The Graduate Council

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2017
2:00 p.m., David Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room


Members Absent
With Notice: R. Chinnam, M. Clark, C. Giurgescu, E. Golenberg, S. Lean, J. Pruchnic, A. Yaprak


Also Present: S. Bajjaly, D. Baker, K. Campbell-Voital, K. Crawford-McKinney, Susan Gable, Sachin Modi

The meeting was convened at 2:04 p.m. by Dean Ambika Mathur.

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of February 15, 2017.

II. Report of the Chair

A. Graduate Assistant Allocations

- Dean Mathur discussed that the graduate assistant allocations meetings are continuing and discussions are underway.
- Dr. Lou Romano reported that the idea is that every college would give up to a reallocation pool a certain percent of their graduate assistantships agreed upon by the Deans and Provost and then would have reportable metrics for negotiation. Once those are set, then they would take a three-year average of what they did in the past and compared that to what they have in the year in question. If those metrics improved, the school or college would be eligible for additional TA positions. If they stay the same, there should be no change in their TA positions. If they get worse, then some of their TA positions would be reallocated to other schools and colleges.
- Dean Ambika Mathur added it will take a few more months. This is a proposal that will be going to the provost as an initial conversation.

III. Old Business

A. Data Ownership

- Associate Dean Feig presented the data ownership guideline document.
- The document was created based on situations that students and mentors do not agree about who owns the data.
- The document has been approved by the General Counsel Office.
• Data collected by WSU students or faculty belongs to WSU.
• Dr. Christine Chow asked about faculty that may not be departmental, but part of a Center.
• Dean Mathur responded that the mentor must have regular graduate faculty status in a department.
• Dr. Linda Beale suggested that instead of being guidelines the document should be a policy.
• Dr. Lou Romano added that if it is not a policy then the University does not have a way to enforce the guidelines.
• Several committee members agreed that a policy is enforceable and guidelines may not resolve issues regarding publishing the data by the student or mentor.
• Dean Ambika Mathur reported that General Counsel indicated it has to be guidelines and not a policy. Consequences cannot be suggested and it would depend on the severity of the crime.
• Dean Mathur mention that the Mentorship Compacts that were circulated should be adopted by programs for students and mentors.
• Dr. Heather Dillaway asked if there is a way revise the conflict of interest form for students to include that they have read the policy/guidelines.
• Dr. Navaz Bhagavari suggested that this be communicated at the orientation.

IV. New Business

A. Executive Committee Nominations
   • Dean Mathur stated the Graduate School is looking for nominations for the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council for next year. Please self-nominate or nominate others who would be willing to serve. The deadline is April 1st. Voting will take place at the next meeting.

B. Federal Budget
   • Dean Mathur requested members start thinking about the federal budget, including how proposed cuts would impact training, research and education and how we can deal with it. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

C. Discontinuance of the Doctor of Education and Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education and Discontinuance of the Education Specialist Certificate in Special Education
   • Associate Dean Annmarie Cano reported there is recommendation that the Grad Council approve the Discontinuance of the Doctor of Education and Doctor of Philosophy Programs in Special Education, effective Fall, 2017. The reason for this is about four and a half years ago there was an admissions moratorium on these two programs. Since then, there’s been loss of faculty for retirement and other reasons. So there is an insufficient number of full-time faculty with graduate faculty appointments to supervise new students and chair dissertation committees. There’s still an opportunity for students to pursue a higher degree with specialization in special education. If this is approved, all current students in the PhD and EdD program that currently exist will be allowed to complete their degree programs, consistent with university policy. They would also be provided with some additional advising to ensure completion.
   • Associate Dean Annmarie Cano added the second recommendation is for the Grad Council to approve the Discontinuance of the Educational Specialist Certificate Program in Special Education, with Academic Concentrations in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Cognitive Impairment, Learning Disabilities and Emotionally Impaired, effective Fall, 2017. For some of the same reasons, an inadequate number of faculty to advise the students. But also, this Educational Specialist Certificate is not adequately differentiated from the curriculum requirements for the Master’s degree. Students who are currently in this Educational Specialist Program will be advised and allowed to complete the program, either by continuing with their coursework and finishing with the original Special Education Specialist degree, or transferring to the Curriculum and Instruction EDS program, which would help them also use those Special Education courses for a Special Education Endorsement.
• Dr. Linda Beale noted the media report more and more need for training in this area. She asked other programs adequately address that need.

• Dr. Susan Gable responded there is a need, but there is not enough faculty to support the program. The Division has asked for more faculty. If students want an education specialist and want an endorsement in the special education area, they can do it through the EDS in Curriculum Instruction. They are trying to combine programs to address faculty capacity issues.

• Dr. Romano asked how many students the change would affect.

• Dr. Gable responded it affects only a few current students, approximately five or six PhDs and a handful in the EDS program.

• Dr. Xiangmin Zhang asked if there is an advantage for the students, just to change the name of the program, in terms of job market.

