



Graduate Council (2023-2024)

October 18, 2023 Agenda

3rd Floor Community Room, Undergraduate Library

I. Report of the Chair

- a. Review and approval of 9/20/23 Graduate Council minutes (page 2)
- b. Executive Committee agenda topics for 2023-24 Graduate Council
 - i. Reduction in the minimum PhD credit hours required for completion
 - ii. Address inequities in the distribution of Rumble fellowships
 - iii. Increase stipends/salary for graduate student assistantships/fellowships
 - iv. Explore student recruitment beyond traditional feeder schools to increase diversity
 - v. Move beyond academic mentoring and partner with private sector/ industry for enhanced mentorship opportunities
 - vi. Determine standards to ensure quality of asynchronous online instruction for graduate students
 - vii. Examine the university's research mission and how that impacts PhD education and the proposed reduction in PhD credit hours
 - viii. Discuss the concept of the credit hour and what a credit hour represents
 - ix. Set up a new system to replace the four (4) 7.5 dissertation credit blocks if minimum PhD credit hours are reduced
 - x. Examine the current criteria for graduate faculty status
 - xi. Look at the Annual Review/Individual Development Planning (IDP) process for PhD students and their advisors
 - xii. Determine the management and oversight structure for proposed interdisciplinary degree programs
 - xiii. Master's programs, scholarships and support

II. NPPR and Awards & Fellowships Committees Update (Todd Leff)

III. Academic Standards and Inclusive Excellence Committees Updates (Jeff Pruchinc)

IV. Pathway to Faculty Update (Angulique Outlaw)

V. Student Senate Report (Mohamed Dobaja)

VI. New Business

VII. Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons

- a. Linda Beale, President, **Academic Senate**
- b. Mitra, Santanu, **Budget Committee**
- c. Christopher Kelly, **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee**

- d. Fred Vultee, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
- e. Robert Reynolds, Facilities, Support Services & Technology Committee
- f. Stella Resko, Faculty Affairs Committee
- g. Jeremy Kodanako, Research Committee
- h. Stephen Chrisomalis, Student Affairs Committee

VIII. Adjournment

Upcoming Graduate Council meetings:

- Executive Committee: 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023
- Monthly Graduate Council Meeting, 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023

Minutes

Graduate Council (2022-2023)

September 20, 2023 2 p.m. minutes

Agenda

3rd Floor Community Room, Undergraduate Library

- I. **Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of May and April 2023 minutes (page 2-11)
- II. Recognition of Graduate Council members rotating off
 - a. Attila Yaprak, Marketing, MISB
 - b. Cheol Lee, Accounting, MISB
 - c. Malathy Shekhar, Oncology, SOM
 - d. Golam Newaz, Mechanical Engineering, ENG
 - e. Edward Cackett, Physics, CLAS
 - f. Chera Kee, English, CLAS
 - g. Marcus Dickson, Psychology, CLAS
 - h. Athena Kheibara, Social Work, SSW
 - i. Deborah Charbonneau, School of Information Sciences, SIS
- III. **Old Business**
- IV. **Adjournment**

Attendees:

Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Paul Beasley, Ramona Benkert, Abe Biswas, Stephen Chrisomalis, Christine D'Arpa, Mohamad Dabaja, Tamara Hew-Butler, Paul Johnson, Mahbub Islam, Todd Leff, Cheol Lee, Jeffrey Martin, Larry Matherly, David Moss, Golam Newaz, Angulique Outlaw, Deborah Patterson, Sarah Pearline, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Bob Reynolds, Young Ro-Yoon, Preethy Samuel, Malathy Shekhar, Sally Villasenor, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, Jen Wareham, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak

Absent without notice:

Marcus Dickson, Dan Walz, Athena Kheibari

Absent with notice:

Linda Beale, April Vallerand

The Dean called the meeting to order to finalize the business of the 2022-23 Graduate Council and to approve minutes from previous meetings. She asked for any corrections or additions to the April and May meetings. Hearing none, she called for approval of the minutes.

April and May meeting minutes were approved.

Next, outgoing members were recognized and thanked for their service.

Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wood
Graduate Program Director

September 20, 2023 2:15 p.m. minutes

Agenda

- I. Welcome from the Chair
- II. Seating of Graduate Council 2023-24
- III. Introduction of new Graduate Council members (2023-24)
 - a. Mitra Santanu, Accounting, MISB

- b. Andrea Tangari, Marketing, MISB
 - c. Andrew Garrett, Pharmacology, SOM
 - d. Ulrike Klueh, Biomedical Engineering, ENG
 - e. Agbaglah Gbemeho, Mechanical Engineering, ENG
 - f. Christopher Kelly, Physics, CLAS
 - g. Lisa Panisch, Social Work, SSW
 - h. Linda Beale, Law School
- IV. Approval of Liaisons to Academic Senate Committees
- a. Mitra, Santanu, Accounting, MISB: **Budget Committee**
 - b. Christopher Kelly, Physics, CLAS: **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee**
 - c. Fred Vultee, Communication, FPCA: **Curriculum and Instruction Committee**
 - d. Robert Reynolds, Computer Science, ENG: **Facilities, Support Services & Technology Committee**
 - e. Stella Resko, Social Work, SSW: **Faculty Affairs Committee**
 - f. Jeremy Kodanako, Chemistry, CLAS: **Research Committee**
 - g. Stephen Chrisomalis, Anthropology, CLAS: **Student Affairs Committee**
- V. Election of Executive Committee members
- a. **Call for nominations for the Executive Committee**
 - b. **Nominees**
 - i. Ulrike Klueh, Biomedical Engineering, ENG
 - ii. Christopher Kelly, Physics, CLAS
 - iii. David Moss, Law School
 - iv. Sarah Pearline, Theater and Dance, FPCA
- VI. **New Business**
- a. Provost's Committee on PhD Education (Dean Amanda Bryant-Friedrich)
 - b. April 15th resolution (Amanda Bryant-Friedrich)
- VII. **Student Senate report** (Mohamad Dabaga)
- VIII. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaison:** (Linda Beale, President)
- IX. **Adjournment**

Attendees:

Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Paul Beasley, Ramona Benkert, Stephen Chrisomalis, Christine D'Arpa, Mohamad Dabaja, Andrew Garrett, Agbaglah Gbemeho, Tamara Hew-Butler, Paul Johnson, Christopher Kelly, Ulrike Klueh, Todd Leff, Jeffrey Martin, Larry Matherly, David Moss, Angulique Outlaw, Deborah Patterson, Lisa Panisch, Sarah Pearline, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Bob Reynolds, Mitra Santanu, Preethy Samuel, Andrea Tangari, Sally Villasenor, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, Jen Wareham, Mary Wood, Young Ro-Yoon.

Absent with Notice:

Linda Beale, April Vallerand

The Dean welcomed the newly seated members. The next order of business was approval of the nominated liaisons listed in the agenda to the Academic Senate Committees.

A poll was launched to approve the slate of nominees and was approved.

The next order of business was Graduate Council election of three members of the Executive Committee among the four nominees listed in the agenda. The Dean briefed the Council on the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee. Each of the four nominees spoke briefly about their interest in serving on the Executive Committee.

A poll was launched and the three members selected were Ulrike Klueh, David Moss and Sarah Pearline.

New Business

Provost's Committee on PhD Education

The Dean reported that the reduction in PhD credit hours is a key issue. Two proposals are out there. One calls for a reduction to 60; another a reduction to 78. If 30 hours of dissertation credits are cut, the 30 didactic credits will be reduced to bring in dissertation credits. It was noted that many programs in the humanities and social sciences may essentially have 60 credit hours of coursework. A Grad Council member noted the heavy credit load and tuition is killing him on a federal grant with nothing left for travel or supplies since so much tuition is being paid. Another council member noted that one of the keys for promotion/tenure is graduating PhD students. Removing the four blocks of 7.5 credits would provide additional flexibility. It was noted that it takes a while to get to a good dissertation and a student may have completed coursework before that happens with a proposed reduction. The establishment of a minimum credit hour requirement was also noted and programs could decide to have a greater number. The Dean should PhDs in varied fields should be comparable. The recommendation to discontinue the practice of paying tuition off grants was brought up. Maintenance credits after earning 60 credits were then discussed and the idea of not charging tuition once a student earns 60 credits. Additional coursework needed to develop research skills was noted in some disciplines. A grad officer noted that our dissertation credit hours are high compared to peers. Reducing credit hours would be helpful to part-time students who receive little or no funding.

The allocation of assistantships was next discussed and it was noted that the allocation has not changed in 20+ years. The Dean noted a paradigm in how we allocate funding is needed using the Rumbles as an example. She asked what metrics should be used to allocate GTAs. One metric discussed is that department with the highest number of incoming graduate students would get the GTAs. A Grad Council member said incoming students benefit greatly from getting a GTA in their first year. Giving them a GRA can cause incoming students to struggle. Undergraduate enrollment in introductory courses must be a factor. It was noted that some courses have 130-140 students in a course with no GTA assistance. It was mentioned

that GTAs can support new faculty so they can focus on research and at some institutions GTA support is offered as part of a job offer. One Grad Council members asked that the Grad School take a look at how many GRAs are assigned to specific departments. The discussion returned to undergraduate credit hours generated by a department is an important metric. The Dean said the challenge is to put something with multiple metrics into place. It can be difficult to find GTAs since students are no trying other ways to gain teaching experience such as teaching over the summer or an additional service assignment. Social Work Rumble students are given a 10-hour/week hourly research assignment to connect them with faculty. The Dean said programs that offer less teaching to PhD recruits tend to win out.

PhD Student Success

The Provost's Committee also looked at this issue. A SOM program requires every domestic student to apply for external fellowships. 95% of the students in this program are domestic and workshops are offered on how to get funding. It was noted that any program that has 10% of students receiving an external fellowship is successful in providing good training for students. Publications, presentations and fellowships are all good measurements of success. A council member asked about data on students who have taken advantage of the Grad School's program and how many have secured fellowships. Another question came up about producing a dashboard to see average time to degree with the S/Cs at WSU. The Dean thanked the Council for their input and said she would discuss the recommendations made with the Provost's PhD Committee when the report is finalized.

April 15th Resolution

The Dean said she has circulated a survey to graduate directors from the CGS regarding the resolution that states a student who is applying to an institution does not have to commit to a particular program until April 15th.

Student Senate Report

Mohamad Dabaja reported that UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities) will be launching a new website later this semester which is more like LinkedIn and contains updated information on faculty research. The Undergraduate Library will make PhotoShop and other technology products available to students for classroom assignments. A survey will be launched to find out what kind of products/services students need.

Hearing no other business, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wood
Graduate School Program Director