


## Graduate Council Meeting January 17, 2024 Agenda

- I. **Report of the Chair**
  - a. Review and approval of 11/15/23 Graduate Council minutes (page 2)
  - b. Campus to Career initiative (Ahmad Ezzeddine, Vice President for Academic Student Affairs and Global Engagement)
- II. **Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel)**
  - a. Recap 1/10/24 Executive Committee meeting
- III. **NPPR (Todd Leff)**
  - a. **Program Inactivation: Applied Behavioral Analysis Graduate Certificate:**  
*CourseLeaf document:* [Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate \(wayne.edu\)](#)
  - b. **Revision to Existing Program: Educational Leadership Policy Studies (EdD).** *CourseLeaf document:* [Educational Leadership Policy Studies EDD \(wayne.edu\)](#)
- IV. **Awards and Fellowships update (Todd Leff)**
- V. **Academic Standards (Jeff Pruchnic)**
  - a. Administrative Co-Director Proposal ) (ATTACHED IN CALENDAR INVITE)  [GC AS 11.13.23 Dissertation Committees.docx](#)
- VI. **Inclusive Excellence Committee update**
- VII. **Pathway to Faculty Update (Dean Amanda Bryant-Friedrich)**
- VIII. **Student Senate Report (Mohamed Dobaja)**
- IX. **New Business**
- X. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
  - a. Mitra Santanu, **Budget Committee**
  - b. Christopher Kelly, **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee**
  - c. Fred Vultee, **Curriculum and Instruction Committee**
  - d. Robert Reynolds, **Facilities, Support Services & Technology Committee**
  - e. Stella Resko, **Faculty Affairs Committee**
  - f. Jeremy Kodanko, **Research Committee**
  - g. Stephen Chrisomalis, **Student Affairs Committee**
  - h. Linda Beale, **Academic Senate President**
- XI. **Adjournment**

# Graduate Council Meeting November 15, 2023 Minutes

- XII. Report of the Chair
  - a. Review and approval of 10/18/23 Graduate Council minutes
  - b. Development of an AI policy for dissertations (U-Toronto example)
  - c. GTA raise issue
- XIII. Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel)
  - a. Recap 11/8/23 Executive Committee meeting
  - b. Academic Senate Policy on medical withdrawal (attachment)
- XIV. NPPR (Christine D'Arpa for Todd Leff)
  - a. New programs
    - i. MS in Construction Management (Ece Yaprak):  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/?key=753>
    - ii. MS in Construction Management (online) (Ece Yaprak):  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/?key=750>
    - iii. MS in Systems Engineering (online) (Ratnu Babu Chinnam & Steve Rapp):  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/?key=750>
    - iv. Joint MBA-MSA (Cheol Lee) (Joey VanDevender for Dr. Lee):  
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/?key=755>
- XV. Awards and Fellowships Committee (written update from chair Leanne Nantais-Smith)
- XVI. Inclusive Excellence Committees Updates (update from chair Jasmine Ulmer)
- XVII. Pathway to Faculty Update (Dean Amanda Bryant-Friedrich)
- XVIII. Student Senate Report (Mohamed Dobaja)
- XIX. New Business
- XX. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons
  - a. Mitra Santanu, Budget Committee
  - b. Christopher Kelly, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
  - c. Fred Vultee, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
  - d. Robert Reynolds, Facilities, Support Services & Technology Committee
  - e. Stella Resko, Faculty Affairs Committee
  - f. Jeremy Kodanko, Research Committee
  - g. Stephen Chrisomalis, Student Affairs Committee
  - h. Linda Beale, Academic Senate President
- XXI. Adjournment

## Attendees:

Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Linda Beale, Paul Beasley, Stephen Chrisomalis, Christine D'Arpa, Mohamed Dabaja, Joey VanDevender, Agbaglah Gbemeho, Tamara Hew-Butler, Paul Johnson, Christopher Kelly, Ulrike Klueh, Jeremy Kodanko, Cheol Lee, Larry Matherly, David Moss, Deborah Patterson, Lisa Panisch, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Mitra Santanu, Preethy Samuel, Andrea Tangari, Fred Vultee, Mary Wood, Zhengping Yi, Young Ro-Yoon, Kelly Young

### **Absent with Notice:**

Ramona Benkert, April Vallerand, Sally Villasenor, Jeff Pruchnic, Jeffrey Martin, Andrew Garrett, Sarah Pearline, Todd Leff, Angulique Outlaw, Jennifer Wareham, Bob Reynolds, Jasmine Ulmer

### **Absent without Notice:**

Daniel Walz, Linda Hazlett, Nathan Fisher

The Dean called the meeting to order and asked if there were any revisions or corrections to the October minutes.