• Dr. Gable responded that, for the current students, they are going to be able to keep the name of the program they came in under. For future students who want to study disability-related issues at the doctoral level, they can do that under the new program if it is approved in one of the concentration areas that we designed to accommodate those students.

• **MOTION** was made, **seconded**, and **passed** to approve the Discontinuance of the Doctor of Education/Doctor of Philosophy Programs in Special Education.

• **MOTION** was made, **seconded**, and **passed** to approve the Discontinuance of the Education Specialist Certificate Program in Special Education with Academic Concentrations in Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cognitive Impairment, Learning Disabilities and Emotionally Impaired.

D. Discontinuance of the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice

• Associate Dean Cano reported it is recommended that the Graduate Council approve the Discontinuance of the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice, effective August 31, 2017. Recently, the Public Health Practice had a Bridge Graduate Certificate approved, so they are requesting the discontinuance of this older graduate certificate. Student who are enrolled in the new Bridge Graduate Certificate who decide to pursue the MPH degree will now be allowed to transfer five core Public Health courses in fulfillment of the graduate degree, whereas the older graduate certificate they are seeking to discontinue allowed only three courses to be allowed to the MPH degree requirements. Current students are in the graduate certificate program who request change of status to enroll in the MPH degree after August 31st will be grandfathered into the new Bridge Certificate policies.

• **MOTION** was made, **seconded**, and **passed**, so the recommendation is to approve the Discontinuance of the Graduate Certificate in Public Health practice, effective August 31, 2017.

E. Discontinuance of the Master of Education in Career Technical Education

• Associate Dean Cano reported it is recommended that the Graduate Council approve the Discontinuance of the Master of Education with a Major in Career and Technical Education, effective fall of 2017. This discontinued major in Career and Technical Education will be added as a concentration to the Masters in Education with a major in Teaching and Learning.

• The question was asked if students be moved into the other program without having to retake or take additional classes in the new program.

• Dr. Kathleen Crawford-McKinney responded that they can be moved over without taking any new courses as long as they have their plan of work on file. New state laws only require twelve hours to be endorsed in CTE, and many of the students do not continue to get a Masters of Education.

• **MOTION** was made, **seconded**, and **passed** to approve the Discontinuance of the Master of Education with a Major in Career and Technical Education, effective fall, 2017.

F. Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Information Management

• Associate Dean Cano reported there is a recommendation to approve the Master of Science and Information Management in the School of Library and Information Science, effective fall, 2017. This new program will appeal to prospective graduate students with an interest in working as information professionals in organizations and industries outside the typical venues for a Masters in Library and
Information Science. This is also a Plan C Masters thesis. The degree would be 30 credits with 5 required courses and 5 electives.

- Dr. Beale asked what the alternative admission requirements are for applicants.
- Dr. Steven Bajjaly responded previous graduate courses or the GRE or MAT, along with a 3.0 GPA.
- MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the Master of Science Information Management in the School of Library and Information Science

G. Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Supply Chain Management

- Associate Dean Cano reported it is recommended that the Graduate Council approve a new Executive Master of Science Program, with a Major in Automotive Supply Chain Management. This new degree program has been developed because of the increasing demand for training and skill development for those managing vehicle manufacturing supply chains. There are several Masters of Science and Supply Chain Management Programs in the state, but none are specifically focused on automotive supply chain management. MBA programs are already focused on the auto industry, but the MS would be attractive to other students who are very focused on supply chain management and not the entire MBA programming. It’s designed for working professionals and can be completed faster than the MBA. It is 31 credit hours and could be completed in as little as one year. It’s a Plan C Masters degree. No new additional resources are being requested or are needed by the program to administer this degree.
- Dr. Steven Cala asked for clarify of the Executive MS, compared to just a regular MS.
- Dr. Sachin Modi responded the program is geared towards people who have a little bit of work experience and want to get to mid to high-level management positions.
- Dr. Simon Ng asked if the program is restricted to people who are in this employment category.
- Dr. Modi responded that there is no specific restriction that a student has to be in a certain category or industry. It can help people who are transitioning into the industry.
- Dr. Ng asked if the current requirement is the same as regular MS program and when courses are held for the program.
- Dr. Modi responded that these classes will be in the evening and maybe weekend classes as needed. Work experience is one of the criteria that is considered for admission.
- Dr. Modi added they will be starting with 15 to 20 students, and then to grow to approximately 40.
- Dr. Linda Beale asked what percentage of the program’s faculty would be tenure track versus part-time?
- Dr. Modi responded there would 6 tenured track faculty, so approximately 60%.
- MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve a new Executive Master of Science Program with a Major in Automotive Supply Chain Management.

