



## Graduate Council Meeting December 21, 2022

### Agenda

- I. **Report of the Chair**
  - a. Review and approval of November 2022 minutes (page 2)
  - b. Accelerated Master's Programs (AMP)
  - c. Graduate application status
- II. **Executive Committee (Ed Cackett, Chair)**
  - a. **DISCUSSION:** Leave policy for graduate students
- III. **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
- IV. **Academic Standards Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)**
  - a. **DISCUSSION:** Updates to credit transfer policy language for ungraded coursework
- V. **Student Senate report (Mohamed Dabaja)**
- VI. **New Business**
- VII. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
  - a. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
  - b. Robert Reynolds, Research Committee
  - c. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
- VIII. **Adjournment**

## November 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- IX. Report of the Chair
  - a. **VOTE:** Review and approval of October 2022 minutes (page 2)
  - b. GradCAS update
  - c. Accelerated Master's Programs (AMP)
- X. Executive Committee (Ed Cackett, Chair)
- XI. NPPR (Todd Leff, Chair)
  - a. **VOTE:** Program deactivation for MS in Athletic Training, College of Ed
- XII. Academic Standards Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)
  - a. Changes to credit transfer policy for ungraded coursework
- XIII. **VOTE:** Completion of RCR course to advance to PhD candidacy (Todd Leff)
- XIV. **VOTE:** Creation of zero credit master's maintenance course (Jeff Pruchnic)
- XV. Student Senate report (Mohamed Dabaja)
- XVI. New Business
- XVII. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons
  - d. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
  - e. Robert Reynolds, Research Committee
  - f. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
- XVIII. Adjournment

### **Attendees:**

Linda Beale, 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, Preethy Samuel, Malathy Shekhar, April Vallerand, Sally Villasenor, Fred Vultee, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak, Young-Ro Yoon

### **Absent with notice:**

Ramona Benkert, Sara Maher, Nathan Fisher, Dan Walz

### **Absent without notice:**

Athena Kheibari, Jeffrey Martin, Zhengping Yi

### **Report of the Chair**

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

*Hearing none, the minutes were approved*

### **GradCAS update**

The Dean provided a report on the status of GradCAS. The first problem that has been identified is that applications in the CAS system are appearing as prospects in Slate, which means only the name and contact information are provided. This is a problem for programs with high touch engagement with applicants. The full application is not seen. The second issue is the two-step application problem. Students are completing their application partially in CAS and then are prompted to go to Slate to upload documents. Automated communications from CAS is another problem since it does not align with the current WSU workflow. There was also confusion on where to upload documents. Professional CAS was also causing applicants to interact with three separate systems, which included CAS and Slate. Business and Engineering CAS did not experience these issues. There was also confusion regarding applications appearing online or on a website. She said meetings were ongoing with the liaison from GradCAS to address these issues. As a result, Slate will be set up to import all of the applications materials upon entry to eliminate the two-step process. In progress applications will be moved directly to Slate. This requires the Grad School to put in all program requirements in the CAS system. There will be a push to grad directors to make sure requirements are current and correct. Among those requirements are unofficial transcripts and statements of purpose. There is great variance across programs on statements of purpose and their length. We also need to be specific about what standardized test scores are required. Standardizing the English language scores is another goal as well as letters of recommendation. The Dean said CAS enables students to apply simultaneously to several programs. This means less cost to the applicants. There are a growing number of institutions participating in CAS. CAS is a secure portal for students applying to several institutions and advantageous to international students.

In terms of the automated communication in CAS, it has been turned off to reduce confusion. Some English language tests are not accepted by the system and must be processed by WSU. A question came up about seeing progress on applications as documents are uploaded. Another question came up regarding a department which waives the application fee for those students they want to admit. The Dean said it felt unethical to have people pay the fee if they were not going to be admitted. She said she is working through the application fee issue with the Provost. There are applicants who can pay the fee whereas others cannot because of issues going on in their country. She said she was also concerned with applications being prepared by people at the institution. Previously, the revenue generated from application fees went to a central fund. Post-pandemic there have been a number of changes as program try to generate more applicants, including waiving application fees. It was noted again that charging fees for those applicants least likely to be admitted was unethical. A concern was raised about forcing all departments to align in order to fit the technology. The Dean said we should be mindful of what our peer institutions require from applicants. It was noted that programs/departments should think about if they are out of step with their peers. The Dean said this would be particularly useful at the PhD level. Master's programs, for the most part, require nothing except a transcript and application.

WSU currently has a three-year contract for GradCAS. The Dean said it may be useful to think about fee waivers based on specific service areas or service models. Extensions of application

deadlines then came up. Sherry Quinn said there are two deadlines: the display deadline and hard deadline. Programs can extend the display deadline and contact the Dean who will forward the request to the appropriate person in the Grad School.

### AMP

A revision to AGRADE called AMP (Accelerated Master's Program) would make it easier for departments to attract students to master's program from other disciplines. There would be a reduction in GPA requirement to 3.0. Credit hours would be lowered from 90 to 75. An AMP advising office would be established in the Graduate School to connect with the various programs. The name AGRADE is unpopular and confusing and would be changed. AMP would be beneficial for master's programs in S/C that currently do not have undergraduate programs, such as SOM and SIS. A robust marketing program would be required to raise awareness of AMP.

