

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

December 5, 2014

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Governor Dunaksiss in Rooms BC in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Dingell, Dunaskiss, Massaron, Pollard, and Trent; Linda Beale, Faculty Representative and Jane Fitzgibbon, Faculty Alternate Representative, Kristin Tarp, Student Representative

Also Present: Governors Driker, Nicholson, O'Brien, and President Wilson, Provost Winters; Vice Presidents Johnson, Lanier, Lessem, Lindsey, Nork, Staebler and Wright, and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, October 10, 2014

ACTION - Upon motion made by Governor Pollard and seconded by Governor Massaron, the minutes of the October 10, 2014 Academic Affairs Committee meeting were approved as submitted

GRADUATE SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Provost Winters introduced Dean Ambika Mathur for an informational presentation about the Graduate School.

The mission of the Graduate School is to be a leader in advancing graduate education at Wayne State University and across the country. The primary goals and objectives are recruitment, retention, and graduation of a diverse graduate student population, and providing the best academic and career development abilities during the process. Dr. Mathur said that graduates should be leaders with multiple career pathways regionally, globally, and nationally.

The Graduate School provides services for students and faculty in 12 schools and colleges across 238 graduate programs including 59 doctoral, 124 masters, and 55 graduate certificates.

The school administers to the needs of graduate students starting with the admissions process and culminating at graduation. Fellowships, assistantships and scholarships are administered

across the university, and the Graduate School works with students through external research training grants and fellowships and other programs.

Nearly 850 faculty across the schools and colleges provide training and mentoring to graduate students. The Graduate School supports the rigor of this process by conferring the graduate appointment to highly qualified faculty who are leaders in research and scholarship arenas. Outstanding faculty, teachers and mentors receive awards in recognition of their efforts.

In comparison to fall 2013, fall 2014 Graduate School enrollment decreased by 0.2% which translates to a head count of 15 students. The Council of Graduate Schools reported a national enrollment decrease of 0.2% during this same period. Conversely, new student enrollment in the Graduate School increased by 8% in comparison to the national enrollment for graduate students which is only up about 1%. Dr. Mathur indicated that the increase was achieved through a combination of initiatives and partnerships among various schools and colleges.

The Graduate School is comprised of 7200 students: 1800 are in the doctoral program, close to 5000 in the Master's program, and 406 students are in certificate and non-degree programs. The majority are continuing students; more than 4300 are female and 2896 are male.

Dr. Mathur said that the school needs to grow the minority population considerably in order to truly reflect the perspectives of the diverse population. Dean Mathur said that graduate students constitute 25% of the WSU student population, thereby, proportionally bringing in 25% of the institution's revenue.

Some of the challenges of the Graduate School at the master's level include recruitment of new students in certain schools and colleges, retention of continuing students and financial aid. Since a number of students are non-traditional, the school has to increase the number of tuition scholarships and financial aid. There is also a need to invigorate programs.

Similarly, at the doctoral level, challenges include financial aid, though the school does provide some Graduate Assistantships and Research Assistantships. The high cost of non-resident tuition for Master's and doctoral students and faculty research funding has also been a challenge but stabilized this year.

Several efforts have been made to address these challenges through investment for financial aid and programs. In partnership with the Office of the Provost and the schools and colleges, there is a Strategic Tuition Scholarship plan for recruitment of new, and retention of continuing students, providing about \$750,000 to fund master's students and the school is also providing a fund for Master's Program Innovation (\$750,000).

There is a one-time competition (\$750,000) for graduate research assistants and external grants to enhance the reputation of graduate research training, totaling \$23 million in new awards. Dean Mathur said that the NIH announced 2 initiatives to support the growth of biomedical research training. The first was the Broadening Experience in Scientific Training program (BEST) which is designed to give PhD students and post-doctoral trainees an opportunity to explore multiple career opportunities rather than the traditional tenure-track faculty positions, totaling about \$2 million over 5 years. The second initiative, Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) is between \$20 million to \$25 million over 5 years.

Wayne State was one of only 10 awardees out of over 100 institutions that applied for BEST grants, and one of only 10 consortium awardees for the 2014 BUILD grants. The consortium

includes University of Detroit Mercy, Wayne County Community College District and Marygrove College. Most notably, WSU was one of only 2 institutions to be awarded both the BEST and BUILD grants nationally.

Dean Mathur acknowledged the faculty and administration from all schools and colleges, the Provost, Vice President for Research and President who each played a vital role in assisting the Graduate School in receiving the two noteworthy awards. She commented that receiving these significant awards has given us visibility across the map for our leadership efforts. She added that it is a shining moment for us to put our stamp on graduate research education across the country.

A few questions were raised in terms of how the Graduate School is marketing the news regarding the BEST and BUILD awards. Dean Mathur said that she is seeing a positive impact with the BEST grant. The Graduate School has begun to work with communities, universities, colleges, industries, and businesses. The school has been providing internship opportunities and employers are now reaching out to the Graduate School asking for our students. Likewise, the BUILD grant is attracting attention in that 40-50 students have requested to participate in the BUILD program.

Dean Mathur also referred to a report on the NIH Common Fund distributed to the BOG and Committee which provides highlights to Congress of the most recent NIH successes. The positive impact of both grants has already generated increased student enrollment and positively impacted our reputation. Governor Dunaskiss indicated that an update on both awards would be welcome once they have been underway for a few years.