H. Proposal to Establish a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies

- Associate Dean Cano reported it is recommended that the Graduate Council approve the establishment of a PhD in Educational Studies in the Teacher Education Division in the College of Education, effective fall 2018. The program will have three concentrations: one in STEM, one in Reading, Literacy and Literature, and the third in Curriculum and Critical Social Inquiry. The program prepares students to become researchers committed to scholarly rigor, dedicated to teaching and learning in multiple contexts, and engage in finding solutions to the challenges of urban education. There are other programs in Michigan that offer similar programs, but this particular program does not overlap with any other program at Wayne State. The admissions and curriculum requirements are similar to others. They meet the requirements of the Graduate School in terms of credit hours and admissions requirements.
- Dr. Daniel Walz asked why there would be a one year delay.
- Dr. Kathleen Crawford-McKinney responded the delay is due to a curriculum committee delay. The division plans to recruit students on a yearly basis as opposed to a semester basis. Instead of having three separate doctoral programs in the division, the plan would be to go down to one as a cohort model. They want to recruit approximately 15 to 20 students every year into the program, as opposed to on a continual basis admission policy.
• Associate Dean Andrew Feig asked if other programs require less credits, would the program be competitive.
• Dr. Crawford-McKinney – new credits – 90 credits is a WSU policy for doctoral programs.
• MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to establish a new degree of PhD in Educational Studies in the Teacher Education Division, with three Concentrations in STEM, Reading Literacy and Literature and Curriculum and Critical Social Inquiry.

V. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee
• No report. Items already discussed in the report of the Dean.

B. New Programs Committee
• Associate Dean Cano reported two programs were reviewed and will be discussed at the next Graduate Council meeting.

C. Academic Standards Committee
• No report, no meeting in February.

D. Graduate Admissions
• Ms. Deirdre Baker reported admits are down slightly for spring 2017. Five or six of our schools or colleges have a significant number of students who have been admitted but have not registered for courses yet. For fall 2017, we are down 16% compared to last year. Graduate Admission is now processing everything as it comes in.
• Dr. Cala asked why there has been a decrease in admissions.
• Dean Mathur responded it is due to a decrease in international students. India and China are our biggest feeder schools for all the Engineering programs. In India, there was destabilization of the currency last year, and there was demonetization and various other things going on, and that prevented people from being able to use their assets, even if they had money in their bank accounts. The political climate is also a factor. This is being seen nationally, especially in Engineering. That’s one of the reasons why the Graduate School has been trying to increase recruitment of domestic students.
• Dr. Walz expressed concern that we only support doctoral students.
• Dean Mathur added that the bigger numbers that we are seeing dropping are at the Masters level. It’s the Masters, which are providing the tuition revenues. So that’s going to impact our ability to fund PhD students going forward, because a lot of the revenues come from Masters. We also need to be innovative in our programs, particularly online programs.
• Dr. Romano asked, based on the applicant pool, for an estimate yield from these applications.
• Dean Mathur responded she was unable to give an estimate due to external factors and their impact. Dean Mathur estimated the Graduate School would be about 5% to 10% down. The impact would be we would have to do some serious cutting. If enrollment decreases impact the general fund, that’s where GA funding comes from. It’s very important for everybody to work together to make sure that we weather through the storm in the best way we can.

E. Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons
• No Report.

F. Academic Senate
• Dr. Romano reported that, at the Senate, Deirdre Baker comes in and tell us about AGRADE. The Senate thought that AGRADE should be advertised more because it seems like it’s a good way to encourage our own graduates to stay here for graduate work. They also had a report by Dawn Medley on financial aid. Financial aid is being improved.
• Dr. Beale added they talked with the President’s cabinet about our market research.
• Dr. Romano stated they had a good report from Steve Lanier about the improvements in research funding. Indirect costs are not improving, but grants and contracts are improving. Also, there are some hires happening.
• Dr. Beale stated the university is trying to take a deeper look at its marketing efforts. The Policy Committee has been talking with the administration about this for a long time. They hired a consultant to help them with their branding.
• Dean Mathur reported on the Post-Doctoral Faculty Transition, a new program funded by the Office of the President, the Vice-President for Research, the Provost and partly the Graduate School. The idea is to have a three-year program where the cohort of five post-docs from diverse backgrounds move through open disparities. Every discipline can be represented. Post-docs will receive approximately a $60,000 stipend, plus the compensation package, which is about 20% more than the federal levels. The idea is that if they meet certain milestones in this three-year period, they will be eligible for tenure track faculty positions. We are hoping to have the students identified by May 1st and have them start on September 1st. The post-docs have to be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
• Dean Mathur added they are looking for faculty mentors with whom we can place these students. This includes individual research mentors, as well as a mentor pool so they can be mentored outside of their research.
• Dr. Walz asked if they will have five positions each year going forward.
• Dean Mathur responded the program is a one year pilot.
• The question was asked if the post-docs will be required to apply for a fellowship, like NSF.
• Dean Mathur responded an NIH or equivalent application will be required.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sokol

Manager of the Graduate Council