



## Graduate Council

March 22, 2023 Agenda

- I. Report of the Chair
  - a. Review and approval of February 2023 minutes (page 2)
  - b. Provost's committee on PhD Education
- II. Executive Committee (Ed Cackett, Chair)
  - a. Recap of 3/8/23 Executive Committee meeting
  - b. Graduate Faculty Status/Categories Proposal (*attached*)
- III. NPPR (*Todd Leff*)
  - a. New Program
    - i. **VOTE:** Graduate certificate in Urban Environmental Health (*attached*)
    - ii. **VOTE:** M.S. in Information Science name change from Information Management to Information Science (*attached*)
- IV. Academic Standards Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)
  - a. Monthly meeting update
  - b. **VOTE:** Credit Transfer Policy (ungraded coursework) (*attached*)
- V. Inclusive Excellence Committee update (Jasmine Ulmer, Chair)
- VI. Awards & Fellowships Committee update (Leanne Nantais-Smith, Chair)
- 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

## February 15, 2023 Minutes

### XI. 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)

### XII. Executive Committee (Ed Cackett, Chair)

### XIII. 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

### XIV. Academic Standards Committee (Jeff Pruchnic, Chair)

- a. Monthly meeting update
- b. **VOTE:** Continuation of online dissertation defense option

### XV. Inclusive Excellence Committee update (Jasmine Ulmer, Chair)

### XVI. Awards & Fellowships Committee update (tabled for March)

### XVII. Student Senate report (Mohamed Dabaja)

### XVIII. New Business

### XIX. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons

- d. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
- e. Robert Reynolds, Research Committee
- f. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee

### XX. Adjournment

#### Attendees:

Paul Beasley, Ramona Benkert, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Deborah Charbonneau, Jeremy Kodanko, Ed Cackett, Christine D'Arpa, Mohamad Dabaja, Marcus Dickson, Tamara Hew-Butler, Paul Johnson, Chera Kee, Loraleigh Keashly, Mahbub Islam, Cheol Lee, Larry Matherly, David Moss, Angulique Outlaw, Deborah Patterson, Sarah Pearline, Jeff Pruchnic, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Robert Reynolds, Young Ro-Yoon, April Vallerand, Sally Villasenor, Fred Vultee, Jen Wareham, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak,

#### Absent:

Cheol Lee, Todd Leff, Preethy Samuel, Dan Walz, Athena Kheibari, Zhengping Yi, Sally Villasenor

#### Guests:

Katherine Rock, Mike Petriello, Timothy Bowman, Paul Beavers, Nic DePaula, Tom Walker, Donna Kashian

#### AMP Update

Dean Amanda provided the overview and update. AMP is an accelerated master's program similar to AGRADE, however students will be able to apply after earning 75 credits and with a 3.0 GPA. Students will be able to apply to AMP that is not in the same area as their UG major. Resources will be needed to advise AMP students. Essentially, we will go to departments and work with them to find out what courses they would accept for students switching to new disciplines. We are leaning towards maintaining AGRADE as we launch AMP. She noted that students must first apply to AMP and programs will have the opportunity to say yes or no to a student who wants to take a certain pathway, and that decision will have to come from the undergraduate as well as the graduate program. In response to a question, the Dean noted that the university will not pick out programs up front, but rather the University will find if there are popular pathways. She added that there must be agreement of the undergraduate program that they will accept those electives. There is a draft document which describes the AMP pathway, which is still being finalized. Undergraduate advisors have said the program will result in more work and we must not overburden them. The undergraduate program is really looking at whether they can accept introductory credits in the master's program for the undergrad degree. We are not expecting a lot of differences at the master's level in terms of advising. The GC will vote on the concept of AMP and it will go to the Provost and then Academic Senate for further vetting.

#### Executive Committee, Ed Cackett

An analysis of master's enrollments will be presented at the March Grad Council meeting. The frequency of GradCAS communications came up next. Students generally receive system-generated emails every 14 days. One GC member said students are required to submit bank statements to complete their applications. Perhaps a two-step process would be more appropriate and wouldn't alienate students before they have even been accepted. The Dean noted that GradCAS communications were turned off since the communication plan they were using was proprietary. She added that we make sure applicants know that they are not required to give us banking information until they are admitted. In some cases, people are not reading what is required. She added that we have students who also submit multiple applications to multiple programs and they get communications from different programs. She added that there is a great difference between the various graduate programs. One GC member mentioned the helpfulness of FAQs for applicants and adding this content to web may reduce confusion.

#### NPPR, Malathy Shekhar (for Todd Leff)

Malathy Shekhar introduced Michael Petriello who would provide an overview of the new graduate certificate in Urban Environmental Health. He said the certificate is part of the CLEAR

grant and it is transdisciplinary and it involves people in biological sciences, the School Medicine and Geology. The idea is to have trainees build up their CVs and resumes to become the next generation of environmental health scientists. It's based on three primary courses one in the physiology department, one in biological sciences and one in public health with multiple electives for master's, PhD and postdocs.

A question came up about the administrative home for the program and total credit hours required. Petriello said the program will be housed in the Graduate School given its transdisciplinary nature. A question was raised about housing a certificate in the Graduate School and what departmental faculty will have approval decisions. Petriello said the curriculum would be housed in one of the schools and colleges and being voted on through the regular faculty process. The certificate was a key component of the grant's training core.