*Hearing none the minutes were approved as written.*

The Dean commented on recent events surrounding the Provost and commented that we are now in an interim phase where we need to manage the many graduate education initiatives that are currently underway.

## AI Policy for Doctoral Dissertations

A Grad Council member noted that in his discipline there is real concern about that materials in a dissertation using AI may be subsumed and used by a corporate entity that owns the AI program. This type of activity will not be part of the IRB process as it currently stands. This becomes especially concerning for disciplines that use qualitative data. This boils down to giving a private corporation human subjects data. Linda Beale said the guidelines for syllabi have been made. She noted that generative AI systems do scrape data from everywhere possible. Another big question concerns what should be cited in research. The Computer Science Department has used a generic model which can be customized for each student. It was also noted that UM has a paid version of Chat GPT embedded into Canvas giving every student equal access. A question came up about enforcing an AI policy once it's in place. Clearly, any policy developed will require revisions given the rapidly changing environment.

Use of AI for admissions was discussed next. All PhD programs ask for a personal statement. It was noted that some universities have been sued for accusing students of using AI. The Dean noted that we need to educate ourselves around this issue. It was added that it's apparent when Chat GPT has been used to generate a personal statement. The discussion concluded when the Dean said the use of AI in admissions and dissertations may be a good starting point. Another Grad Council returned to the issues of modification of data and privacy issues. Linda Beale suggested inviting Richard Pineau to the Grad Council. He chaired the Academic Senate ad hoc AI committee.

## GTA salary issue

In the most recent salary negotiations with the GEOC, the Dean reported that it was decided to that the GTAs would take a bonus. Perhaps this was due to inflation at the time. So, they opted for a one-time bonus. A Grad Council member said it would be helpful if historical data on GTA salaries could be provided by the Committee on PhD Education. The Dean noted part of the discussion must address the disparities in salaries depending on the discipline. She added that the Michigan legislature has passed a bill allowing graduate research assistants to be recognized as employees. If this is signed, they will be able to unionize. They could join the GEOC or create a separate union. It was noted that WSU is falling

behind Midwest peers in terms of GRA compensation. UM receives substantial bonuses, and we may need to wait a long time before negotiating a new contract to address these gaps. Recent HR problems resulted in students getting delayed paychecks. A Grad Council members noted the escalating cost of living in Detroit. However, if we raise salaries, we will grapple with cutting the overall number of GTAs. Another Grad Council member noted that international students are another vulnerable group. These students struggle to make it to first pay period. University housing came up next and it was noted that there is only a 60% occupancy rate. The Dean said this has been on her agenda for two years. Housing is outsourced to a private company making it difficult. Housing, childcare and medical coverage are top concerns said one Grad Council member according to a recent survey. Linda Beale mentioned that there has been discussion about dedicating University Towers to graduate student housing. The Dean said it's important to have the graduate students advocate for housing and use their voice. It was noted that most grad students don't live on campus since it's too expensive. An advanced payment office was mentioned to help students coming to campus financially survive the first few weeks.

## Executive Committee

Preethy Samuel recapped the 11/8/23 meeting. She said graduate faculty criteria was discussed. Three areas in an April 2021 task force report were identified as areas needing additional consideration by the Executive Committee. A medical withdrawal policy developed by the Academic Senate was also discussed by Grad Council as a whole. There was some discussion about the policy only applying to undergrads, but it was determined that the policy covers grad students as well. Linda Beale said the policy will go to the President and Board of Governors. It allows a 100% tuition refund regardless of when in the semester the student withdraws. The withdrawal will not appear on the student's transcript. The Dean said the policy will be sent to the Academic Standards Committee to ensure we are prepared for the policy once enacted. A Grad Council member who sits on both the Student Affairs Committee and Grad Council said the policy will benefit grad student who will no longer have to take a tuition hit and will enable students the option of withdrawing from some, but not all classes. The old policy required all or nothing withdrawal. He said it may be helpful for Academic Standards to issue a statement providing guidance to program directors once the policy is in place.

## NPPR Committee

Christine D'Arpa said three new programs were being proposed. The first is a MS in construction management, which will be offered as both a traditional and online program. Ece Yaprak from Engineering Technology reported the program was previously in Civil Engineering but did not take off. Her department already has the undergrad construction management program. A question came up about online students having access to internships. Yaprak said there is plans to eventually offer the online students internships and that both programs have identical coursework and that students in the traditional course have the option of an internship, but it is not required. Another question came up about corporate entities or employers viewing the traditional vs. online program more favorably.

*A poll was launched and the traditional and online construction management MS was approved.*

MS in Systems Engineering (online) was next considered. Ratnu Babu Chinnam said his department (Industrial and Systems Engineering) had five different master's programs. This program would be entirely online. He said the program will be primarily asynchronous. Beale

noted that ensuring quality in online programs is an important consideration going forward. Chinnam said every program is asynchronous, but it does have synchronous assessment portions.

