for the INSPIRE proposal and the three new master's programs and the two discontinuances.

*A Zoom survey was launched for votes on the NPPR proposals. Results of the survey were announced later in the meeting.*

### **Pathway to Faculty Update**

The Dean reported on behalf of Angulique Outlaw and stated that the Pathway applications for departments will be launched shortly. She said the Mellon Foundation grant is only for humanities disciplines. Twenty one have been hired so far. She said there will be eight Pathway to Faculty positions in the next round.

## Reports of the Academic Senate Committee Liaisons

Two vacancies exist on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the Facilities, Support Services and Technology (FSST) Committee.

Steve Chrisomalis and Stella Resko reported their respective committees have not yet met.

Robert Reynolds reported the **Research Committee** met with VPR Obasi and he presented his plans to advance research at WSU. In January, he will announce 4-5 initiatives that reflect significant projects in health and transportation, among other areas. He will also look at how interdisciplinary projects should work in terms of resources and responsibilities. He will be a permanent member of the Senate's Research Committee for the rest of the year. VPR Obasi will also be invited to an upcoming Graduate Council meeting. The Dean noted the Provost had been invited to Grad Council and hopefully she too will be able to attend a future meeting.

Steve Chrisomalis reported the **Student Affairs Committee** met to discuss campus policies for expression and engagement. Recommendations have been sent to the Provost to revamp the current policies.

A Grad Council member asked if the PhD credit hour reductions are expected to take effect in fall 2025. It was stated that no department will be forced to make the change. The expectation is that programs who want to reduce the dissertation credit hours will be able to do so by winter 2025. However, departments are not forced to follow a timeline. Another question was raised about the curricular credit hours. It was stated that many programs on campus fall under national accreditation bodies and the reduction to 42 curricular credit hours will not be possible.

*The results of the Zoom survey for the NPPR proposals and election of the Executive Committee member were displayed. All NPPR proposals were approved and Kristen Purrington was elected to the open seat on the Executive Committee.*

The Dean said that the Executive Committee sets the agenda for the Graduate Council and encouraged members to contact Samuel with items for consideration by the Executive Committee.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wood  
Graduate School Program Director