Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2017
2:00 p.m., David Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room


Members Absent
With Notice:  D. Baker, L. Beale, N. Bhavnagri, M. Clark, J. Pruchnic, A. Vallerand,


Also Present:  A. Freedman, N. McCaughtery,

The meeting was convened at 2:02 p.m. by Dean Ambika Mathur.

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of March 22, 2017.

II. Report of the Chair

- Dean Ambika Mathur reported that data ownership documents were discussed at the Graduate Directors meeting.
- Input was requested by April 30th.
- Dean Mathur called for a vote on having a data ownership policy or guidelines. Graduate Council voted for guidelines. Future discussions will regard penalties for faculty and for students. For faculty, a penalty could be removal of graduate faculty status. For students, it could be anywhere from a warning to a dismissal, depending on the severity of the incident.
- Dean Mathur also reported Dr. Ratna Babu Chinnam is working on streamlining the IDP and the annual review process.
- Associate Dean Timothy Stemmler reported that the last component of the GS 0900 is completion of an essay on department practices and feedback from students on the course. A group of four students turned in nearly identical papers. The topic of plagiarism was brought up in CITI training modules and Dr. George Corcoran’s session. Associate Dean Stemmler asked for input on how individual units respond to similar cases.
- Dr. Sharon Lean asked if the essay is turned in prior to the departmental training.
- Associate Dean Stemmler responded that the essay was turned in at the end of the semester, therefore training was provided.
• Dr. Monica Tracey added that there are two different issues. Students plagiarized each other and sources.
• Associate Dean Stemmler stated it is a violation of the university policy on plagiarism and this needs to be made clear to students.
• Dr. George Corcoran suggested contacting DOSO. A failing grade for the course is a reasonable penalty, including dismissal from the program.
• Associate Dean Stemmler added that there is a meeting scheduled with the students and graduate director, the students will have to retake the GS 0900 course.
• Dr. Lean added that as a zero credit course, it will not impact their grade point, but it may reduce their eligibility for funding, because they are not making satisfactory progress toward degree in a particular semester.
• Dr. Tracey added that the students should be forced to retake it immediately. Dean Mathur added that if they believed plagiarism is not a big deal that is a big problem. Dean Mathur plans to send a letter to all the chairs and graduate directors to implement something about plagiarism within the department.
• Dean Mathur reported that the Graduate Allocation Committee has been meeting and met with the Provost again regarding assistantships.
• Dr. Steven Firestine reported there was a meeting with the provost in early April to provide updates from the committee. The provost agreed with the committee, but the requested additional conversations amongst the committee with regard to metrics that individual colleges could use in determining reallocation of assistantships. Reporting outcomes from the colleges back to the provost about GRE assignments and GTA assignments, including what classes they are teaching, would help determine future allocations.
• Dean Mathur reported that a budget hearing meeting with the provost, the vice president for finance, some faculty, a student(s), and business officials occurred. The meeting provided information on funding and resources provided by the Graduate School to students and faculty.
• Dr. Firestine added that questions were positive and Dr. Firestine believes a strong case was made to keep the current funding.
• Dean Mathur reported that the postdoctoral to faculty transition program has a strong candidate pool. Decisions should be made by the end of May. Discussions underway to determine how to match candidates with strong mentors.

III. Old Business

A. Micro Credentialing Update
• Associate Dean Cano provided a follow up to the presentation in November to the Graduate Council about competency-based professional development and a micro credentialing initiative.
• Competency-based education for graduate students and post docs is the idea that there are some skill sets that all students and post docs should be gaining as they go through their education.
• The Graduate School identified five initial competencies that are going to organize graduate and postdoctoral professional development series around: communication, career development, leadership and professionalism, ethics, team work and collaboration.
• Certain activities the Graduate School offers have been identified where students can engage in the activity, by the evidence they have mastered a particular skill set within a competency.
• If the evidence passes a microcredential, also known as a digital badge, can be earned, that can be shared on Facebook, LinkedIn, or other social media platforms the badge.

IV. New Business
A. Proposal to Change the Title of the Adult Acute Care Graduate Certificate
   • Associate Dean Cano reported there is a recommendation to approve the title change of the existing Adult Acute Care Nursing Graduate Certificate, effective fall 2017, to the Graduate Certificate in Adult Gerontology, Nurse Practitioner Acute Care. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing is requiring that the students’ degree name matches with the exam being taken.
   • MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the title change of the Adult Acute Care Graduate Certificate.

B. Proposal to Establish a Graduate Certificate in Cyber-Physical Systems
   • Associate Dean Cano reported there is a recommendation to approve a Graduate Certificate program in Cyber Physical Systems, effective fall 2017.
   • The Cyber Physical System (CPS) is an integration of computation of physical processes.
   • There are no institutions in the State of Michigan that offer a cyber physical systems education program at the undergraduate or graduate level.
   • The students would have to complete a core course plus several other courses on specific topics, such as smart energy grids. The student must be in a Master’s or PhD program in the College of Engineering to be admitted to this graduate certificate program.
   • Students that may have already completed a Master’s or PhD in Engineering, and working in the field could be eligible for the program.
   • The certificate consists of 12 graduate-level credits and has to be completed in three years.
   • The courses would be taught by existing faculty members in the College of Engineering.
   • Dr. Corcoran asked if there will there be new course work.
   • Dr. Simon Ng responded that there will be new course work.
   • Ms. Cindy Sokol added three new courses are being developed.
   • MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to establish a Graduate Certificate in Cyber-Physical Systems.

C. Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Athletic Training
   • Associate Dean Cano reported there is a proposal to establish a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training, effective Spring/Summer 2018. Athletic training is an allied health profession. It has been formally recognized by the U.S. Government and also several professional organizations. This particular field is projected to grow 21% between now and 2024. The entry level master’s degree of athletic training is accredited nationally and available at 39 institutions. Certification is now moving to Master’s only certification, so Bachelor’s degrees are no longer going to be able to achieve certification. It is a 24 month, 54 credit course study that follows Plan C, including coursework and clinical fieldwork.
   • MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to establish a new degree, Master of Science in Athletic Training.

V. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee
   • Dr. Lean reported that the Executive Committee met on April 4th, and the primary topic discussed was graduate recruitment. It was opening the discussion about how to enhance our ability to recruit excellent students to all of our graduate programs. Ideas included how the Graduate School might work with departments to coordinate recruiting visits. Also discussed
was how to get information about the availability of recruitment funds, the timing of those funds, and whether that might come directly from the Graduate School instead of from the colleges, in an effort to expedite having this information at a time when programs need it in order to use it for recruitment.

- Dean Mathur added that the last three years, the recruitment funds have been allocated from the Graduate School to the colleges, as the deans would have a better sense of what is needed. Departments then get the money from the college deans. Dean Mathur asked if people prefer to see that continue, or should the Graduate School hold the funds and be requested from the departments.

- Dr. Tracy asked how much money is being discussed.
- Dean Mathur responded. It ranges from anywhere $15,000 to about $70,000 a year.
- Dr. Ng suggested a model that the Graduate School may cut a certain amount of that allocation and yet reserve a part and selectively enhance any particular college or department that also has a plan for funding.
- Dean Mathur added that the Graduate School prefer to continue to allocate funds to the colleges for efficiency.
- Dr. Firestine asked if it would be possible to include graduate directors and chairs on funding emails too.
- Dean Mathur responded that sending the emails out to chairs and grad directors should not be a problem. Dean Mathur also added that matching is required for some of the funding.
- Dr. Lean added the committee also discussed the differences in recruitment for international and domestic students. International applications and enrollments have been down for a variety of reasons. There may be a need to focus on domestic recruitment and try to enhance our ability to recruit in a more predictable pool. Another question that came up was about the possibility of having funds that we could use to help certain applicants take the GRE. The financial barrier of taking the GRE is sometimes raised with programs as a problem for applying students.
- Associate Dean Andrew Feig asked if ETS already has a program to pay for the GRE. WSU does not want to pay for a student to go to another institution.
- Dr. Lean responded that ETS does have a program, but Dr. Lean was not sure how many students receive the waivers.
- Dr. Lean also reported that the committee discussed the timing of admissions deadlines. The Graduate School has some suggested deadlines posted on the website. Within those suggestions, it always says, “refer to your department.” Departments may have different deadlines. The committee discussed whether there is anything that can be done in terms of how to organize the deadlines to enhance ability to recruit people and get applicants to apply for funding.
- Associate Dean Cano added that last summer there was a discussion about fellowships and GPS. The Graduate School sent out a survey to the associate deans and graduate directors, a selection across the campus, and the question was asked if timing of funding was an issue. Committee member responses varied.
- Dr. Lean also reported that there could be some improvements in terms of making sure students applying get into the right semester for admissions. There are programs that do not admit in certain semesters, but those semesters sometimes reopen in the admissions system.
- Dean Mathur added that that should be communicated with admissions.
- Dean Mathur requested departments to reach out to her directly regrading similar issues.
• Dr. Lean encouraged Graduate Council members to go back to their departments and review departmental admission websites.

B. New Programs Committee
• Associate Dean Cano reported that the New Programs Committee reviewed an AGRADE proposal for the Mike Ilitch School of Business and a joint program between two colleges and several concentrations of changes.
• Dean Mathur commented that there are different combinations which can be explored over the next few months, all the way from micro credentialing to the 12-credit certificate. The Graduate School needs to emphasize that teaching is an important component of a higher education institution.

C. Academic Standards Committee
• Associate Dean Feig reported that there have been some discussion on data ownership.

D. Graduate Admissions
• Dean Mathur reported that admissions numbers are very similar to what we talked about last time. Some colleges are up, some colleges are down. It’s following the national trends. Wayne State is no different. The College of Engineering is 28% down. Admits are 35% down.

E. Graduate Council Academic Senate Liaisons
• No Report.

F. Academic Senate
• Dr. Sharon Lean reported that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee met with Assessment. The meeting was to remind all departments to complete our assessment activities, which are due just after exams at the end of the semester. The cycle will begin in the fall.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sokol
Manager of the Graduate Council