



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

September 23, 2016

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Governor Dunaskiss in Room BC at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Dunaskiss, Kelly, Massaron, Pollard, and Trent; Renée Hoogland, Faculty Representative and Jennifer Hart, Faculty Alternate Representative; Abdul-Rahman Suleiman, Student Representative

**Also Present:** Governors O'Brien and Thompson, and President Wilson; Provost Whitfield, Vice Presidents Burns, Decatur, Hefner, Lanier, Lessem, Lindsey, Staebler, and Wright; and Secretary Miller

Governor Dunaskiss welcomed Jennifer Hart as a new member of the committee.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES, June 24, 2016**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Trent, the Minutes of the June 24, 2016 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

Governor Dunaskiss called upon Provost Whitfield, for an update of the general education review.

#### **UPDATE ON GENERAL EDUCATION REVIEW**

Provost Whitfield began by stating that the general education requirements were a collection of courses designed to ensure that all students have the basic skills fundamental to success in college while simultaneously achieving the intellectual breadth necessary to place specialized and professional curricula in proper perspective. While there had been minor revisions to the program over the last twenty years, the last major revision was made in 1987, and there have been no comprehensive reviews of the program for more than ten years.

In Fall of 2014, Provost Margaret Winters established the General Education Reform Committee, a group made up of faculty from across the university, academic advisors, and administrators. Provost Whitfield noted that the proposed curriculum is designed to reflect the uniqueness of Wayne State as an Urban Research University in the city of Detroit. The recommendation currently in development proposes a curriculum smaller and more flexible than the existing program and provides pathways for all students, including non-traditional and transfer students and is designed to cultivate intellectual and practical skills as a foundation for further study and lifelong learning.

The General Education Reform Committee's proposal was presented to the faculty senate in May of 2016. There was discussion and general support for the ideas in the proposal and the committee is now working on an implementation plan to include an assessment of instructional resources, staffing needed to fulfill the ideals in the proposal, an evaluation of faculty expertise and interest in the new curriculum, faculty support needed, the process for creation and approval of new courses, the articulation of new curriculum within four year degree plans, and other assessments of the impact of the proposal on academic units such as the utilization of graduate teaching assistants.

Provost Whitfield noted that the process would likely require the entire Fall Semester to complete. The recommendation of the approach to the Math Competency Requirement will be assimilated into the General Education Reform proposal, and once completed, the implementation component of the proposal would be discussed at the policy committee and presented to the faculty senate for a vote. Once any requested revisions had been made and approved, the proposal will come to the Board of Governors for approval.

President Wilson commented that he thought that it fair to say that the General Education Curriculum Reform was not complete and that it would be an overstatement to say that it was widely embraced by everyone at that point. He thought there was going to have to be a significant amount of continued discussion but has every confidence that Provost Whitfield will go through the appropriate processes to ensure that there is input from all different constituents, most importantly the faculty.

There were no further questions, and Governor Dunaskiss thanked Provost Whitfield for the presentation

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION**

Provost Whitfield provided an overview of the recommendation for the creation of an undergraduate certificate offered by the Mike Illitch School of Business. One of the important components is that the certificate is not limited to only the people in the School of Business. The certificate format helps makes it more attainable for people in other schools and colleges as well as other degree programs.

Governor Dunaskiss asked for questions. Governor Thompson asked for a clarification stating that the undergraduate students have a particular subject that they are majoring in and asked if the certificate was just on top of whatever their major is. Provost Whitfield noted that for those students who were outside of business, who might not be using those same electives to achieve other pieces of a Business School degree, yes it would be things that would be in addition to what they would be required to take and that it was one of the reasons why he strongly encouraged them to do a certificate, because it reduces the amount of additional courses that somebody in, say philosophy, might take. They would be taking a few business courses, definitely the entry point and particularly the exit point, the Capstone to be able to integrate what they have learned. It would be in addition to what would be in most traditional majors, unless for some reason they might be taking some of those courses. That might happen, particularly and referenced was the example in Performing Arts. They have management degrees that are there and so they utilize

