



Graduate Council February 15, 2023 Agenda

- I. Report of the Chair
 - a. Review and approval of January 2023 minutes (page 2) and December 2022 minutes (page 6)
 - b. Accelerated Master's Programs Update (AMP)
- II. Executive Committee (Ed Cackett, Chair)
- III. NPPR (*Malathy Shekhar for Todd Leff*) **SINGLE VOTE FOR BOTH ITEMS**
 - a. New Program
 - i. Graduate certificate in Urban Environmental Health
 - b. Revision
 - i. MS in Information Science name change from Information Management to Information Science
- IV. Academic Standards Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)
 - a. Monthly meeting update
 - b. **VOTE:** Continuation of online dissertation defense option
- V. Inclusive Excellence Committee update (Jasmine Ulmer, Chair)
- VI. Awards & Fellowships Committee update (tabled for March)
- VII. Student Senate report (Mohamed Dabaja)
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons
 - a. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
 - b. Robert Reynolds, Research Committee
 - c. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
- X. Adjournment

Graduate Council January 18, 2023 Minutes

Virtual

Present: Chair Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Jeff Pruchnic, Todd Leff, Angulique Outlaw, Sherry Quinn, Jeremy Kodanko, Paul Johnson, Ed Cackett, Linda Beale, Robert Reynolds, Jenn Wareham, Deborah Charbonneau, Christine D'Arpa, Preethy Samuel, Mohamed Dabaja, Marcus Dickson, Malathy Shekhar, Jasmine Ulmer, David Moss, Stella Resko, Tamara Hew-Butler, Debra Patterson, Ramona Benkert, Paul Beasley, Fred Vultee, Young-Ro Yoon, Larry Matherly, Sally Villasenor, Loreleigh Keashly, Zhengping Yi, Attila Yaprak, Abhijit Biswas.

Dr. Amanda called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. The approval of December's Graduate Council's minutes was deferred to the February meeting.

XI. Report of the Chair

Dr. Amanda discussed with the group the Grad Cas issues that the Graduate School are currently working with our data management team and C&IT to find resolutions to as quickly as possible. Sherry Quinn also provided further detail on the current issues. Dr. Amanda encouraged anyone with questions or further issues to reach out to Sherry Quinn directly by email.

Dr. Amanda noted that the decision whether or not the Graduate School decides to go back to Slate will be made by the Provost and not the Graduate School.

Paul Johnson asked if the application fee is paid by the department, is it valid for one calendar year? Dr. Amanda answered that we are looking into finding the way to do that but it is her hope to.

XII. Executive Committee (Ed Cackett, Chair)

Ed provided the group with an overview of what was discussed during the last Executive Committee meeting. The committee is currently developing a leave policy for graduate students. With the assistance of a graduate assistant, Todd Leff will begin gathering information to begin working on that policy.

- a. Doctoral Recruiting – Because several programs are struggling to recruit domestic doctoral candidates, the Executive Committee thought it would be helpful to ask members of the Graduate Council what efforts they are making to recruit doctoral students. Jeremy Kodanko spoke that he has noticed the same trend with domestic candidates and his department has conducted their own research on the topic. Jeremy offered to share his data with the Executive Committee.
- b. Pilot HBCU Summer Research Program – Ed updated the group on the summer research program that the Graduate School hosted last summer with students

from North Carolina A&T. Dr. Amanda also provided further details on the program and all its successes. While it was very successful, it was also very expensive. Dr. Amanda is looking at different mechanisms to fund this program going forward. Sherry Quinn reminded the group of the recruiting tool the Graduate School offers that invites PhD students to campus to participate in the Graduate Research Symposium.

c.

Ed Cackett asked the group for any topics that they would like the Executive Committee to discuss. Linda Beale asked that master's enrollments be discussed.

XIII. NPPR (Todd Leff, Chair)

Todd Leff did not have any updates to report.

XIV. Academic Standards Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)

Because the committee has not met yet, Jeff did not have any updates to report.

XV. Inclusive Excellence Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Graduate School Liaison)

Jeff reported on behalf of Jasmine Ulmer, chair of the Inclusive Excellence Committee. The committee met the day before for the first time this semester, and it's still looking at the Dean's diversity fellowship and thinking about whether it may make change or recommendations for changes to that award structure. Between now and the next meeting, the PhD office will be gathering information on how similar awards are processed. The committee is also planning to meet with Dean's Diversity Fellowship recipients to talk about their experience. Dr. Amanda asked Jeff if he would take the initiatives that were discussed back to the Inclusive Excellence Committee.