*A poll was launched and the MS in systems engineering was approved.*

The joint MBA/MSA in accounting followed. Cheol Lee from MISB noted that the current MBA does not provide enough credit for taking the CPA exam. It described the program as getting two degrees at the same time. He said 5-6 prospective students have already expressed an interest in the program.

*A poll was launched and the joint MBA/MSA degree was approved.*

## Update on Awards & Fellowships, Inclusive Excellence and Pathway to Faculty

The Dean provided the following written updates from the Awards & Fellowships and Inclusive Excellence committees:

The **Awards and Fellowship Committee**, tasked with making recommendations on the Rumble Award - its purpose, usage, distribution, and financial award size, has completed the following preparatory work:

1. Completion of data collection on Rumble usage and management from two sources:
  - a. Survey completed by all programs.
  - b. Graduate School PhD office and data management office.
2. Established metrics for current Rumble usage and distribution.
3. Prepared comparison metrics for recommendations using three-, five-, and seven-year data tables.

Final steps:

1. The committee is reviewing the final recommendations based on data results.
2. A final recommendation will be written and voted on by the committee in December 2023 or January 2024.
3. The final report will be submitted to the Graduate Council for review/discussion in January 2024 or February 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leanne Nantais-Smith, Chair  
Todd Leff

During the October meeting of the **Inclusive Excellence Committee**, the committee discussed the Dean's Diversity Fellowship. In particular, the committee discussed the possibility of a pilot program that could be concurrent with the existing application process for Winter 2024 that would allow students to also apply directly for the award. Natalie Walker from the Data Management office and Karen Schramm from the PhD office were kind enough to join the meeting and offer insights and respond to questions about potential application infrastructures.

Jasmine Ulmer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & Program Coordinator  
Educational Evaluation and Research  
College of Education, Wayne State University

Regarding Pathway to Faculty, the Dean said those departments that have been awarded a fellow undergo inclusive excellence training which includes professional identity and the hiring process. Three departments did the training and the programs have written their position description ads. The hiring for these three positions occurs winter 2024. The Dean said the caliber of fellows recruited for the program has been high.

## Student Senate Report

Mohamed Dabaja said C&IT has given the green light to install additional free software at the library for WSU students. He said there are thousands of commencement gowns that had been previously purchased which will be available to students as rentals. In terms of the GTA salary issue, he said it's important that students are more vocal on this topic given the importance to grad students.

### New Business

A Grad Council member recommended that an OWL camera be used for hybrid Grad Council meetings to improve the quality of interaction between those in-person and online. This would provide better video and audio of those in the in-person meeting.

## Academic Senate Liaisons Reports

### *Budget Committee*

Santanu Mitra reported on a meeting with Development and Alumni Affairs. Their goal is to raise \$105M. This is a realistic goal and they have achieved a more encouraging ROI. They have started a 10-month competency training program for gift officers. There is a new DEI officer. Events are being organized to foster alumni engagement with the outgoing and incoming WSU presidents. The Dean reported that she meets monthly with the VP for Development and will discuss any graduate initiatives from the Council that come forward with him.

### *Diversity and Inclusion Committee*

Chris Kelly said a climate study will be launched shortly. There was also a presentation regarding more inclusive language for holiday accommodations in syllabi.

### *Faculty Affairs Committee*

Stella Resko said Naida Simon presented on the Ombudsperson's office. There is discussion on a faculty club and the space for a club.

### *Research Committee*

Jeremy Kodanko said major points of discussion have been on export control and compliance when faculty take laptops out of the country for international conferences. There was discussion regarding inconsistent policies and the length of time it takes to get approval. There is a need for more user-

friendly forms. There also was a presentation from the IRB which said it's roughly a 10-day turn around for IRB approval. IRB forms have been streamlined.

*Student Affairs Committee*

Steve Chrisomalis said Daryl Gardner made a presentation which mostly pertain to undergrads. Kelly Dormer made a presentation of First Year Interest Groups (FIGS). He added that the Academic Success Center has workshops open to graduate students. They focus on wellness and basic skills.

*Linda Beale, President, Academic Senate*

She returned to the topic of disclosures pertaining to foreign influence and export controls that were discussed by the Research Committee. She said many faculty don't realize that they need to disclose if they are teaching at a foreign university. Previously, the disclosure form was not coordinated with the conflict of interest form. There are two categories of disclosure: the NIH/NSF disclosure and the category of country to determine countries that are of a concern. She said they are working with OVPR and the General Counsel's office to determine what should be disclosed and what does not need to be disclosed. An FAQ would help to add clarity with specific examples of the kinds of disclosures that are necessary. She said a graduate student going to a conference in a foreign country would most likely also fall under this policy.

*A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wood  
Graduate School Program Director