



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 28, 2017

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Governor Dunaskiss in Room BC of the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Busuito, Dunaskiss, Gaffney, Kelly, and Trent; Faculty Representative Jennifer Hart and Linda Beale, Faculty Alternate Representative; and Ryan Laith, Student Alternate Representative

**Committee Members Absent:** Student Representative Abdul-Rahman Suleiman

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 24, 2017

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Nicholson and supported by Governor O'Brien, the minutes of the March 24, 2017 Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

### PRESENTATION: GRADUATE SCHOOL

Provost Whitfield introduced Ambika Mathur, Dean of the Graduate School, for an update on recent initiatives. Dean Mathur advised that Graduate student success tracking tool, The Doctoral Data Dashboard, was developed to look at student outcomes and challenges, and the presentation for today's meeting was to review the type of information the tool generated, and conclusions that can be reached from that data. There are 75 PhD programs across 11 schools and colleges in nearly all disciplines, with 1,700 PhD students and 3,000 PhDs graduating between 1999 and 2014. Some programs were better than others at collecting and reporting data so an effort was started at the institutional level to focus on access to this information to ensure that informed decisions about graduate education were being made. The questions pertaining to who the students were, how they performed and what they did after they received their PhD degrees from the University were addressed by the Graduate School, in partnership with the Office of Institutional Research, C&IT, doctoral program faculty, directors, deans and others. Research on 90% of graduate alumni were tracked and the data results were posted on

the Institutional Research and the Graduate School websites. The graduate programs are at the national average of 50-60% completion rate for PhD students, with the average rate to completion across Wayne State of 5 and a half to 6 years.

Charts showed employment sectors for PhD students, including higher education PhD granting institutions like Wayne State. Data showed that half of the students were staying in the state of Michigan, with others going to states outside of Michigan and international locations. The business sector was highlighted as an example of examining certain sectors - 312 graduates from Liberal Arts and Sciences and 239 graduates from the College of Engineering ended up in the business sector after completing their degrees. The data base provides a way to examine our graduate student body and know what type of student would come to Wayne and succeed. The data base can also help analyze whether standardized scores actually correlated with success in PhD programs or if holistic reviews of admissions would better correlate both performance within the PhD program, and career outcomes.

The public data will also be helpful for prospective students and for recruitment purposes. In terms of recruitment, retention, and completion by gender, race and ethnicity, in each department and college, the data will underscore the impact of Wayne State doctoral alumni on the intellectual capital and economy of Michigan, nationally and globally. Additional data needs to be gathered, and next steps will include ideas on ways to increase participation of students from underrepresented groups, financial support to enable increased completion rates, and methods to shorten the time to degree.

Governor Dunaskiss opened the floor to questions, and began by asking if the data led to any significant changes to the existing programs. Dean Mathur advised that in addition to the GRE, holistic reviews for PhD applications will be instituted. Looking at professional and development activities exposing students to careers outside of academia, data showed that more than 50% of students were going into alternate career, other than those of their graduate field of study. Seminars and workshops will be offered, and a micro-credentialing program noting workshop and seminar completion could be mounted on platforms such as LinkedIn, so potential employers could see those skill sets they may require, but do not appear on transcripts and or in the dissertation research. President Wilson commented that the University is a national leader in this area and funding agencies, particularly NIH, NSF, and others, are becoming increasingly interested in the outcomes of their investments in PhD students. He anticipated that eventually all universities will be required to have these kind of tracking mechanisms.

Governor Thompson asked what were other indicators of success outside of the GRE, and whether there are particular pipelined efforts for underrepresented students. Dean Mathur advised that indicators included mentoring, research experience and letters of recommendation that addressed the potential for success, including grit, resilience and persistence. +-Pipelines included an NIH funded program called BUILD, where underrepresented High School students attend a 7 week summer research program. She advised that they had received national awards for their research and the average of both freshmen and sophomore cohorts was around a 3.5 GPA. A second pipeline program, Wayne MedDirect, involves preparing students for Medical School. The average GPA for

students in this program is 3.98. Governor O'Brien asked if there is any fundraising to increase financial support. Dean Mathur noted that there is no specific fundraising occurring at this time. The Graduate School's stipend average is below the national average and fundraising efforts should target graduate student support. President Wilson noted that historically, it is difficult to raise money for graduate students. Dean Mathur advised that there is currently a committee of graduate directors from across disciplines looking to make sure that their discipline specific needs are met. There were no further questions, and Governor Dunaskiss thanked Dean Mathur for the presentation.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM WITH A MAJOR IN AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

**AMENDMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS SPECIALIST: INTRODUCTORY**

**AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS SPECIALIST: ADVANCED**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

Governor Dunaskiss suggested that the four action items be considered as a group, and asked if there were questions for Provost Whitfield on any of the recommendations. Related to the establishment of new programs, Governor Gaffney asked if the University generally created new courses or fit them into what already exists, and if new courses are needed, whether new professors would be hired. Provost Whitfield advised that these programs are fit into what already exists, for the most part, and noted that many were new and different combinations of courses around different strengths within particular departments and particular schools or colleges. Governor Thompson asked about the amendments for the two certificates around elementary education. Provost Whitfield called on Darin Ellis to respond and he clarified that the amendments were regarding the number of credits that could be used in different ways. He advised that it was a clerical error caught during implementation review and that these changes would bring the programs into compliance with other aspects of Board policy. He noted that there would be extra vigilance on the next round that came through.

Governor Dunaskiss asked for a motion to approve the two certificate programs, and the establishment of two new Master of Science and executive master programs. The following action was taken.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor O'Brien, and supported by Governor Nicholson, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors:

Approve the establishment of a new Executive Master of Science Program with a major in Automotive Supply Chain Management, effective Fall 2017.

Approve the establishment of a Graduate Certificate in Elementary

Mathematics Specialist: Introductory (GCEMS-Intro), effective Spring-Summer 2017.

Approve the establishment of a Graduate Certificate in Elementary Mathematics Specialist: Advanced (GCEMS-Adv), effective Spring-Summer 2017.


Approve the establishment of a Master of Science in Information Management (MSIM), effective Fall 2017.

The motion carried.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors