Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of January 20, 2016
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room


Members Absent with Notice: J. Beaudoin, R. Benkert, A. Biswas, J. Duchan, J. Granberry M. Kavdia, K. Paesani, J. Rothchild, P. Samuel

Members Absent: S. Abramowicz, C. Bell, D. Dungee-Anderson, J. Lewis, D. Onolehemhan, A. Vallerand, D. Walz

Also Present: J. Burmeister, C. Harting, T. Sommers

The meeting was convened at 2:07 p.m. by Dean Ambika Mathur.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made by Dr. Attila Yaprak, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Graduate and Post Doc Research Symposium
   - Ms. Cindy Sokol reported that the number of abstract submissions for master's and postdocs are low and the deadline was extended. If there is not a large amount of additional abstracts received the symposium may be only one day.
   - There are 122 PhD abstracts received before the deadline. That deadline was not extended to reach the 150 maximum in order to accommodate a one day symposium with all three groups.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposal for a Professional Doctorate in Medical Physics
   - Dr. J. Burmeister presented the Professional Doctorate in Medical Physics.
   - The department currently offers and PhD and master's degree.
   - Hospitals have created as many residency positions as can be supported financially in the academic medical centers in this country. Karmanos, for example, has two medical physicist residency positions. Training could be provided for more than two at any given time, but there are not funds to support them. The idea of the DMP is that, much like medical school and the medical doctorate, the training burden would be transferred to the student.
There are four other programs in North America that are similar to this, two are accredited. The other two are trying to become accredited right now. The hope would to be accredited within the first year of operation because the two components of the program are both already accredited. In terms of national and international competition, the two accredited programs at Vanderbilt University and the University of Cincinnati would be the only competition.

The curriculum is 46 didactic credits, 14 research credits and 30 credits of clinical training that would replace the thesis credits. The rotations are established and the mentors are in place. This is largely the accredited didactic components of the Master’s and PhD programs that exist already. Included in that would be some additional coursework beyond which you take in the Master’s program. Years two and four would be the clinical training rotations. That's one additional research component here.

There is no need for new clinical staff. There is about one-half of an FTE of administrative support right now that would need to be expanded, hopefully up to close to one FTE.

Dr. Simon Ng asked instead of doing the PhD dissertation credits, these students would take the clinical training?

Dr. Burmeister confirmed the clinical training replaces dissertation credits since this is a clinical program and not a research program.

Dr. Ng asked if the PhD students were funded and if the DMP students would fund themselves and how this would affect the current programs.

Dr. Burmeister confirmed the PhD students are fully funded and the DMP students would be responsible for the costs of the program. There is concern that this may affect the master’s program.

The motion to approve the proposal for the Professional Doctorate in Medical Physics was made, seconded and approved.

B. Proposal for a Joint Doctor of Medicine – Master of Science in Medical Research Degree Program

Dr. Stanley Terlecky presented the Joint Doctor of Medicine – Master of Science in Medical Research program.

Dr. Terlecky reported that there is an increase in interest among medical students in having a research credential. This will assist them in identifying and being able to be accepted into high level residencies across the country. Due to their work schedule identifying time for such research is problematic. This proposal is to modify an existing Master’s medical sort of joint program that already exists. Instead of having MDs come back after they’ve completed their degree, here medical students will enter the program after year 2, or after year 3, as desired.

No additional staff are required to maintain the program. The program envisions having five students a year, and a duration of roughly one year. Co-directors will oversee the day-to-day operation.

In terms of accreditation, an important issue, LCME, the Liaison Committee for Medical Education, obviously accredits the medical side, and the Higher Learning Commission oversees the other side.

Dr. Loraleigh Keashly asked how many courses would be counted toward both degrees.

Dr. Terlecky responded that biochemistry and physiology that medical students take would be used for this program.

Dr. Terlecky added that the MD/MSMR program is two years MD, one year MS and then two more years for the MD.

Dr. Steven Firestine asked if it was feasible to complete the master’s portion including the thesis in one year.

Dr. Terlecky responded that the role of the co-directors will be very important to ensure students receive good mentoring to complete the program.

The motion to approve the proposal for the Joint MD/MSMR program was made, seconded and approved.
C. Proposal for a Master of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics

- Drs. Ratna Chinnam and Toni Sommers presented the Master of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics.
- The Master of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics will include the Mike Ilitch School of Business and the College of Engineering. It’s a 30-credit coursework-based program that will include three tracks, one in data science engineering led by the Computer Science department, one in Data Science and Analytics led by the Industrial Engineering department and one in Data Science of Business led by the Mike Ilitch School of Business.
- There are close to 80 to 90 programs in the last seven or eight years in this field. Mackenzie Global Consulting estimated that by 2018, there will be a shortage of 140,000 to 190,000 highly skilled professionals in this place.
- Georgia Tech is the only other school which is seeking a very balanced approach like what is proposed here.
- The curriculum requires three core courses and three additional courses that are unique to a particular track. There is freedom to take a few elective courses, and then the program will end with six-credit practicum in industry.
- Associate Dean Feig asked if there is anything in the curriculum about data privacy.
- Dr. Chinnam responded that security and governance issues will be covered in the full courses.
- Dr. Ash asked about the practicum in particular is there concern with a student doing a practicum at one company and then would that company be willing to hand over their data pool knowing the student may end up with a job for a competitor.
- Dr. Chinnam responded that the program already has strong relationships with companies like Ford and GM as well as a number of retail companies so there is a level of trust. The program works very hard to ensure that intellectual property is protected and the students will be expected to sign a non-disclosure statement.
- Dr. Keashly asked if the program has letters of support from the companies.
- Dr. Chinnam responded that there are video testimonials on the website and a number of prominent leaders from Southeast Michigan are talking about the need and why what WSU is doing is important.
- Dr. Keashly asked if there will be three co-directors.
- Dr. Chinnam responded that faculty from each area will direct the tracks.
- Dr. Terlecky inquired about costs for software and licensing.
- Dr. Chinnam explained that there is a need and discussions with the Dean of each College are underway.
- Dr. Chinnam reported that the money received last year from the Graduate School has been set aside to polish up the syllabi and marketing the program.
- The motion to approve the proposal for the Master of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics program was made, seconded and approved.