some of those business courses so there is some natural overlap between them and that might keep it from just being a complete add-on to what they would be taking for their degree. Governor Kelly asked if there had been any discussion about including humanities or social science courses as possible electives within the program, using business anthropology for example or there might be potential courses in history or philosophy. Provost Whitfield noted that one of the things that goes on with curricula is that once they get a stamp of approval, they become organisms and grow. And the School of Business actually had been doing a very good job of reaching out to others and a few are working with Ned Staebler. There were some different groups that were talking about innovation and entrepreneurship because there was also a specialization or a certificate at the graduate level in engineering and there might be others. Provost Whitfield noted that he hoped that there would be these additional courses that might be able to be moved and approved.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Pollard and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the proposal to establish a new undergraduate certificate program in Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Mike Illitch School of Business, effective Winter semester 2017. The motion carried.

## **STATUS REPORT ON ACCREDITATION**

Provost Whitfield presented the report, stating that Accreditation cycles and processes were discipline specific across the years and that there would be multiple accreditation reviews going on at any one point in time across the university. Regardless of the discipline, accreditation is meant to insure minimum quality standards and continuous improvement. Every program receives feedback on how it may continue to advance the university and the program's mission. The accreditation process spans more than a year, and in any year Wayne State typically has 25 to 30 programs that are in the self-study portion of their development. The site visit is usually the last piece that can span another additional year. As many as 1 to 3 years after a site visit, further extending the process, some programs undergo accreditation review and re-review. Some have mid-term reports that they have to submit. This coming year, 9 programs are expected to submit materials or undergo site visits, and another 11 programs will be required to submit an annual or progress report. Provost Whitfield noted that the board report provides a table of all of the various accreditation reviews. It is a complex table because within even a specific college, there may be 3, 4, 5, 6, or more different accreditors for different academic programs. Provost Whitfield concluded by saying that one of the things that had been talked about and shared with the faculty was that the accreditation process is the bureaucratic piece of it, but the assessment that occurs, the appreciation and understanding of how good our programs are, the value that they bring and the learning outcomes that our students achieve, is incredibly valuable for the University itself, and not just for external evaluators. This process helps the university keep an eye on the quality of the programs with the real goal to make sure that we are the best that we can be.

Governor Thompson asked for an explanation of the programs in the Medical School that were in less than full accreditation.

Vice President Hefner responded that in general the accreditation process for the entire Medical School fit into the cycle that the Provost spoke to; Secretary Miller added that it refers to the family medicine and the doctor of medicine degree programs.

President Wilson said that he could speak to one of them and advised that there are a number of accreditations in medical schools that are department specific. Family medicine is one of those, and it has received continued accreditation at this point. There are certain things that the school was asked to improve upon, which they were working on. He added that the LCME accreditation is for the entire School of Medicine. The school had been diligently working on the issues cited at the review last June. Although probationary status was discussed by the LCME, the School of Medicine acted quickly on issues brought to its attention, the LCME determined that the School had made progress, and determined that they did not need to be put on probation. Since then, the school has continued to work very diligently in the areas where deficiencies were identified. While minor issues, such as classroom seating, were easily addressed, there were two major issues that required more attention, one of which was the diversity of the class. The year of the site visit, there were 5 under-represented minorities in the entire class of 290 students. In this year's class, there are 66 under-represented minorities, including 4 American Indians which there have not been a single one in 10 years. The second area related to embracing new pedagogies in the curriculum. Our School of Medicine has been behind in revising its curriculum. A new Dean for Education has been undertaking a complete revision of the curriculum, the work of which will be completed in a much accelerated time frame. President Wilson advised that that we would be well prepared for when the LCME comes back to see how we're doing.

Governor Thompson asked for explanation of the one year continuing review for the Mike Illitch School of Business. Margaret Smoller, Associate Dean from the Mike Illitch School of Business School, noted that one of the issues that the accreditors looked at was the ratio of student to tenure track faculty members and that it was an ongoing concern because it impacts the quality of the educational program provided. The accreditors were happy with what the School is doing and the direction taken, but they were continuing to check to see that this evolves as the student body grew. Another issue they had which had been resolved was the Assurance of Learning Programs, which are ongoing and developing in a good way, the school was fully on board and had now developed a very complete Assurance of Learning Program.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors