

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**September 25, 2015**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Governor Dunaskiss in Room FGH in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Dunaskiss Kelly, Massaron, Pollard, and Trent; Jane Fitzgibbon, Faculty Alternate Representative; Arielle Martin, Student Representative

**Committee Members Absent:** renée hoogland, Faculty Representative and Abdul-Rahman Suleiman, Student Alternate Representative

**Also Present:** Governors Nicholson, O'Brien and Thompson, and President Wilson, Provost Winters; Vice Presidents Decatur, Hefner, Johnson, Lessem, Staebler and Wright, and Secretary Miller

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, June 26, 2015**

**ACTION** – The Academic Affairs Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the June 26, 2015 Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

**PRESENTATION: LAW SCHOOL**

Provost Margaret Winters introduced the dean of the Law School, Jocelyn Benson, who provided a presentation to the board on the Law School. The view of the fall class reveals enrollment is up 10.5%, along with the Median LSAT, 157 (156 in 2014) and Median GPA, 3.45 (3.44 in 2014).

Dean Benson said that many times law schools and other educational institutions have to presumably make a choice between boosting enrollment or maintaining the credentials and the quality of the class. Because of the commitment and support of Admissions, Student Affairs and the Law School Admissions committee, this difficult choice did not have to be made and both goals have been achieved, while also increasing the number of students of color who were admitted this year.

Dean Benson noted that over the past 4 years, enrollment in law schools across the country has declined steadily, and the number of people taking that entrance exam has declined since 2010. However, in 2015 there has been an increase in test takers, an indication that we have turned the curve, internally, of boosting enrollment. It is anticipated that the change in the market nationally will help the Law School to continue to grow even further this year.

More than ever before, Law School students are receiving national recognition for their work and Dean Benson cited 4 instances last year in which students won national competitions or placed in national or regional competitions:

- Student Trial Advocacy Program – First place in the TYLA Regional Competition, advancing to Nationals Round
- Moot Court Team – won Best Brief and Best Oralist Twice at Jeffrey G. Miller Pace National Competition
- Transactional Law Team, won for third year, first place in drafting at regional competition
- International Law Team won U.S. Midwest Regional of Competition and Best Memorial and Best Oralist

Marked student success can also be seen in the State of Michigan Bar Passage Rates. In 2011, students were not passing the Bar exam at the rate of others in Michigan. Now, the Bar passage rate for Michigan and our Bar passage rate for Wayne Law Graduates continues to grow and exceed that State average, due in part to the fact that in 2013, the Law School hired a dedicated person to help students prepare for and pass the Bar exam.

In terms of job placement for students 9 months after graduation and full time JD required positions, our rate is 65 percent, and significantly higher than 65% when the employment of students without a JD is factored in.

Dean Benson said that the Wayne Law School faculty, which totals 52, are among the most productive on our campus. Assistant Professor Kristen Carlson, a junior faculty member on the tenure track, received a \$250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for her work. It is anticipated that the grant will be renewed and she will get another \$250,000 in the coming year.

Additionally, the school received a \$1.3 million research grant from the Kellogg Foundation for the Detroit Equity Action Lab project run by Professor Peter Hammer. The dean commented that it's not typical for law faculty to receive research grants as the school is a professional school, however the success in this area is due in large part to the leadership of Associate Dean Lance Gable.

Other faculty accomplishments include numerous published articles, books and book chapters. The dean stated that every single member of her faculty is publishing, productive and engaged. Faculty have also committed to student success by volunteering to mentor to 1L students. The dean indicated that this proved to be a great recruiting tool because very few law schools can offer that type of one-on-one support from faculty to their students and it says a lot about faculty engagement.

Dean Benson added that apart from faculty engagement in the area of student success, the law school is taking seriously the ethos of the university to embrace diversity and inclusion, which is being personified through the Keith Center for Civil Rights. She added that the building is alive and full of activity from individuals in the community and students from Detroit Public Schools. It is also the recipient of a grant from Kellogg this past year. Under the leadership of Professor Hammer, Director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, and Professor of Law, the Keith Center has engaged the community in developing solutions for inequity and injustice in the city and elsewhere.

