

Graduate Council Meeting April 19, 2023 Minutes

Agenda

- I. **Report of the Chair**
 - a. Review and approval of March 2023 minutes (page 2)
 - b. Report on Master's Enrollment
- II. **Executive Committee (Ed Cackett, Chair)**
 - a. Recap of 4/12/23 Executive Committee meeting
 - b. Graduate Faculty Status/Categories Proposal (*attached*)
 - c. Housing interdisciplinary programs in the Graduate School
- III. **NPPR and Awards and Fellowships updates (Todd Leff, Chair)**
- IV. **Inclusive Excellence Committee update (Jasmine Ulmer, Chair)**
- V. **Pathway to Faculty update (Angulique Outlaw)**
- VI. **Student Senate report (Mohamed Dabaja)**
- VII. **New Business**
- VIII. **Report of the Academic Senate Liaisons**
 - a. Linda Beale, Academic Senate
 - b. Robert Reynolds, Academic Senate Research Committee
 - c. David Moss, Curriculum and Instruction Committee update
- IX. **Adjournment**

Attendees:

Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Linda Beale, Paul Beasley, Abe Biswas, Deborah Charbonneau, Jeremy Kodanko, Ed Cackett, Christine D'Arpa, Tamara Hew-Butler, Paul Johnson, Chera Kee, Loreleigh Keashly, Mahbub Islam, Todd Leff, Jeffrey Martin, David Moss, Angulique Outlaw, Deborah Patterson, Jeff Pruchnic, Sherry Quinn, Stella Resko, Bob Reynolds, Young Ro-Yoon, Preethy Samuel, Malathy Shekhar, April Vallerand, Sally Villasenor, Jasmine Ulmer, Fred Vultee, Jen Wareham, Mary Wood, Attila Yaprak, Zhengping Yi

Absent:

Mohamad Dabaja, Marcus Dickson, Sarah Pearline, Ramona Benkert, Cheol Lee, Dan Walz, Athena Kheibari, Larry Matherly

Linda Beale had to leave early. She presented her report first.

Linda Beale, Academic Senate President

A preliminary report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Cheating has been drafted and presented to the Policy Committee. It will be discussed again at the Senate's plenary session. The goal is to guide student about reasonable uses of AI to maintain academic integrity and the development of an academic integrity module. Faculty use of AI is also considered. She said it's likely that detection software will be a profit-making enterprise begging the question on how much it will cost the university to subscribe. Changes to the student code of conduct may also be needed.

She next discussed the President's email discussing what was viewed as a threatening social media post by a WSU English professor. She expressed concerns that the email identified the English Department. She mentioned the fact that she was not consulted regarding the email. It was noted that the communication started as a Facebook post and then was more widely disseminated. She said the email had a chilling effect and can negatively impact a career. She asked for input from the Council regarding this matter.

Report of the Chair

Dean Amanda gave a presentation on master's enrollment over the past five years. The College of Education was first showing the number of students enrolled over the past five years has not been vastly different. She noted that there are differences across schools/colleges in term of admission procedures. Engineering was next showing a decline in application perhaps due to international students not applying during the pandemic because of closed borders. A low yield was noted. CLAS was next. Some programs here are almost exclusively domestic whereas some are primarily international. With CLAS, it's most helpful to break down by program. She added that public administration has experienced substantial declines in enrollment. Nursing followed with declines. FPCA had a serious bump in following 2020 with 30 students in one program jumping to 333 applicants. It was noted that a cohort is admitted every three years for this particular FPCA program causing the bump. EACPHS experienced a similar bump in a program but that was attributed to a particular change that impacted the number. MISB has also experienced significant declines. This is a national trend for MBA programs. The SIS fully on-line master's program was next and it was noted that the cost of online programs can be a deciding factor for students. A grad officer noted that many students may start an application, but do not complete which may impact the number. The Dean mentioned the retention and completion factors which were not part of this data set. Time to degree is another important metric. The dean added that in general, master's enrollments are down around the country with the exception of the West Coast. Fewer numbers of males was also noted. The discussion turned to the online offerings from the School of Social Work. Some faculty do better in the online space vs. in-person and vice versa. One of the questions from students regarding on-line programs is 'will we still be part of a community?'. Grad Council members offered examples of

community building in on-line programs mentioning in-person orientation and other methods to build a sense of community. They said students don't want to come to class, but they do want to be part of social justice initiatives and social events.

English Proficiency Exams for Applicants to Chemistry Master's Programs

A question was brought up if prospective 3+2 students to be admitted to the MA program without an English proficiency test score. The issue is if these students can submit the score at a later time, after they are admitted. Slate does not allow advisors to place applications in the first review bin to proceed with the admission without the test score. Because of the missing English test score it marks the application as incomplete. There was discussion about faculty in the department interviewing these students to determine their English proficiency. The Dean noted this requirement is an issue of standards and that one faculty member's view of English proficiency may be entirely different than another faculty member's. Process and procedures need to come up to scrutiny, she said. She also said there needs to be consideration given to the students we are graduating and the fact that they may not be proficient in English. She said the Grad School has responsibilities to ensure that students who come to the university can meet and fulfill requirements. The goal is not to hinder bringing in new students.

Executive Committee

Grad faculty status was discussed with the Provost before the full Grad Council. Ed Cackett recapped this discussion. The requirement for three scholarly products in five years was a bone of contention. Perhaps there should be a more varied definition of scholarly products since it varies so widely from field to field. There was also discussion regarding giving the departments more say in terms of determining who among their faculty qualifies for grad faculty status given the nuances of each field. During this discussion, it was noted that faculty productivity varies at various points in a career. Cackett reported that the Provost said he would not qualify for grad faculty status using the current criteria. A grad program officer spoke on behalf of the current criteria saying that faculty should keep up on current research and be active in their field. This is critical to them effectively advising PhD students. If faculty remain productive, it helps to set up students for success once they graduate and are on the job market. She added that WSU is a R1 institution and it is imperative to a student's social capital to have an active advisor. In the future, the Graduate School will review the current criteria language for grad faculty status.

The interdisciplinary programs were next discussed. The Provost has recommended that a "faculty of record" be established for these programs. These programs can be housed within the Grad School as long as faculty of record has been put in charge. Technical changes will be made to Course Leaf to ensure that multiple departments can approve of new interdisciplinary programs/coursework. The Grad School will define the responsibilities of the faculty of record to include how they can be removed and replaced. The two programs currently being considered are both associated with grant proposals.

NPPR

No report.

Academic Standards

No report.

Inclusive Excellence Committee Report, Jasmine Ulmer, Chair

Ulmer reported that Dean's Diversity Fellows have been selected and they are the following:

Psychology – White

Cancer Biology – Temby

Political Science – Olvera

Physics – Hernandez

English – Brown

The next fellowship for consideration is the King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellowship award. These applications are administered by the State of Michigan. Students apply directly to the state and we don't have immediate access to the pool of applicants. Notification on the applicants will come from the state shortly. There was discussion about the rubric for this award. The deadline for scoring applicants is at the end of May.

Awards and Fellowships Committee update

The Committee continues to compile and analyze the data on Rumble awards. A report will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Report of the Student Senate Representative

No report.

Reports of the Academic Senate Liaisons to the Research Committee and the Curriculum and Instruction Committee

Will be provided at the May 2023 meeting.

Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wood
Graduate Program Director