A question came up regarding resources for AMP. The Dean said internal marketing would be key as well as working closely with the Advisors Academy. It was mentioned that marketing at Wayne State is not strong and the marketing should highlight that if you come to Wayne you can achieve more than at other institutions. Websites would be critical. The Dean noted the marketing can't be just individual colleges promoting their programs. A more unified marketing approach is needed. Linda Beale said the proposal should go to the Policy Committee and Academic Senate given that it's an educational policy area. The Provost would bring it to the Senate and there would be a vote. One Grad Council member asked if programs would still have the right to decide who is admissible to the program. The discussion turned to centralization over AGRADE/AMP. A uniform plan of work form across S/Cs would be helpful.

### Executive Committee Report

Ed Cackett recapped the Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> EC agenda and mentioned that housing interdisciplinary programs/certificates in the Grad School was discussed. A leave policy for graduate students was also on the agenda. Currently, leaves are handled on an ad-hoc basis. A policy will be developed over the next few months. Holding Grad Council meetings at the SOM, EACPHS and MISB campuses came up. Parking would be a problem at these locations. Continuing with the hybrid model may be the best option.

The discussion returned to the interdisciplinary programs housed in the Grad School. A question was asked about the Grad School having the status as a degree-granting entity. It has been done at other institutions. The Dean noted that a common problem in interdisciplinary programs is that no one wants to take responsibility for funding the students.

The focus came back to the development of a graduate student leave policy and the need for a more formal, campuswide program.

### NPPR

Todd Leff said he had a program deactivation for a MS program in athletic training for the GC to vote on. A question came up about the number of students in the program. There are 4-5 students of the four cohorts thus far. A question came up on why the program was unsuccessful. It was noted that the program requires completion of 56 hours and salaries for those with this degree are in the lower 40s. It's difficult to attract students to the program given the credit load and low compensation.

*A poll was launched to approve the deactivation, which was passed unanimously.*

#### Academic Standards Committee

The credit transfer policy for ungraded coursework was discussed. Jeff Pruchnic reported that this has come up in two situations: one is when students are transferring research credits from a program that is ungraded. We do not currently allow that credit to transfer in, however we have made exceptions to that policy for graduate directors recruiting students. This allows us to treat our transfer students the same way we treat students that begin in our programs. The second way this has come up is that since COVID, graduate programs have allowed students to take 'P' classes. Currently, we do not transfer those credits under any circumstances. This policy will allow grad directors to approve the transfer and assign a letter grade to it. Pruchnic was asked to clarify how the grad director would grade the course. He said it would be the grade that is equivalent in our own system. Again, a question came up on how the grad director will determine if the student should receive an 'A' or 'B'? One GC member said her college obtained a letter from a dean at an institution with many students transferring to WSU with ungraded coursework. The letter stated that all "P" classes equals a "B" grade or greater. It was noted that the transfer grade does not affect the student's WSU GPA. It was noted that this seems problematic in terms of determining the grade when there's no guidance from the home institution. One Grad Council asked if a new grade category could be set up such a 'Q' grade as long as it meets all the expectations for graduate coursework. It was agreed that Pruchnic would bring back the issue to the Standards Committee for further discussion and refinement of language.

#### Completion of RCR course to advance to PhD Candidacy

Leff said reinstating this policy brings us in alignment with requirements for federal funding agencies.

*A motion was made to approve the policy, a poll was launched and approved unanimously.*

#### Creation of a zero-credit Master's maintenance course

It was noted that this previously discussed policy will need to go before the BoG given its revenue implications.

*A motion was made to approve, a poll was launched at the measure was approved.*

#### Student Senate report

Block tuition was discussed with the Student Senate with the Provost, CFO and Ahmad Ezzeddine. They are looking into grants for those students who are unable to take the minimum 12 credits so they are not penalized. Registration and scheduling is a concern for the Student Senate. Some departments only schedule classes at certain times. Issues with UROP also came up. A meeting will be set up with VPR Tim Stemmler to address UROP's shortcomings. A map is being made for sharp safety containers around campus and a program has been launched for students to get a replacement. OneCard if they have lost their card. Another committee has discussed providing free daily parking for those using the food pantry. There also is a portal being made available that allows students see all available scholarships for both undergrads and grads called WSU Scholarship Universe, which is easy to use and notifies users of upcoming deadlines. The Dean said she would like to hear graduate student input on block tuition.

#### Report of the Academic Senate Liaison

*Linda Beale, Academic Senate*

The Dean asked if the liaisons could submit written updates. Linda Beale did mention the Presidential Search Committee and said there are very few academic voices on the committee. Most are non-academic people. There are four BoG members and two additional community members. She said this was a political decision made by the BoG in terms of search committee composition.

*Robert Reynolds (Research Committee) and David Moss (Curriculum and Instruction Committee) will provide a written update to the Graduate Council.*

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary Wood  
Program Director*