



## Graduate Council Meeting March 20, 2024

### Agenda

- I. Report of the Chair
  - a. Review and approval of 2/21/24 Graduate Council minutes (page 2)
- II. Executive Committee (Preethy Samuel)
  - a. Interdisciplinary PhD programs
  - b. Rumble Fellowships
- III. NPPR update (Todd Leff)
- IV. Awards and Fellowships Committee Update (Todd Leff and Leanne Nantais-Smith)
- V. Inclusive Excellence Committee update (Dean Amanda for Jeff Pruchnic)
- VI. Pathway to Faculty Update (Angulique Outlaw)
- VII. New Business
- VIII. 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
- IX. Adjournment

Upcoming meetings: 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesdays 4/17/24 and 5/15/24

**\*\*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\*\***

# Graduate Council Meeting February 21, 2024

## Minutes

- X. **Report of the Chair**
  - a. Review and approval of 1/17/24 Graduate Council minutes
  - b. Provost's Committee on PhD Education
  - c. Role of Graduate School in graduate admissions
  - d. Resignation of Student Senate Representative Mohamed Doboja
- XI. **Executive Committee (Tamara Hew-Butler for Preethy Samuel)**
  - a. Recap 2/14/24 Executive Committee meeting
- XII. **NPPR (Todd Leff)**
  - a. Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program (EACPHS) [Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program \(wayne.edu\)](#)
  - b. MA in Teaching Artistry (FPCA) [MA in Teaching Artistry \(wayne.edu\)](#)
- XIII. **Awards and Fellowships Committee Report and Recommendations (Todd Leff and Leanne Nantais-Smith)**
- XIV. **Academic Standards (Jeff Pruchnic)**
  - a. Administrative Co-Director Proposal (*document attached above in calendar invite*)  
**(VOTE)**
- XV. **Graduate Research Symposium Preview (Feb. 28, 2024)**
- XVI. **Inclusive Excellence Committee update**
- XVII. **Pathway to Faculty Update (Angulique Outlaw)**
- XVIII. **New Business**
- XIX. **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**
- XX. **Adjournment**

**Attendees:**

Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Linda Beale, Stephen Chrisomalis, Christine D'Arpa, Andrew Garrett, Agbaglah Gbemeh, Tamara Hew-Butler, Paul Johnson, Christopher Kelly, Ulrike Klueh, Jeremy Kodanko, Jeffrey Martin, Todd Leff, Larry Matherly, David Moss, Angulique Outlaw, Leanne Nantais-Smith, Lisa Panisch, Deborah Patterson, Sarah Pearline, Jeff Pruchnic, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Bob Reynolds, Preethy Samuel, Andrea Tangari, April Vallerand, Sally Villasenor, Fred Vultee, Jennifer Wareham, Mary Wood, Zhengping Yi, Young Ro-Yoon, Kelly Young

**Absent without Notice:**

Mitra Santanu, Paul Beasley, Daniel Walz, Linda Hazlett, Nathan Fisher

**Guests:**

Doreen Head, EACPHS

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

*Hearing none the minutes were approved as written.*

**Provost's Committee on PhD Education**

The Dean said the committee was seated to produce the report in March 2023. She reported the names of faculty who sat on the various subcommittees of the overall committee. The first was the **Subcommittee on Tuition Funding and Credit Hours** which made four recommendations:

- A 78-credit minimum PhD with 18 dissertation credit hours (instead of the current 30).
- Dropping the 7.5 dissertation credit block requirement.
- The possibility of a further reduction of minimum credits from 78 to 60 after an evaluation of costs and the needs of individual departments.
- The elimination of the tuition charges on grants based on input from the S/Cs.

It was noted that the Graduate Council earlier had passed a proposal to reduce PhD credit hours and that proposal will be reviewed in relation to that made by the Provost's committee.

The **Subcommittee on Allocation and Support** recommends:

- S/Cs should track students who receive GA funding and report outcomes for each funded student to include courses taught, research output, time-to-degree, and employment, among others every 3-5 years.
- Future GA allocations should be based on these output metrics to provide evidence-based support for the redistribution of scarce resources.
- If more immediate needs necessitate an immediate reduction, WSU should implement an across-the-board cut to general fund assistantships that impacts all S/Cs equally.

- Given that historical precedent is causing inequities, WSU should consider the 2017 recommendation that suggests use of an RCM model to allocate GAs and leaving a small percentage eligible for central reallocation.
- Reconsideration of the distinction between GRAs, GTAs and GSAs and combining them into a holistic single designation.

The Dean noted the Provost will review the recommendations and may decide the metrics described earlier are not all relevant. A process would be developed that could be stored at the institutional level. One metric, research output, can be tricky to measure. She added that most programs at the doctoral level are already tracking their students. A GC member said the IDP can be instrumental in collecting basic tracking information.

Discussion returned to the across-the-board cuts for general fund GAs. It was noted that data does not exist to make such a reduction other than across the board. The issue of increasing stipends for GAs was raised and it was noted that negotiations with the GEOC could result in salary increases triggering a reduction in GA positions.

The **Subcommittee on Measurement of Student Success** concluded:

- Clear measurement of student success across the university is difficult because of disciplinary differences, different stakeholder definitions of success and shifting attitudes on what makes a PhD student. It is difficult to measure these successes outside of the departmental level.
- The university lacks meaningful, consistent and reliable data across S/Cs.
- Implementation of mechanisms of success such as completion, time-to-degree, post graduate employment across all S/Cs and individual units with the recognition of disciplinary differences.