XVI. Awards and Fellowships (Leanne Nantais-Smith)

Todd Leff reported on behalf of Leanne, who could not attend. A survey about the Rumble fellowship usage will soon be sent out.

XVII. Pathway to Faculty (Angulique Outlaw)

Angulique reported that the second cycle of the program opens today. Emails will be widely distributed to deans, chairs and faculty announcing the latest cycle. In terms of the first cycle, interviews are taking place in the public health and criminal justice programs. English is reviewing their final candidates. She also reported that she met with the DEI Committee of the Academic Senate. A Grad Council member mentioned low master's enrollment and online master's programs and the competitive environment post COVID. The Dean mentioned that the Provost has formed a committee to look at the conversion of existing master's programs into online programs. She noted that Social Work has done a great job in converting their in-person program to an on-line version.

XVIII. Student Senate report (Mohamed Dabaja)

Discussions over improving UROP are continuing. Vacancies currently exist on the Student Senate. A faculty member from the Honors College will come and talk to the Student Senate on civil discourse and how students are adapting to in-person classes.

XIX. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons

a. Linda Beale, Academic Senate President

The Presidential Search Profile is out and available on the BoG site. Originally it listed only three S/Cs at WSU and she pushed for a full description of all 13 S/Cs. The search for VPR has been delayed until we have selected a president. One finalist for the VP of Development and Alumni Affairs was put forth who was hired by the President for a three-year term. She said the Senate had pushed for more faculty involvement in UROP with diverse faculty from across the university involved in the award process.

There was discussion next regarding Wayne State Online (WOS) and Beale said the Senate Policy Committee wants to ensure that we meet market demands, but do so with quality standards. We don't want to hire third party vendors to do online courses. A faculty member from FPCA is now an interim chair in that college so there is a vacancy on the Senate. Beale asked the GC if they knew anyone who may be willing to fill that vacancy to encourage them to do so.

Facilities is another issue the Senate is addressing. The Senate Research Committee is looking at research misconduct policies. The investigative decider and final hearing decider is the same person. Tweaks are being considered for the current policy.

Academic freedom issues are also being discussed. She cited the case of an adjunct professor who was fired for showing an image of Mohammed in an Islamic art class. Students were told in advance that they could excuse themselves beforehand, however one student went to the president who said student concerns trump academic freedom. She mentioned other examples around the country and said President Wilson would not allow students to see a statement regarding the Palestinian conflict. Academic freedom demands student and faculty have conversations about controversial issues. She asked for GC to send her their thoughts on academic freedom.

She turned to 5-year reviews of centers and institutes and the lack of regular and consistent review. She said they do get a fair amount of money and should report back on their budgets and their success. Hopefully, this will be back online.

On a concerning note, she said enrollments are down for PhD and master's program. Recruiting and marketing programs are important and we need to make progress. The discussion returned to online programs. Discussion next turned to an academic integrity letter, which went out to all faculty from the Senate. Another issue under discussion is software systems which write essays

and answering questions. She said if faculty is only getting feedback from a robot, they don't know if they are actually teaching anything at all.

Discussion returned to reviews of the centers and institutes. Many of the centers have been going along without review and the BoG approves the renewal of the charter. It's more of an oversight and accountability issue that one of accreditation. Discussion shifted back to online master's. One GC member noted that 90% of the tuition revenue at WSU is generated from 1,000 2,000 level classes.

b. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee

This committee has not yet had their monthly meeting so he will report at the February Grad Council meeting.

XX. New Business

Dr. Amanda welcomed Paul Beasley and congratulated him for recently being named Assistant Dean of Student Affairs in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

In the chat, Mohamed Dobaja asked if there was a current marketing director for graduate programs enrollment and for their email because they had some ideas they wanted to share. Sherry Quinn, who responded to the chat messaged, stated that our director of marketing was Nick Mattar and he could be reached by email at nmattar@wayne.edu.

Zhengping Yi shared that students no longer feel safe walking building to building now that shuttle transportation is no longer available. Dr. Amanda noted that she was not aware of this safety concern but asked Jeff Pruchnic to investigate the matter further.

Linda Beale mentioned that the university shuttle service was discontinued because of high costs and low usage. Dr. Amanda thought that our marketing director, Nick Mattar, could discuss available transportation options in the graduate school's newsletter.