D. Proposal to Change the Name of the Specialist Certificate in General Administration and Supervision

- Dr. Carla Harting presented the name change of the Specialist Certificate in General Administration and Supervision.
- Dr. Harting reported that the program would like to remove the word “General” from the title. The new name would be Administration and Supervision.
- The reason for the change is it is a training program for school administrators in both general education and special education.
- The motion to approve the proposal for the name change of the Specialist Certificate in General Administration and Supervision program was made, seconded and approved.

E. Holistic Admissions

- Dean Mathur reported that the Council of Graduate Schools has led this conversation for graduate purposes. They had a workshop about in mid-October and leaders from all over the country attended.
Discussions with the Executive Committee and Graduate Director has determined that holistic admissions processes are being used in some form.

Dean Mathur stated that the need to dichotomize and distinguish between Master’s and PhD needs obviously is an important thing. The focus within the Graduate School should be on holistic admissions processes for the PhD programs.

Dr. Joe Dunbar described the IMSD program and the use of holistic admissions. The program does not just admit based on GPA and scores, but looks at student “success”. The students that have been successful in various programs at many different levels, and usually people that have been successful in the past can be successful in the future. The program has to identify what the needs will be and what augment their capacity for success. The IMSD program has been successful in attracting students using this type of index, graduation rates are around 95%.

Dean Mathur reported that a meeting was held with two large departments, Cancer Biology and Psychology to encourage a pilot program using holistic admissions. Funding is being offered in the amount of two fellowships per department for 2016 and each fellowship will ensure three additional years of funding if the students make good progress and meet the additional requirements. Students will be required to engage in the learning community that will be formed and there will be mentoring teams for these students. Students will also be paired with IMSD students in these learning communities.

Ms. Brittany Haynes reported that being part of the IMSD program and the support of the program has helped promoted success.

Dr. Sharon Lean asked if the Graduate School is thinking about asking departments to come forward with proposals for how each department might consider implementing holistic admissions.

Dean Mathur responded that the Graduate School will be initiating the conversations with departments.

Associate Dean Cano indicated that collecting information from departments about their thoughts and how people are talking about admissions broadly will be part of the process.

Dean Mathur reported that the discussion will continue at the next meeting and people should bring thoughts and ideas to the next meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee.
   - Dr. Steve Firestine reported the committee met on November 3, 2015.
   - The committee discussed Graduate and Postdoc Research Symposium in regards to abstract submissions.
   - The committee also discussed holistic admissions.

B. New Programs Committee.
   - Associate Dean Annmarie Cano reported that the committee met on January 19th and reviewed four programs. The programs included an AGRADE proposal in Physics and Electrical and Computer Engineering, a discontinuance in Molecular and Cellular Toxicology, changes to the Advanced Public Health Nursing program and a dual-title program in Infant Mental Health and Psychology.

C. Academic Standards
   - Dr. Feig reported that there was no meeting in December and the next meeting would be January 21st.

D. Graduate Admissions
   - Dean Mathur reported the numbers had not changed much in the past month.
E. University Libraries
   - Mr. Paul Beavers reported that a workshop would be held on February 24th on copyrighting which has a great deal of impact on graduate students both in doing research and as potential teachers. Also for anyone publishing and signing away certain rights.
   - Mr. Beavers also reported that the First Folio Exhibit is coming in February and March.

F. Academic Senate Liaison
   - Dr. Lou Romano reported that there have been several presentations to the Senate and Policy committee regarding the School of Medicine issues. The Vice President for Medical Affairs, David Hefner was one of the presenters that described the issues in detail specifically the budget deficit.
   - President Wilson also met with the Policy Committee regarding the reorganization of the Medical School. Mr. Rob Kohrman will take over the budget position in Medicine and will leave the position in the Budget office.
   - Dr. Romano also reported that there will be a change in reporting line for the Budget Office which will no longer report directly to the Provost. The Budget Office will report to the Vice President of Finance with a dotted line to the Provost.
   - Dr. Romano informed the Council that Susan Burns has returned to WSU as the new Vice President for Development.
   - Dr. Romano reported that the Vice President for Research gave a presentation to the Senate indicating that funding is increasing and is almost at the 2011 level before the decrease started. The Vice President for Research also talked about the IBio recruiting new hires within the next four years and that the IBio building is currently about ½ full.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sokol
Manager of the Graduate Council