The issue of tracking part-time doctoral students and the challenges that presents was raised. The Dean noted that it is difficult to track students who don't follow traditional paths. She added that these students have an impact on the recommendations of the Allocation and Support and Measurement of Student Success subcommittees.

The Subcommittee on Support of Student Success recommends that the University offer additional services to all graduate students as follows:

- Require 0 credit RCR training for all graduate students, including master's students.
- Require a second 0 credit soft skills course for all graduate students taught by content experts from the university focusing on conflict resolution, structure of grad education, building resilience and how to manage time, teamwork and communication.
- Advertise individual workshops throughout the university to expand training opportunities.
- Survey grad students to determine unmet needs and catalog ongoing student success initiatives.

The Dean noted the data subcommittee provided information to the overall committee and the subcommittees but was not charged with providing recommendations.

She said there no additional information on the role of the Grad School and admissions (agenda item 1c) from the Council of Deans or the Provost.

## Executive Committee

Tamara Hew-Butler reported on behalf of Preethy Samuel who been away. She said the 2/14/24 EC meeting focused on AI and waiting for the Academic Senate to publish their recommendations. Interdisciplinary programs were also discussed and the issue concerning where such programs should be housed.

## NPPR

Todd Leff reported that two master's programs in Engineering were approved recently by the BoG after being approved by GC in November 2023. He said two new proposals would be presented today and voting would take place later by a Qualtrics poll. The first program is a master's in Teaching Artistry from FPCA. Kelly Young from FPCA said the program was originally created in 2012 as a master's in Theater and Dance. The program enrolls both PhD students and those in the industry who need the degree for teaching certification. He noted the MFA in theatre is geared towards performance professionals. He said the title "teaching artistry" highlights the uniqueness of the degree program.

The second program presented is a doctorate in occupational therapy. Doreen Head said trends in the discipline are moving away from the master's to doctoral education. She said the credit hour requirement will go from 93 (master's) to 103 (doctoral) with an additional \$10-15K in tuition for the doctoral degree. She said the credit hour requirements and cost of program are in keeping with peer programs in Michigan. The doctorate will require an additional two semesters over the master's. Head said 15 students will be admitted to begin with plans to eventually get to 25 students. The current master's program will be phased out. A question came up regarding the doctorate being necessary to sit for certification exams. Head reported that OT master's programs took a big hit during the pandemic. Funding for students came up next. Head said there are internal scholarships and other forms of support. Head was asked about a pathway to the doctoral program for current master's students. She said creating a pathway is on the agenda once the program is established. She added a bachelor's program in healthcare sciences coming online in the fall should provide a pipeline of students for the OT doctoral program.

## Awards & Fellowships Report and Recommendations

Todd Leff said the A&F's Rumble Fellowship report and recommendations will be presented today with a more detailed discussion at the March meeting. A survey was distributed to grad program directors to determine how the Rumble was used by the programs, what methods are used to choose recipients and if the Rumble award is supplemented. Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide comments. Additionally, data was collected from the PhD office, the GS Data Management Office and through WSU Institutional Research. The findings indicate that Rumble awards are indeed being used at the discretion of the program for either recruitment, retention or completion. He reported there was general support from the survey for the flexibility given the programs in terms of how they used the award to suit program needs. The third and final point was the equity of distribution to programs. Two metrics were used to determine if the current system is equitable: the size of the PhD program and PhD graduation in the program. A three-year time window was used and averaged for both of these metrics. Based on the charts in the PowerPoint, he said the College of Education is being under-awarded

Rumbles. They currently receive 2 and should be getting about 9-10. On the other hand, the SOM is receiving a larger number of Rumbles than the institutional average.

He said any changes to the current distribution model should be made slowly to allow programs time to adapt. Changes would not take place until the 2028-29 academic year. A question came up regarding the SOM and the fact that it has resources that other S/C do not have. Leff said the analysis did not take into account various funding sources of individual S/C. A question came up about full and part-time students. Leff said you must be a full-time student to qualify for a Rumble, so this factor was not considered. A Grad Council member asked that data on part-time students be incorporated. It was also noted that in some programs, students are part-time during coursework, but become full-time when they are taking dissertation credit blocks. Leff said as part of the recommendation, annual updates will be made to the S/C allocation formula based on the data. Furthermore, the committee did recommend that the amount of the Rumble stipend be increased in keeping with other graduate funding awards. Nantais-Smith pointed out that the three-year rolling average will help ensure there is an equitable distribution of Rumbles by the established parameters. Leff said the annual reassessments would be done by the A&F Committee.

#### Academic Standards Committee

Jeff Pruchnic reported that the proposal to add an administrative co-director to dissertation committees in cases where a student's dissertation has left the university was discussed last month and would be voted on today. Students in these situations must currently replace their director or add a co-director. This proposal adds a third option in which an administrative co-director would support the student and stay up to date with university policies and rules.

*A poll was launched and the proposal passed with 83% voting in favor and 17% abstaining.*

The Dean previewed the Graduate Research Symposium on Feb. 28, 2024. This is the first in-person symposium since 2020 and will feature five visiting scholars from other universities who are being recruited to WSU graduate programs. The scholars were nominated by the departments and will be coming to campus for the event as a post-COVID pilot.

*Written updates from the Academic Senate liaisons (if needed) will be provided after the meeting given the time.*

*A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wood  
Graduate School Program Director