XXI. Adjournment

Dr. Amanda adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Meeting Minutes December 21, 2022

- XXII. **Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of November 2022 minutes (page 2)
 - b. Accelerated Master's Programs (AMP)
 - c. Graduate application status
- XXIII. **Executive Committee (Ed Cackett, Chair)**
 - a. **DISCUSSION:** Leave policy for graduate students
- XXIV. **NPPR (Todd Leff, Chair) SINGLE VOTE FOR ALL THREE ITEMS**
 - a. Program change request to eliminate Plan A option for MA in Sociology
 - b. Program change request to add concentration in music industry studies to MA program
 - c. Program inactivation proposal for taxation concentration in MBA program
- XXV. **Academic Standards Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)**
 - a. **DISCUSSION:** Updates to credit transfer policy language for ungraded coursework
- XXVI. **Student Senate report (Mohamed Dabaja)**
- XXVII. **New Business**
- XXVIII. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
 - d. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
 - e. Robert Reynolds, Research Committee
 - f. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
- XXIX. **Adjournment**

Attendees:

Ramona Benkert, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Deborah Charbonneau, Steve Chrisomalis, Ed Cackett, Christine D'Arpa, Mohamad Dabaja, Marcus Dickson, Tamara Hew-Butler, Paul Johnson, Chera Kee, Loreleigh Keashly, Mahbub Islam, Cheol Lee, Todd Leff, Larry Matherly, David Moss, Angulique Outlaw, Deborah Patterson, Sarah Pearline, Jeff Pruchnic, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Robert Reynolds, Preethy Samuel, Sokol Todi, April Vallerand, Sally Villasenor, Fred Vultee, Jen Wareham, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak, Zhengping Yi,

Absent:

Nathan Fisher, Dan Walz, Linda Beale, Cheol Lee, Malathy Shekhar, Young Ro-Yoon, Dan Walz, Jeffrey Martin, Athena Kheibari,

Report of the Chair

The Dean opened the meeting by asking for any changes to the November 2022 minutes.

Hearing none, the minutes were approved

GradCAS update

The Dean said there are three separate CAS systems currently in use. The process of switching to GradCAS started in 2021. The problems with the system started to come up once we started accepting applications for winter 2023. Students begin the application in CAS and then they are sent Slate credentials to answer additional question and upload documents. We are currently trying to integrate CAS with Slate in a more seamless way. There will be no changes to Engineering and Business for spring and summer 2023. There will be on overall configuration and integration for CAS and Slate by Feb. 1st for those applying for winter 2024. From Jan.-May 2023 we will be in a non-exclusivity mode with Liaison (GradCAS), which means applicants can begin their application in GradCAS or Slate. There are two admissions analysts in the Grad School who process applications to ensure that transcripts are attached to the correct applicant. This kind of work was done by GradCAS but it will be done in-house when we switch back to Slate. At this point is its unclear which system will we use once the fall 2024 application starts in Sept. 2023.

A question came up regarding the breaking of the contract for GradCAS and the Dean said the non-exclusivity period allows us to accept applications in both GradCAS and Slate. Previously, we had an exclusive contract meaning we could only accept through GradCAS. The trial period we are currently in allows us to see if GradCAS can accommodate Wayne State's needs. Another question came up regarding what applicants will see when to go in to apply. The Dean said many applicants have the option to distribute test scores to 5-6 institutions in Grad CAS. Another grad director noted that applicants are not being prompted to provide a statement of purpose. The Dean said the GradCAS indeed is not currently functioning as our complete application system. A big part of the problem was lack of resources in the Grad School and the fact that we have 300 graduate programs all with different requirements. Liaison did not have the information from all these programs. The integration between Wayne State and Liaison broke down because we did not have the resources to get all the needed information to GradCAS. The ultimate decision to continue with GradCAS does not lie with the Dean. One of the problems that came up was communication from Liaison and Grad CAS, which was conflicting in some ways. Weekly meetings are held with Liaison to make sure everything is on track. The Dean next presented a slide showing the winter 2023 applicants and those awaiting submission and those awaiting materials. A question was asked about Grad Council making a recommendation to the Provost in terms of continuing with GradCAS. The Dean said the issue would come up in Executive Committee and then it would come before the Grad Council to make a formal recommendation.

AMP

Todd Leff said AMP would be the next version of AGRADE and would lower the GPA requirement and credit hours requirement for admission. He noted there are a large number of master's programs on campus that do not have an associate undergrad program. The goal with AMP is to increase the awareness and visibility of accelerated master's program. A centralized advising office is another feature. There are discussions about piloting the program for one year to a limited number of master's programs. The Dean said this program will allow students early on to continue into graduate education as it provides a pathway and is cost effective.

Executive Committee Report

Ed Cackett said a graduate student leave policy is being discussed. He asked for feedback. A Graduate Program Office recommended that this policy allow for "stopping the clock" for PhD students. Others agreed that this should be included to avoid running up against overall university rules and regulations. Another GC member asked how this would impact graduate student funding and international students. It was noted that a policy would need to align with federal funding agencies. Also, leave policies should be informed by accrediting bodies.

NPPR

The first item was a discontinuance of a master's degree in taxation. The program has been dormant since 2017 with no students. All of the curriculum is housed in another business school program.

The second item was to remove the Plan A option from the MA in sociology. They are trying to streamline the curriculum and improve graduate rates. A question came up about students currently in the thesis option. Anyone currently in the program can complete the thesis, according to Leff. The Dean asked what is the benefit of eliminating the thesis option. Another Grad Council member in the humanities said his program dropped the thesis option to ensure that students are enrolling in actual courses. Having an 8-credit thesis vs. a 3-credit essay can mean that students are not enrolling for as many courses. Having students float along in an 8-credit thesis doesn't make sense when we are trying to increase enrollment. Additionally, it takes a long time and students don't finish. Another GC member asked if we should put a greater emphasis on advising to help guide students. It was noted that many of the goals of a longer thesis can be achieved by a 3-credit essay. Furthermore, some of the student populations are very focused on developing a skill set to use in the workplace.

The third and final proposal comes from FPCA and adds a music industry studies concentration to the existing MA in music. There are 11 new approved courses for the concentration. A grad officer from FPCA said the master's concentration aligns with the undergraduate program in music industry studies. They would do courses with the undergrads, but have differing deliverables.

A poll was launched to approve all three and the measures were passed.

Academic Standards Committee

The credit transfer policy for ungraded coursework was discussed. At the last meeting, discussion ensued about determining a grade for these courses without guidance from the home institution. To that end, the Registrar's office said an 'S' grade could be used, which does not impact GPA. Jeff Pruchnic did point out that grad directors must approve all transfer requests and they do have leeway and may decline a credit transfer request.

Student Senate report

Mohamed Dabaja said the Student Senate met with VPR Timothy Stemmler regarding the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). The students say the web presence was last updated in 2013. Listings must be updated. The goal is to make it easier for students. A Grad Council member said he never updated his information on UROP, but never received a reminder that it was out of date. Dabaja said they have asked for monthly reminders to faculty on the need to keep the listings current.

New Business

Angulique Outlaw reported on the Pathway to Faculty program. Three pre-faculty fellows are in place. One is starting in Jan. 2023. The new cycle will begin in January with applications due Feb. 15th. Search committees will be convened and training will occur. The Dean noted that in non-STEM fields the post doc concept is still relatively new. She asked Grad Council members to reach out and discuss the program with her and Angulique. The Dean then thanked the Graduate School associate deans for stepping in for her during commencement when she had the flu.

Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons

Robert Reynolds, Research Committee

There was discussion in the committee on clinical salaries for NIH grant. There was also discussion about indirect costs were distributed across the university. There was also discussion about how research is conducted across the university. A detailed written summary of the minutes will be distributed to the Grad Council following the meeting.

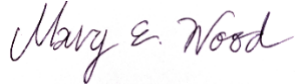
David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee

The November meeting was devoted to the discussion of an undergraduate degree in law. This would be a joint degree program between the Law School and CLAS. The proposal has been approved by the law faculty (with concerns) and will be considered by CLAS faculty in January.

Moss said there is widespread concern, however. It may bring in more students to WSU, but if this degree is good for an undergraduate, remains a question. There is a minor in law and the committee was concerned about the value of a major. There is also concern that students will drop out of traditional feeder programs in CLAS for law students such as political science, history or criminal justice. This could impact graduate programs ultimately since graduate programs need a base of undergrad students to employ faculty, who also teach grad students. Moss said there are very few universities who have a major in law. WSU would be the first in the Midwest. Essentially, the classes are the first-year law classes the JD students take. He said if you wanted to create a high quality UG program, you would not be teaching first-year law classes. Teaching the same classes may be the easiest way to launch this program, however it is not a coherent academic program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Wood".

*Mary E. Wood
Program Director*