The Law School's Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law prepares students for the legal jobs of tomorrow. The program involves developing an entrepreneurship focus for students so that they are thinking in an entrepreneurial way about their own careers, particularly for those with an interest in business law, and provides students with an opportunity to be a part of Detroit's Economic Renaissance right now. The program and its affiliated clinic, the Small Business Law Clinic, has been growing as well and has provided over a \$1M in legal services since its inception in 2013.

The Law School also has a partnership with the U.S. Patent office in Detroit where, students work on helping local inventors get patents and profit from what they are creating as a recognition of

how much work is going on in Detroit from Detroiters and how we want to help foster and grow that from an economic standpoint. Both of those programs and many of the clinics have contributed significantly to the Law School's growing footprint in the Detroit community, both in the legal community and the community in general.

Dean Benson highlighted a number of law school community engagement projects that the Law School is involved in. The school has provided over \$1M pro-bono legal services, had many public events, served over 200 clients and launched a pilot program called Advocates for Warriors which provides free legal services for veterans and their families. Additionally, this past year the school launched the Levin Center at Wayne Law. Senator Levin, now Professor Levin, teaches at the Law School and runs the Levin Center at Wayne Law, which is already increasing the law school and university stature nationally.

The law school clinics have expanded significantly over the past several years. There are 7 active, live client clinics at the Law School:

- Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic
- Business & Community Law Clinic
- Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic started by a student, Kathy Smolinski who received an Equal Justice Works Fellowship to create this clinic which enables students to help individuals struggling with cancer who have legal issues and other stressful legal related issues that they need to deal with. The clinic was recognized as one of the 10 most innovative clinics nationally by the National Law Journal last year.
- Disability Law Clinic
- Transnational Environmental Law Clinic
- Advocates for Warriors
- Patent Procurement Clinic

Since becoming Interim Dean in 2013 and ultimately Dean of the Law School, Dean Benson has made ensuring the financial stability of the law school a priority. As a result, the Law School has experienced an upward trajectory in terms of philanthropic revenue, in both cash and new pledges, with new pledges seeing the greatest increase. And, it is believed that for the first time

in recent history, the cash goal this year for the Law School was \$2M and that goal is going to be surpassed this year, a great deal in part due to the hard work of the development team and a new gift to be received soon.

This upward trend has been accomplished by expanding outreach, not just to major gift prospects and others, but to all alums. In that vein, the dean created an alumni speaker series and Dean's Circle which invites people who have never given, to donate \$1,000 and become a part of the Dean's Circle. This affords them certain benefits with the Law School and also an alumni mentorship program where alums are matched with students to give them advice on legal careers. A question was asked about the 65% of those graduates who are employed in JD required positions and if there is a sense where the remaining 35% are employed.

The dean said that they are employed in positions that don't require a JD and to the extent there is a small number, the overall employment rate is 84% or 85%. Some students go into graduate programs, while others continue with other educational opportunities, or perhaps even go abroad. In which case, those types of situations do not translate into employment.

Governor Trent commended Dean Benson for her leadership of the Law School and congratulated her on the upcoming ceremony to induct her into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Governor Pollard also commended Dean Benson on her leadership and inquired about our national ranking. Dean Benson communicated that there is a ballot system that is distributed to vote on the reputation of the school. She added that there are several ways in which votes can provide an accurate reflection and in contrast, there are several ways the votes can cast an inaccurate reflection. Notwithstanding, Dean Benson is optimistic that when the ratings become available in March, our rating will be reflective of our extraordinary successes this year which have gained national attention including, bringing a national figure like Senator Levin to our faculty.