On a larger scale, our Marketing and Communications Department has sent out several press releases about the BUILD and BEST awards. Additionally, Dean Mathur advised that the Graduate School has some residual funds to help with recruitment efforts. The recruitment initiative is a university-wide effort, which Michael Wright, Vice President for Marketing and Communications and Chief of Staff and Carolyn Berry, Director, Marketing Operations are facilitating. Mr. Wright added that extra money has been set aside to market the Graduate School a bit more, i.e., both the BUILD and BEST awards will be pitched during Graduate School open houses, used in recruitment materials and social media.

Vice President Lindsey also shared that his office has informed the broader community as well as individuals within agencies in Washington, DC and the congressional delegation about the two awards, as they get to help the university as we're looking at other grant opportunities.

Governor Trent asked if there is a strategy to attract more minorities and work with retention in the Graduate School. Dean Mathur said that the money provided by the BOG last year for a strategic plan was used to hire a new associate director. She said that schools that have large numbers of underrepresented minorities are being asked to develop a plan for improvement.

President Wilson said that the reason the University was so aggressive in getting the BUILD grant is because it's an opportunity to have a first chance on those minority students who are in the sciences and who are going to be trained through the BUILD grant and have their research experience in our laboratories. In essence, it becomes a pipeline to help our Graduate School with underrepresented minorities.

CHANGE IN THE NAME OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATIONAL SCIENCE

Provost Winters recommended a name change for one of the programs in the School of Library and Information Sciences from the Graduate Certificate in Information Management for Librarians to the Graduate Certificate in Information Management.

When the program was developed, it attracted more students who would end up in libraries. It was discovered that the attraction of the certificate program is broader than that. Graduates of the program go into industry and various sectors where information management is a sought after skill. The request is to change the name in order to bring the name of the certificate in line with the reality of the student body.

ACTION – Upon motion made by Governor Pollard and supported by Professor Fitzgibbon, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the proposal from the School of Library and Information Science to change the name of the Graduate Certificate in Information Management for Librarians to the Graduate Certificate in Information Management. The motion carried.

DISSOLUTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Provost Winters reviewed the recommendation for the dissolution of the Department of Clinical and Translational Science. The proposal to dissolve the department was originally brought forth approximately 18 months ago, but the action was deferred for a fuller review of the department by faculty and other research administrators. Following the review, the recommendation from the review committee was to proceed with the dissolution of the department. Provost Winters said there has been ongoing work in Clinical Translational Science, but the time is right to bring the dissolution to a close. The Provost pointed out that there are no faculty in the department. The faculty who were hired were half-time in the DCaTs department and half-time in another department. Those faculty were returned to their home department, with full salary, more than a year ago. The proposal for dissolution has been approved by the ad hoc committee charged by Provost Winters, as well as the Dean, the Vice Dean for Research of the School of Medicine, and the Vice President of Research.

Professor Beale inquired about the funding (approximately \$1 million) allocated to the department when it was formed. Specifically, she asked what those funds are being used for now, or what will it be used for upon the full dissolution, although much of the dissolution has already occurred.

Provost Winters said that after the faculty were returned to their respective departments and other budgeting issues were handled, \$958,000 remained from the original \$2 million allocation. That money has been used or is still earmarked for a Clinical Research Center, the informal administration of clinical translational research. A great deal of it is in a clinical trials office, other expenses on the education side, and some of it to support the various functions of what was in the department which were moved to the Office of Research, including the OnCore database.

Professor Beale asked that a presentation be provided of the funding and how it's been moved.

President Wilson added that he wants the Board to understand that the university is going to make a commitment to clinical and translational science, and in fact, even though the department is being dissolved, the plan is to develop an institute for clinical translational science and do it in such a way that the university can become competitive for future clinical translational science awards. He stated that a call for proposals came out a few months ago, however we did not apply because we would not have been competitive. The university will develop the institute and add the necessary resources so that we can be competitive for future awards. While the president did not know the exact dollar amount, he indicated that it is likely that we will need to spend more than the original amount that was allocated for the department in order to develop the clinical translational science institute.

ACTION – Upon motion made by Governor Pollard and supported by Governor Massaron, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors authorize the closure of the Department of Clinical and Translational Science. The motion carried.

DISSOLUTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Provost Winters presented the proposal for the dissolution of a certificate program housed in the Merrill Palmer Skillman institute and therefore under the lead of the Graduate School. It is a graduate certificate in Infant Mental Health. Following the advice of the 2009 Academic Program Review, an admissions moratorium was placed on the certificate program on May 1, 2010. The last degree was awarded in 2012. Since that time, the Infant Mental Health dual-title degree program has been established. This is a move from a certificate to a fuller program, which, Provost Winters added, is one of the things one wants to happen with the certificate programs.

ACTION – Upon Motion made by Governor Pollard and seconded by Professor Beale, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of the Graduate Certificate in Infant Mental Health, effective winter 2015. The motion carried.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE POST-BACHELOR'S CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

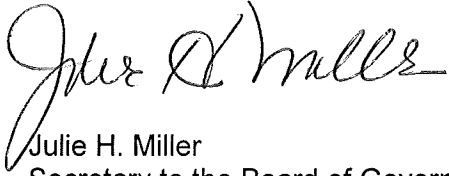
Provost Winters presented the proposal for the Discontinuance of the Post-Bachelor's Certificate in Clinical Laboratory Science. She stated that the certificate was set up because there was a need for former students and others who had degrees in the sciences for a certification rather than going on for further degrees. The number of students interested in this certificate has declined over the years, and the popularity of the baccalaureate program, which includes clinical laboratory science, has grown. The discontinuance of this Certificate has been approved with consultation.

ACTION – Upon motion by Governor Pollard and seconded by Governor Trent, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of the Post-Bachelor's Certificate in Clinical Laboratory Science, effective immediately following approval. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors

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