ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Academic Programs, Teaching and Support Services

After the Board of Governors approved the new General Education curriculum last November, our General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC) along with other faculty, academic staff, and administrators across campus have been hard at work to ensure the smoothest possible transition for our students to the new requirements. Highlights of this work include:

- Completion of required updates in the Office of the Registrar, including our course records office, the Bulletin, and the degree audit system, DegreeWorks.
- Mapping of existing general education courses into our new categories for the vast majority of courses.
- Adoption of over 40 new courses from 4 different colleges that satisfy our new requirement categories. This includes adoption of a number of new quantitative reasoning alternatives.
- Development of a framework for assessment and continuous improvement to be conducted on an ongoing basis by the GEOC. This includes successful submission of a request for a coaching visit from experts at the National Institute on Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA)

As we move towards full implementation of our Wayne Experience (WE) requirement in fall 2019, the Provost’s Office has released a request for proposals to develop WE alternatives. The Wayne Experience, a one credit course required of all first year students, will play an instrumental role in socializing students into the university environment by providing activities that will increase their connections between fellow students, academic advising staff, and their instructors.

The Office of Teaching and learning (OTL) hosted our third annual Hybrid and Online Teaching Institute to help instructors learn how to design effective hybrid and online courses.

- 36 Faculty and Graduate Teaching Assistants attended the institute.

Other Teaching Workshops and Consultations include:

- In the 2017-2018 academic year we conducted over 500 individual consultation with instructors. [This is similar to 2016-2017]
- In 2017-2018, we conducted over 180 workshops, this is a 100% increase over 2016-2017.

Congratulations are in order for C&IT’s James Lee, who received a 2018 Parchment Award of Excellence. James and Jeremy Potts, Associate Director of Operations for Admissions, worked together to create the Transcript Import Manager (TIM), a user interface that lets the admissions team efficiently receive pre-application documents. In 2017-18, TIM enabled three admissions processors to manage and process over 48,000 applicant documents. This process saves time and allows us to provide quick feedback to better connect with potential Wayne State students.
SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND DEPARTMENTS SPOTLIGHTS

Limí Sharif is a BUILD scholar and junior majoring in biological sciences. She attended the 2018 Scientista Symposium in New York, NY this past April, and won first place for her poster, "Lower Trust Scores of Ambiguous Facial Expressions Associated with Increased Electro cortical Activity," in the undergraduate category. The Scientista Symposium is an annual event that brings together women in STEM disciplines from across the country to network and attend workshops, career talks and panels. The BUILD program provides participating students, known as President M. Roy Wilson BUILD Scholars, with hands-on research training, guided career development, and access to a network of elite faculty mentors and renowned scientists. This unique program helps students develop and cultivate the skills needed to excel in college and beyond.

Tannia Rodriguez Valenzuela is using her biomedical engineering degree to become a doctor who fights for global health equity. She doesn’t believe it is sufficient to receive a typical medical degree and wants to ensure her career as a doctor is backed with additional skills. “If I’m a doctor and an engineer, I can make new devices and technology to directly help people,” she said. Before graduation in May 2017, Rodriguez Valenzuela worked on multiple prototypes, including a redesigned glucose monitor for the visually impaired and an app that turns spirometer exercises into an entertaining game. Currently, she works in a tissue engineering lab, where her research focuses on creating blood vessels from stem cells. Rodriguez Valenzuela’s fight against health care inequity began in 2013, when she and her brother founded the Wayne State University chapter of Timmy Global Health, an organization that provides reoccurring health care to international communities. Each year, the Wayne State chapter visits the Dominican Republic. These visits made Rodriguez Valenzuela determined to use her engineering skills to make global change. “My goal as a future doctor is not to just make money and see patients. I want to volunteer my time,” she said. “It’s not enough to do things locally — that’s just the first step. If you move abroad, you can make a bigger impact.” In recognition of these achievements, Rodriguez Valenzuela was granted the Student Spirit of Community Award in 2018. This award honors individuals who facilitate meaningful relationships within the Wayne State and Detroit communities. Rodriguez Valenzuela is currently completing her master’s in global health at the University of California San Francisco. This degree will tie together her skills in biomedical engineering and her dedication to making global change, she said. She hopes to return to Wayne State for medical school. “I love Detroit, and there’s so much work to be done here,” she said. "This is the one place where I feel like I can accomplish a lot.”

Tamara Hendrickson, chemistry professor has been accepted into the ELATE at Drexel® national leadership development program. This prestigious fellowship program is designed to advance senior women faculty in STEM fields into leadership roles. Hendrickson is one of only 18 women chosen for the 2018-19 class of fellows. She joins a small but mighty team of Wayne State Warrior women who have preceded her in the elite program.