#### **ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

Governor Dunaskiss called on Rob Kohrman, Associate Vice President, Budget, Planning and Analysis, to provide the Enrollment Update. Mr. Kohrman advised that the census was completed

last Wednesday and data is still being compiled. A full enrollment report will be distributed and the report will be on the website in a few weeks. The university's enrollment for the fall is 27,222 which is a decrease of 1.29%. Undergraduate freshman enrollment increased to 16.7% or 367 students. There was a 3.5% decrease in our continuing students as a result of larger classes going through the pipeline. In addition there was a 16% decrease in our transfer students, primarily as a result of community colleges having decreases in their enrollment of approximately 17.5% over the last five years. In comparison, Mr. Kohrman said that enrollment is down for transfer students at other universities and their main feeders are from this area as well. There were some increases in the transfer enrollments for those institutions around the western part of the state.

Graduate enrollment is up 294 students or 4.1% and the professional programs are up 1.2%. In terms of the census, we are better than our budgeted amount which was 27,080, which will contribute to a better financial picture than we had originally anticipated.

Mr. Kohrman announced that FTIAC enrollment is up to 2,562 or 16.7%, which is a five-year high for the university. Sixty-five percent of these students are in CLAS, with significant increases in business and education. The average ACT score of students increased to 23.6 from 23.1. The number of students enrolled with an ACT of 24 or above went from 923 to 1,106.

Additional increases also occurred in terms of the number of students coming from Detroit, which is up by 27%; the number of students from Macomb increased by 21%, Oakland, up 23% and Wayne numbers increased by 16%.

In addition to headcount, our yield rate also rose. The yield is the number of students enrolled over the number of students admitted. Last year's yield was 22.8% and this year that number jumped to 32.5%. Typically, a 10% point increase is not common in one year.

In terms of the graduate enrollment, there was an increase of 4.1% or 294 students and an 18% increase in the number of new graduate students. Of particular note is that last year at this time, there were approximately 100 new MBA students. This year there are closer to 300 MBA students enrolled at the university.

The master's overall enrollment increase was 338 or 6.3%. The doctoral enrollment had a slight decline of about 44 students or 2.5%. On the professional level, the Law School had a small decrease but in terms of their JD program, they had a 10% increase in their first year students.

The PharmD program remains stable at about 385 students and the MD program remained stable at 1,258 students. Mr. Kohrman added that the University's retention rate jumped to 77.3% from 76%. Retention rates will be discussed during the December meeting.

Professor Fitzgibbon asked about graduate student retention rate and suggested that Monica Brockmeyer include that information in her upcoming presentation to the Board.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN MATHEMATICAL ECONOMICS**

Provost Winters presented the proposal for the Establishment of Arts with A Major in Mathematical Economics. This new degree was developed across a couple of departments. The program will be housed in the Department of Economics, however, the departments of Economics and Mathematics will administer the program jointly. The proposal was approved by all levels prior to presentation to the Board.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion made by Governor Massaron and supported by Governor Trent, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the Establishment of a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Mathematical Economics from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Departments of Economics and Mathematics, effective winter term 2016. The motion passed.

#### **DISCONTINUANCE OF UNIVERSITY MAJORS IN THE B.A. IN EDUCATION AND THE B.S. IN EDUCATION IN THE TEACHER EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Provost Winters presented the proposal for the Discontinuance of University Majors in Education and the B.S. in Education in the Teacher Education Division of the College of Education. All

current students in the discontinued majors will be moved into the option of one of two new university programs to be named Bachelor of Arts in Education with a major in Secondary Education and Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Secondary Education (see next proposal). A Board of Governors recommendation for the establishment of these two new programs will be presented concurrently as a separate but related request for approval.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion made by Governor Massaron and supported by Governor Trent, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of the Bachelor of Arts in Education and the Bachelor of Science in Education effective fall term of 2016 for all of the majors listed in the Board document. The motion passed.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO NEW PROGRAMS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION AND THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION**

Provost Winters presented the proposal to establish two new programs: the Bachelor of Arts in Education and the Bachelor of Science in Education. The establishment of these two new programs will capture all the material that is being discontinued as formal program names. These new programs will make for a more efficient way of working with students and will also reflect national and state norms on what degrees should be called. Provost Winters commented that this does not change the opportunities for our students in teacher education. The proposal has received approvals from the faculty of the Teacher Education Division, the College of Education Assembly, the Office of the Dean of the College of Education, and the Office of the Provost.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion made by Governor Massaron and supported by Governor Trent, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of two new degree programs for the Bachelor of Arts in Education and the Bachelor of Science in education, each major with concentrations reflecting teaching majors and minors in the College of Education, effective fall term 2016. The motion carried.



**CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN LABOR STUDIES TO BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR RELATIONS**

Provost Winters presented the proposal to change the name of the Bachelor of Arts with a major in Labor Studies to Bachelor of Arts with a major in Employment and Labor Relations. The name change will reflect a market identity that is both contemporary and appealing to prospective students. Additionally it captures new emphasis in the field.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion made by Governor Massaron and supported by Governor Trent, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve a name change of the B.A. with a major in Labor Studies to the B.A. with a major in Employment and Labor Relations, effective winter term 2016. The motion carried.

**STATUS REPORT ON ACCREDITATION**

The Board packet contained the annual status report on accreditation. For the benefit of new members to the board, Provost Winters advised that there are accreditation possibilities for not all, but many of the university programs. For some programs, accreditation simply does not exist, however in each case, it is a cyclical matter. The national organization is most usually the body that accredits. The program in question generally provides a self-study which demonstrates adherence to the various standards expected from the program. We have a site visit of a smaller or larger accreditation team and that team will then go and report to the national body. The team does not decide the accreditation, but rather makes a recommendation to the national body.

Provost Winters referred to the document in the board material and indicated that the programs listed have been accredited or are eligible for accreditation. Also included is a chart of all the programs, when they've been accredited, or when they will be next reviewed.

Accreditation fees can range from a few thousand dollars to more than \$10,000. Governor Pollard inquired where the funds come from that are associated with accreditation. Provost Winters said

they come from the university and from the general fund. However she was not certain if the money is allocated to the schools or paid directly from the general fund.

Governor Pollard also inquired if the University is required to be accredited. Provost Winters responded yes, that degrees would mean nothing without national accreditation. Provost Winters further stated that later in the fall, there will be a discussion with the Board about the upcoming accreditation of the university. She added that though it's unofficial, the relatively new Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering had its site visit last week and the accrediting site visitors and the reviewers went away very enthusiastic and it is hopeful that the program will get a very strong recommendation for accreditation.

President Wilson clarified the answer with regard to the accreditation funding source. He said that each school is expected to pay for their own accreditation. The School of Medicine's LCME accreditation is close to \$60,000. President Wilson indicated that when it is time for each school's accreditation, they add the amount into their budget and ultimately the source of the funds is the general fund. There's not a specific accreditation fund.

Governor Thompson asked at what point the Board becomes involved in the university-level accreditation and if the Board is involved in the school level accreditations.

Provost Winters advised that the board is not usually involved at the school level, other than receiving the status report on accreditation. Provost Winters added that this fall, the Board will hear a presentation on the Higher Learning Commission; the University's accrediting agency. The site visit will be in March 2017.

President Wilson said that board members are very involved in the university accreditation process. The purpose of the October meeting will be to acquaint the Board with the accreditation process as well as advise the board of its responsibilities and expectations during the actual accreditation site visit. During the actual site visit, the site team may elect to interview the board as a whole or meet with members individually.

Governor Trent inquired about what the University is doing to address the faculty staffing issues at the School of Business which led to the one-year continuing review.

Provost Winters said that some of the issues have been addressed. However, because although there are instructors in the classroom to meet the increase in students, the University is struggling with the American Association of Schools and Colleges of Business (AACSB) requirements because those requirements go beyond just having instructors in the classroom. Their strict ratios have to do with the number of tenured track and tenured faculty. The provost advised that she and the dean are working together to resolve this issue. Though it is challenging, the Provost said that they will increase where possible on the budget limitations, and make a good argument for the fact that we are providing first class instruction.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Hearshen Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors