



Agenda December 18, 2024, 2-3:30 p.m.

- I. **Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of November 20, 2024 minutes (pages 2-5)
 - b. Doctoral student leave policy working group
- II. **Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel, Chair)**
 - a. **12/11/24 meeting recap**
- III. **Academic Standards, Jeff Pruchnic**
 - a. **Vote: Three Bulletin changes following reduction of PhD credit hours ((PDF attached to calendar invite))**
- IV. **New Programs and Program Review (NPPR), Todd Leff**
 - a. **Vote: Graduate Certificate in Basic Medical Sciences (SOM) (vote) ((PDF attached to calendar invite))**
- V. **Faculty judges for Feb. 25, 2025 Graduate Research Symposium (Todd Leff)**
- VI. **Update on credit hour program revisions (Todd Leff)**
- VII. **Inclusive Excellence Committee (Jeff Pruchnic)**
- VIII. **Pathway to Faculty (Angulique Outlaw)**
- IX. **Student Senate Report, (Chris Roberts)**
- X. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
 - a. **Vacancy**, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
 - b. **Gilou Agbaglah**, 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
- XI. **Adjournment**

Previous Month's Minutes

Agenda **November 20, 2024, 2-3:30 p.m.**

- XII. **Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of October 16, 2024 minutes (pages 2-5)
 - b. Presentation by Provost Laurie Lauzon Clabo (2-2:30 p.m.)
 - c. Presentation by Vice President for Research Ezenmari Obasi (2:30-3 p.m.)
- XIII. **Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel, Chair)**
 - a. **11/13/24 meeting recap**
- XIV. **Academic Standards, Jeff Pruchnic**
 - a. **PhD credit hour reduction update**
 - b. **Graduate Bulletin changes (discussion)**
- XV. **New Programs and Program Review (NPPR), Todd Leff**
 - Master's of Health Care Administration, **(vote)**
<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/courseleaf/approve/?role=NPPR>
- XVI. **Awards and Fellowships Committee, Todd Leff**
- XVII. **Inclusive Excellence Committee, Jeff Pruchnic**
- XVIII. **Pathway to Faculty, Angulique Outlaw:**
- XIX. **Student Senate Report, Chris Roberts**
- XX. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
 - a. **Vacancy**, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
 - b. **Gilou Agbaglah**, 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
- XXI. **Adjournment**

Attendees: Amanda Bryant-Friedrich Maha Albdour, Linda Beale, Paul Beasley, Ed Cackett, Allana Clarke, Christine D'Arpa, Gilou Agbaglah, The P Stephen Chrisomalis, Andrew Garrett, ,Susan Gabel, Linda Hazlett, Paul Johnson, Christopher Kelly, Ulrike Klueh, Jeremy Kodanko, Todd Leff, Amanda Miller, Angulique Outlaw, Kristen Purrington, Leanne Nantais-Smith, Lisa Panisch, Deborah Patterson, Kelly Pfeifer, Jeff Pruchnic, Kristen Purrington, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Bob Reynolds, Chris Roberts, Preethy Samuel, Andrea Tangari, Sally Villasenor, Dan Walz, Jen Wareham, Mary Wood, Zhengping Yi, Young Ro-Yoon, Kelly Young.

Absent with Notice: Santanu Mitra, Stephanie Tong

Guests: Laurie Lauzon Clabo, Ezenmari Obasi, Sara Maher

Minutes November 20, 2024, 2-3:30 p.m.

The Dean called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the October 16, 2024 minutes. Hearing no corrections or additions, the minutes stand as written.

Provost Laurie Lauzon

The Provost discussed the reorganization of the Division of Academic Affairs. She said the vice provost roles under the reorg are more tightly aligned to support the University's mission. The Dean asked how graduate education is incorporated into Academic Affairs. The Provost said the Graduate School is one of the 13 schools/colleges and not an academic support unit.

The Provost then addressed a question of challenges and said enrollment. She said she was concerned about the decline in master's enrollment. She said this year's increase in master's may be a hopeful trend. She pointed out new programs in MISB, Social Work and Law as factors driving increased enrollment. She also cited the 75% increase in Nursing.

She then discussed the improved graduate rates among undergrads, but said the rise has not been equitably distributed across student groups. She then moved on to interdisciplinary programs, saying that a joint task force has been launched. She noted that today's students are more interested in studying fields that position them to work in fields such as sustainable development or health inequities as opposed to a specific major or discipline. She noted that faculty workload in interdisciplinary areas is not recognized equitably. She said the task force will look at where the programs should be housed, what should curricular approval look like and how should the funding be managed.

Preethy Samuel asked the Provost about leave policies for GTAs and GRAs. The Provost said explicit policies and procedures for such issues have been lacking. She noted WSU grad students have complicated trajectories and we want to support them yet ensure their progress to degree is not interrupted. Samuel asked about the status of the report on the Rumble Fellowship. The Provost said the development of consensus across campus is important and not necessarily the speed of recommended changes, which may derail support.

