



Academic Affairs Committee

January 31, 2024

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Governor Stancato in the 1st Floor Atrium at the Innovative Biosciences Center, 6135 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Atkinson, Busuito, Gaffney, Kelly, and Stancato; renèe hoogland, Faculty Alternate Representative; and Dhruval Bhatt

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Lewis, Faculty Representative

Also Present: Governors Kumar and Land; President Espy; Acting Provost Clabo, Vice Presidents Ezzeddine, Lindsey, Poterala, Ripple, Schweitzer, Staebler, and Wright; Interim Vice President Gielczyk, Associate Vice President Hafner, Associate Provost Padgett, and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 2023

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Busuito, the minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Provost Clabo advised the committee that this program was created in response to growing demand both domestically and internationally to produce graduates who manage project management construction projects. The program has been designed to accommodate working individuals, and will be offered both in-person and online. The in-person classes will be offered at the Advance Technology Education Center in Macomb County. Provost Clabo reviewed the credit hour requirements, and advised that the program has been approved by the Division of Engineering Technology, the Academic Operations Committee of the College of Engineering, the dean of the College of Engineering, the Graduate Council, the dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost. There were no questions, and the following action was taken:

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Master of Science in Construction Management in the College of Engineering, effective Fall 2024. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Provost Clabo reported that the Master of Science in Systems Engineering has been developed in recognition of the increased complexity of engineering product development and the management of intricate manufacturing supply chain operations for companies, a degree in growing demand. This fully on-line program will have two concentrations, one in general commercial systems, the other in defense systems. The program has been approved by the faculty and the Chair of the Industrial and Systems Engineering department, the Academic Operations Committee of the College of Engineering, the dean of the College of Engineering, the Graduate Council, the dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.

Governor Kelly asked, given its description as the first of its kind in the state of Michigan, for the rationale for its creation. Dean Abolmaali, College of Engineering, responded, and advised that the program responds to the growing demand for smart engineering and applications of artificial intelligence, and is the only online program offered in the state of Michigan. He believes the demand will be strong. Department Chair, Ratna Chinnam, added that Covid demonstrated that global supply chains are very fragile and the same applies to manufacturing systems, government systems, quality management systems, and product development systems, among others. He advised that the program has been developed to particularly help train graduate professionals in these areas. He believes that the introduction of this program will make the department's programs more complete and will attract students not only within the state but outside the state, as well.

Governor Gaffney asked for clarification of what systems engineering covers in this context. Professor Chinnam advised that the Systems Engineering program is about recognizing the complexity of man, machine, and material in trying to foster development of complex product and supply chains, heading up complex manufacturing facilities, and quality management systems, among others, and helps students develop an understanding of how to conceive solutions for complex problems. Dean Abolmaali added that optimization and efficiencies in engineering system design are also key components. Governor Gaffney asked what the new program adds over what is already being offered. Dean Abolmaali advised that this is a more focused program, has a broader and more different clientele, and includes a management component. That, coupled with artificial intelligence aspect make this a very unique program. And by offering it online, it is accessible to working professionals.

Provost Clabo added that this program builds on an existing certificate, so for those who want further academic credit and add that additional level of complexity, the master's degree is the preferred credential.

Mr. Bhatt asked if, given its on-line status, whether there is a hands-on component. Dean Abolmaali advised that it is a didactic course.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Atkinson, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new online degree program, the Master of Science in Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering, effective Fall 2024. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: UPDATE ON THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Provost Clabo introduced the Dean of the College of Education, Denise Taliaferro Baszile, who joined the University 18 months ago. Dean Baszile brought tremendous energy, and enthusiasm with her to the College, including her vision for excellence. She and the faculty have been working throughout their first semester together to refine excellence in education research and especially community engagement for the College of Education. Dean Baszile opened her comments by sharing personal background about her journey to Wayne State University. She is from Detroit, and discussed her previous experience at Miami University Ohio, and a recent experience she had at a conference where she met committed Wayne State warriors who convinced her to consider the opportunity to lead Wayne's College of Education. She is very pleased to be back in the city of Detroit, and hopes to build good strong relationships with Detroit Public School Community District, and to lead the College of Education at this moment in time.