It was noted that both CLAS and the Law School voted for a new BA in law following the regular course approval and program approval process in both schools/colleges. It was stated that there should be a clear process for the approval of an academic program beyond individual faculty willing to teach a course. The Dean said other transdisciplinary programs are considering housing their program in the Grad School. The oversight and accountability issue was mentioned again and the need for curricular review. The Dean said the subject matter expertise should be at the Steering Committee level and it's important to have these committees active and working closely with the Grad School. The issue of assessment was then brought up and the assessment process in the Provost's office. The discussion then turned to the need for a person who is consistently working with entities across the university. Data reporting for enrollment was then discussed and the Dean said tracking of graduate students in a certificate program is available and part of the Grad School's responsibility. She noted that if more programs are added under the Grad School's auspices, additional resources would be needed.

The discussion returned to transdisciplinary programs and the statement that most faculty would not agree that they should be housed in the Grad School as we move forward with new transdisciplinary programs. The Dean said a current interdisciplinary program between colleges is under discussion because ownership is complicated and this can impact the student experience. It was noted that perhaps issues such as this should be discussed more broadly and if we should examine if we are using the appropriate mechanisms for creating an entirely new academic degree or certificate. It was noted that there had been a lapse in charter renewals for centers and institutes. Petriello added to the discussion that the certificate is based on existing classes.

There was discussion on voting for the two items forwarded from NPPR and it was agreed that both items would be voted on at the same time. The interim dean of the School of Information Sciences Tom Walker provided an overview of the name change to the program which he said keeps up with the field. There were small changes related to core and elective courses. There was discussion then about receiving and reading the proposals in Course Leaf for both items under consideration since Grad Council members had not received the material in advance of

the meeting. The proposals would be emailed to voting members who would then receive a Qualtrics poll where they could cast their vote by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Dean said that was positive since that would allow for an opportunity to discuss with the Provost and others, including the chair of the Executive Committee, the larger issue discussed in the meeting regarding oversight and accountability and the lack of a formal faculty approval process with a transdisciplinary program housed in the Grad School. She said it is important to ensure we are going through the governance process the correct way.

### Academic Standards

Jeff Pruchnic said pre-pandemic, in-person dissertations were required. Language requiring in-person defenses was removed during the pandemic. Remote defenses have allowed additional flexibility and more people to participate. The Grad Council is being asked to approve of the existing language/policy from the pandemic. People still have the option of an in-person defense. It was noted that having outside committee members involved is a benefit of virtual defenses. A question came up regarding the social interaction component and it was noted that hybrid formats can provide the best of both worlds. Keeping it optional, it was noted, is the best way to meet everyone's needs. Departments would still have opportunity to have their own policies and the Grad School will not dictate policy. Pruchnic said the current language from the Grad School doesn't specify in what way the defense takes place, whether it's in person, or virtually. It was also noted that virtual defenses also allow flexibility and advantages for accessibility.

*A motion to pass the measure was seconded and a poll was launched with 96% approval and 4% non-approval.*

It was agreed that Academic Standards would review the Graduate School policy language to see if additional clarity is needed regarding the department's ability to make their own dissertation policy.

### Inclusive Excellence Committee report

Jasmine Ulmer reported the committee will meet next week and review data on recent recipients of the Dean's Diversity award over the last five years as well as the application process and scoring rubrics. There will also be benchmarking from peer and aspirational universities. A recipient of the award will also attend next week's meeting.

### Student Senate Report, Mohamed Dabaja

Mohamed Dabaja mentioned upgrades and expansion of UROP. A vigil in support of MSU will take place tomorrow. He wondered if all students had been notified regarding acceptance of their abstracts for the 2023 GRS and it was stated by Grad School staff that students had been notified and there were no students turned down.

Academic Senate President, Linda Beale

A tech survey email has gone out to faculty asking about their experience teaching and using technology. The Policy Committee has discussed the doctoral transfer credit revision proposal. It will go to a plenary session and she expects approval. An ad hoc committee on artificial intelligence (AI) cheating has been established to address plagiarism issues that may arise. A Senate committee will be established to revise their bylaws. One such change may be the inclusion of the head of the executive committee or elected head of faculty assembly as automatic members of the Senate.

Academic freedom issues are also being discussed and what kind of statement the Senate should make on recent issues in the news. This will be brought to the plenary session in March. Senate members to the Budget Planning Council have been selected. That's the university wide group that meets each year with the deans to discuss resources and needs. These meetings take place in the first and third week of March. A new chair of the Facility, Student Services and Technology Committee has been named. The Presidential search continues and the search committee will have access to the file of candidate in late February with 12-15 finalists being selected. A member of the BoG wants the final step to be entirely open. Beale said she will push to have the 3-5 finalists go before the Deans, the Policy Committee and Grad Council. Discussions continue regarding the creation of a public health school. She mentioned the Henry Ford/MSU agreement and the new hospital and the implications that has for our medical school and medical students.

Curriculum and Instruction Committee, David Moss

There has been much discussion regarding the BA in law and it appears both the Law School and CLAS faculty have approved the proposal. Several members of the AI Ad Hoc Committee, including Moss, also serve on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. There also was discussion about a syllabus template required by the university. One big concern is that the larger the syllabus, the less likely students are to read it. The more the university requires to be stuffed in the syllabus, the less value the document has. There's been a suggestion to create a place where uniform policies that apply to all courses could reside with a link in the syllabi.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary E. Wood  
Program Director*