VPR Ezemenari Obasi

The VPR said he had been doing town halls across campus. New people have been hired to lead tech commercialization and Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA). He said getting a handle on the budget has been a key priority. He held budget hearings with every institute, center and core. He said the IRB office is understaffed compared to national norms. Additional hiring and a rapid response team have been brought on. He has engaged Federal lobbyists to determine how the new administration will change the federal research landscape. 75% of our research comes from HHS/NIH. He said it's important to go after a more diverse pool of funding. He said better infrastructure is needed for those applying for training grants. Work is underway to have a centralized office for this kind of data. The goal is to get back to a top 100 R&D university. This will be a heavy lift, but that is the goal. He added that everyone in his division has a link in their email signature where you can review your experience with the VPR office.

He added the division employees are looking to deepen their 'soft' skills to ensure that the campus has a positive experience with the division.

He was asked about the WSU Open initiative. He said it's a concierge service for anyone who wants to engage with WSU can do so in one office. This initiative will engage a wide variety of non-profits, corporations, etc. WSU Open has been in operation for 5 weeks and has had 45-40 inquiries.

Samuel asked about rumors concerning reduced support for NIH training grants. The VPR said Rachel Wallace in his office is leading efforts to provide that infrastructure. He added that there were over \$2 million in annual commitments made in a previous budget to things that were not required by the external funders. He said it's important to be strategic in how we allocate limited dollars. He added that commitments from his office will be made on the front end of the grant submission process. Samuel then asked about PIs who cover student tuition on their grants. The VPR said he does not believe in the practice of putting student tuition on grants, but it begs the question on where the money will come from. One approach is to charge a small percentage of 5-6% to the grant to deal with the university shortfall. The next question concerned the extension of faculty awards for postdoc support. He said a clear ROI. He said postdocs need to be more than glorified research assistants and faculty needs to provide professional development to postdocs. He restated that all internal funding mechanisms are providing a good service to the university given our limited resources.

The Dean asked a question about WSU's mission of access and resources for everyone. The VPR stated that WSU's commitment to access and the city of Detroit was a draw for him. He said it's important to demonstrate that programs and initiatives are impacting the community in positive ways. He noted we have to think about how we are talking about what we do without giving up on what we do.

Academic Standards, Jeff Pruchnic

A special streamlined authorization to drop to 18 credit hours for dissertation credits is in place following BoG approval of the PhD credit hour reduction proposal. As of Nov. 8th, 39 programs signed up to drop dissertation credits. An FAQ has been posted to the Grad School website providing additional information on the process. He next moved to proposed bulletin changes following the BoG action. Academic Standards proposes lowering the requirement from 50 to 30 credits to qualify for candidacy. A question came up about transfer credits and Pruchnic stated that the current maximum is 32 credits. Academic Standards recommended keeping the 32 cap. The Committee further recommended a minimum of 15 credits of 7000-level coursework. He moved on to the PhD residence requirement requiring 32 credits in residence and explained that it was still on the books and the recommendation is to strike this requirement from the bulletin.

NPPR, Todd Leff

The master's in health care administration will be voted on. EACPHS consulted with the business school and NPPR recommends approval. Paul Beasley said graduates of such programs are highly sought after and the business school introduced some of the electives into the program. Likewise, MBA students could take course in the MHA program. There is an executive and non-executive track. Those in the executive track could apply for 9 prior learning credits. The program will be offered as a hybrid with an

elective internship at the end of the program. The hybrid format would allow the program to be offered nationally and internationally. A question came up from Linda Beale about the program being offered in the new School of Public Health and giving credit for prior learning or work. Beasley said work experience would not supplement the required four key courses. Prior work experience would count as elective credits. Beale said this still does not address the issue of determining the worthiness of the work experience. She noted that it's important to address the issue of quality and the excellence and not simply the revenue generation of such programs. The Dean agreed and noted that the process for determining what prior learning can translate into course credit has not yet been determined. However, she said it was important to get the program established given the demand for this kind of program. It was agreed that the executive track with the prior learning credits component would be removed from the motion and the program would be voted on.

While the motion was being amended, Beale said there are concerns over the WSU Open announcement. There seems to be a presumption that WSU graduate students might become free advisors to corporations. This raises issues about faculty IP given away with appropriate discussion. There was also discussion about corporations suggesting specific curriculum and courses. She said it shows a lack of understanding about the faculty governance process. She mentioned engineering courses created by Tata Technologies taught by WSU faculty. Some faculty reported that this was promoted by a former dean who had not gone through the appropriate curricular approval processes. She asked Grad Council members to be aware of this kind of thing going forward.

A Zoom survey was emailed to voting Grad Council members on the MHA proposal from EACPHS with the Executive Track component removed. The measure was approved unanimously.

The Dean called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wood
Graduate School Program Director