The Dean then shared several slides providing statistics and insights about the College. The first provided data about the student body, faculty, support staff, budget, research, scholarships and fundraising efforts. Enrollment trends mirror what is happening in Colleges of Education nationally. There have been some increases in the Kinesiology, Health and Sports side of our College and some decreases in the Teacher Education side. She believes that the teacher shortage being experienced is just at the beginning stages, which communities may not yet realize. When she arrived, the College was experiencing a number of complex challenges, including a number of leadership changes, which has had a strong impact on morale and its sense of community. A lot of data had been compiled through consultant reports completed under prior administrations, which provided her with context and direction for rebuilding community and trust. To aid this process Dean Baszile used the Vivid Visioning Approach, a model used in business, but adaptable for higher education, and the Dean used it as a community builder. They have used it in conversations with community organizations that are trying to lean into education and health equity in the city. They have talked with their own Student Success team, and have been in conversations with PNC Bank, who are doing a lot with diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dean Baszile then shared a slide outlining the building blocks that have come out of these conversations, which include community engaged research and teaching, revenue generating partnerships, professional development, and enrollment. She cited ongoing work the College is engaged in with the Detroit Public School Community District, and the art therapy program, which has been in place for more than 30 years, as examples of work with the community. She also touched on revenue

generating partnerships with school districts, through additional training for teachers and paraprofessionals, and the Community Health Worker Academy, as examples of professional development efforts. These provide the basis of a model for efforts in other places, providing concepts for elevation and innovation and hopefully, transformation.

The Dean then touched on a number of areas related to these efforts at the college, and expressed much excitement at how these weave into current and future college initiatives. All of these initiatives are imbued with the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion, human-centered designed, and collaboration and focused on impact. She considers these efforts and approaches as part of the larger vision for the College, and is confident that the next time she updates the Board on the College, she will have much success to report on, much of which will come through building collaboration and consensus.

To conclude her presentation, Dean Baszile circled back to pride in their students, and student accomplishments. Dazmonique Car is a COE student in the Kinesiology and Health and Sports Studies program. When Ms. Car came to the university, she had difficulty in accessing healthy food, and began volunteering at *Keep Growing Detroit*, where she learned about sowing seeds, and turning those seeds into a variety of plants. Ms. Car was amazed by that and she started her own business called *Deeply Rooted* where it's doing urban gardening all around the city and delivering those fresh fruits and vegetables to the people most in need.

Governor Stancato thanked Dean Bazile for her presentation and the work underway, and asked if she could talk briefly about the issue of chronic absenteeism, which has been an ongoing issue, and one that touches the entire community. She asked whether anyone is talking to the students about what they need.

Dean Baszile agreed that this is a critical issue and advised that the college has a number of doctoral students working in the K12 system, providing opportunities for that input. She believes that talking to young people is critical. She referred to an effort she was part of earlier in her career where they visited different schools across the country. One of those schools was structured totally on project-based learning, and its students planned and hosted that visit. The focus was not on just getting a grade but on changing the landscape. The feedback from the students was that school is a lot of work, that they aren't staying under the traditional model, and that this was much more gratifying and that they felt like they were learning. The Dean wants to bring these conversations into the vision for the college.

Governor Atkinson appreciates the research being done on absenteeism, and thanked Dean Baszile for that work. She asked the Dean what the College of Education is known for, and whether there is something that WSU COE does exceptionally well that draws students and faculty here.

Dean Baszile responded that there is no one specific thing, that there are a lot of great things happening in the College and that the College needs to tell its story better. Going forward, the Dean believes the integrated community engagement strategy and holistic student success, which reinforce each other, will be those factors. That will also help

WSU COE make an impact on public education, particularly in Detroit. She believes that ultimately the success of the DPSCD, which has come a long way, and the success of Wayne State, and our College of Education in particular, are intimately tied. She added that she believes that only together we will really be able to transform the landscape of education, and that relationship building and collaboration are critical components. As an example, she cited research being conducted by her faculty looking at absenteeism from an ecological systems perspective, with factors such as lack of transportation and neighborhood social systems impacting the outcome.

Governor Kelly asked the Dean what she feels is the largest challenge facing the college. The Dean believes the culture of the College is changing, and that looking forward, it's the landscape and narrative around teaching, and how to address the teacher shortage. Within that is developing narratives to talk to students, and help them along the way, not only informing them but engaging them as well. More locally, the focus and strategy needs to change to be responsive to the students the College serves, and the students in the schools the university is partnering with. The College should be easily understood as a college of urban education.