Just 28 schools nationwide received the prestigious Future of Nursing Scholars grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation this year — and the Wayne State College of Nursing was one of them. In an effort to increase the number of nurses holding doctoral
degrees, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s (RWJF) Future of Nursing Scholars program provides financial support, mentoring and leadership development to nurses who are committed to earning their Ph.D.s in three years. This is the second consecutive year that the College of Nursing has earned the grant, presented this year to Navdeep Singh. He joins an elite group of 51 nurses nationwide receiving the award this year, increasing the total number to 109 Scholars across the three previous cohorts.

In continuing its symbiotic relationship with the Mike Ilitch School of Business, Meritor Inc. has donated $25,000 to the new Ilitch School facility in the District Detroit. To recognize its generous gift, the Ilitch School will name an interview room and a “sticky space” after Meritor. The Meritor Interview Room will provide valuable space in which recruiters can meet and discuss employment opportunities with students. It is one of seven such interview rooms within the second-floor Career Planning and Placement suite. In addition, the Meritor Sticky Space will be located adjacent the interview room. Sticky spaces, tucked into various hallways throughout the new facility, will operate as informal study areas for students before and after classes. Meritor, headquartered in Troy, is a leading global supplier of drivetrain, mobility, braking and aftermarket solutions for commercial vehicles and industrial markets. Six years ago, the company chose to strengthen ties with Wayne State based on the sizable number of WSU alumni who have been successful at Meritor and the close connection many of the students have to the metropolitan Detroit area, said Tim Heffron, senior vice president of human resources and chief information officer for the company. Heffron also serves as a member of the Ilitch School’s Board of Visitors. “Meritor has had excellent experience with the graduates from the Mike Ilitch School of Business,” Heffron said. “We find that they have a strong work ethic, are eager to learn, and manage to be successful within the organization.” The company has since established an endowed scholarship and an annual scholarship to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide financial assistance to students. Heffron said Meritor continues to look for ways to buttress its relationship with the Ilitch School.

**ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

AcademicWorks is a Scholarship Management System the university purchased to improve student access to scholarship information, enhance donor engagement, maximize fund utilization, ease the awarding process for S/C/Ds and create transparency of fund spending. This system allows for monitoring encumbered funds, reviewing campus-wide MOAs, and instantly identifying unspent funds and potential recipients. Implementation of the product is in progress with the majority of the university onboard for the 2019-20 awarding cycle.

Emergency Grant: The Wayne State University Student Emergency Fund (SEF) is a joint venture between the Office of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving (OAR) and the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA).

- The SEF assists Wayne State University students by providing limited emergency financial assistance to currently enrolled students who are unable to meet immediate, essential expenses because of temporary hardship related to an unexpected situation. The fund is designated to offset
short-term financial need and is not intended to replace or supplement financial aid.

Micro-grants – WSU created two new initiatives to alleviate financial stress and increase student retention and graduation for transfer and low-income students by piloting a Wayne State Micro-grant program. With this grant, we will assist students with balances below a certain set amount that will clear balances allowing the student to re-enroll and ultimately graduate.

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

As part of its strategy to expand WSU partnerships in South America, OIP is launching its first initiative in Colombia. The office recently hosted representatives from the Universidad Externado in Bogotá, who were on campus to work out final details for a new student exchange between our two universities. The exchange is funded by a grant the universities received from a competition sponsored by MetLife Foundation through the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, a public-private sector collaboration led by the U.S. Department of State. Students and faculty from Colombia will come to WSU in June, and WSU students and faculty will go to Colombia in July. The students will interact while on Wayne State’s campus, as both groups study how the others’ city has rebounded after civic conflict. OIP has partnered with the Department of Political Science and the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies on the Detroit program.

Three students have received Fulbright Scholar awards for the next academic year – the most successful application cycle to date. The three comprise all levels of study: an undergraduate; a master’s student; and a PhD student going to Israel, Germany and Jordan, respectively. Another WSU student has received the U.S. Department of State’s Gilman International Scholarship, a grant program that enables students of limited financial means to study abroad. Undergrad Chloe Fraleigh will use the award to participate in the Office of Study Abroad trip to Ghana in July/August.

Wayne State has been selected to host another cohort of Global UGRAD students in 2018. This undergraduate exchange program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by World Learning and IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) in Washington, D.C. The four students hail from Israel, Mongolia, Pakistan and Panama. Global UGRAD provides one-semester scholarships to outstanding undergrads from around the world for non-degree full-time study, combined with community service, professional development and cultural enrichment.