Governor Gaffney asked for the percentage of total COE students that are training to be teachers, Dean Baszile indicated that the largest groupings are in Kinesiology and Health and Teacher Education. She added that there are students who make it almost all the way through the program only to feel a change of heart when they are in the classroom. She feels that students should be in the classroom much earlier, seeing how their experiences relate to theory, and how those two things evolve.

Governor Stancato thanked Dean Baszile for her presentation, which she found both inspiring and exciting, and looks forward to hearing more from her in the future.

FOLLOW-UP ITEM: EDUCATION OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES ON NEW P/T FACTORS

Provost Clabo introduced Senior Associate Provost Boris Baltes, to provide an update on a follow-up item from a Fall meeting of the Personnel Committee, related to education provided to members of University review committees on newly adopted P/T factors.

Dr. Baltes thanked the committee for the opportunity to present, and advised that the new factors were meant to be more inclusive, in recognition of activities that had not been previously acknowledged. They have been reviewed with the Academic Senate, and agreed to with the AAUP-AFT, and go into effect next academic year. At the time the factors were issued, the Provost asked the units, the colleges, and the departments to look at their factors and determine if they are reflective of these additional areas. If the factors already contain the additional items, no further action is necessary. If they do not, they need to be examined and amended. He shared a slide that outlined the inclusion of DEI, public/community, scholarship and/or engagement and interdisciplinary/collaborative/team-based research as the factors under discussion.

Dr. Baltes advised that the process for college and department factors is faculty driven. Right now there are units that are working on updating the college-level and department-level factors and following that, his office will move to education and next steps. He added that as a first step, these factors have been introduced to deans, associate deans, and chairs at various meetings, where they were reviewed and questions were answered. They will also be holding a town hall or workshop in the coming months to which all administrators and faculty who are working on updating these factors will be invited to attend, and they will review everything again, and help them with their updates. Then, after the first year of the new factors in place, they will survey chairs, deans and faculty for their feedback.

From a question from Governor Gaffney, Dr. Baltes confirmed that these are new components to factors of research, teaching and service, which are already in place, to make those factors more inclusive. Provost Clabo added that a key factor, which had been discussed earlier, is the recognition of the role of public scholar. She commented that very often in promotion and tenure factors, they have focused on traditional academic publications that other academics read, and often a scholar makes far more impact with their work by reaching out to audiences that are much broader and where new knowledge can be translated into practice at a greater speed. That work has not always been recognized, and these factors help make that recognition part of the process.

Governor Kelly asked for clarification on the issues referenced by the phrase “potential biases in teaching evaluations”. Dr. Baltes advised that for the last several years, they have included that in the guidelines for selective salary review, consideration of research that demonstrates biases can impact student evaluation of teaching scores, and how that should be addressed. They have made adjustments to the evaluation system to reduce the effect of those biases, and want to make individuals serving on P&T and salary committees aware and thinking of that issue. As an example, he described evaluations of statistics courses, where a lot of students don't want to take the course or don't like the course, and the bias may not be against the instructor but against the course itself. Mr. Bhatt asked whether faculty involved with undergraduate student research are included in the interdisciplinary collaborative research category, and Dr. Baltes confirmed that they were. There were no further questions on this topic.

2023 ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT

Provost Clabo advised that the final item is the annual status report on accreditation for the university. The report covers between 20 and 30 programs each year that are in some part of an accreditation cycle. She provided highlights on some of the reviews included in this year's report. In the School of Medicine, the LCME granted the MD program in Medicine full reaccreditation through the year 2030-2031. Four programs in the College of Nursing were visited this year by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and granted full reaccreditation through 2033. The Physician Assistant program in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences was visited in March 2023 and they were granted probationary status for 2 years through March 2025 with a follow-up report to the accrediting body in 2023 and 2024. She added that this is not unusual for the accrediting body for this program, and currently 40% of these programs in Michigan

have probationary accreditation status, and the number nationally is closer to 50%. The Eugene Applebaum College, under the leadership of Dean Cummings, has developed an impressive work plan and has already responded to the accrediting agency on many of the items. The Provost expects that the college will see full accreditation at its next visit. And finally, the Mortuary Science program, also in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, was granted full accreditation through the year 2030.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie H. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors