



## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 20, 2019

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:38 a.m. by Governor O'Brien in the Room BC of the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Busuito, Kelly, O'Brien, and Trent; Brad Roth, Faculty Representative, Linda Beale for renee hoogland, Faculty Alternate Representative; Rexhinaldo Nazarko, Student Representative; Stuart Baum for Ali Fakih, Student Alternate Representative

**Committee Members Absent:** Governor Kumar

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES, February 1, 2019

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Prof. Roth and supported by Governor Kelly, the Minutes of the February 1, 2019 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

### REDUCTION OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED BY THE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE HONORS CURRICULUM

Provost Whitfield reported that the Honors College has requested a reduction in the number of credit hours required for the undergraduate degree with honors. Dean Corvino provided background on this proposal. The revised requirements brings the University in line with best practices in the state and nationally, and makes it more feasible for students to graduate with University Honors within 4 years. Professor Beale asked if this is the appropriate amount of credit hours for an Honors degree or if there were insufficient courses offered. Dean Corvino noted that his staff thoroughly reviewed peer institutions used for comparison of requirements. The median required honors credits for the degree were 24 and the mean was close to that. The college is working on identifying more options for students to take honors courses in addition to reducing the credit requirement. Governor O'Brien asked, in terms of approvals, whether consultation with the faculty senate is required. Provost Whitfield advised that curricular changes are typically

proposed by a curricular committee within the respective college, voted on by the faculty and approved in the Provost office. Mr. Baum responded in support of the change, and noted that it would open the doors to opportunities for more students.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Professor. Roth and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors amend Board Statute 2.43.05.100, to approve a reduction from a minimum of 36 credit hours to 28 credit hours required for University Honors, effective fall 2019. The motion carried.

### **DISCONTINUANCE OF THE POST BACHELOR CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT**

Provost Whitfield reported that this certificate program has low demand, and currently there are 9 students enrolled. Those students will be able to complete that certificate. There is another opportunity for a similar certificate from the School of Library and Information Sciences.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Professor Roth and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of the Post Bachelor Certificate in Information Systems Management offered by the Ilitch School of Business, effective fall 2019. The motion carried.

### **DISCONTINUANCE OF THE DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Provost Whitfield advised that this change is an effort by the College of Education to streamline their PhD offerings, which they began in 2017. At that time, they moved to a single doctoral track. There has been a lack of interested in this degree program.

Governor Thompson asked for an update on the effort to evaluate all courses, streamlining and the approach to discontinuing or adding new courses. Provost Whitfield advised that that work had begun and that the College of Education had progressed farther out ahead of other schools/colleges. Other colleges have begun using multiple approaches for evaluation. One approach being utilized is a system called Academic Performance Solutions, which looks at course offerings, graduation rates, and degree relevance. While there is no current timeline for completion, there is a yearly report for doctoral degrees and graduation rates for those programs. In terms of peer comparisons, the University lists over 350 degree programs while peer institutions average around 250 programs.

Governor O'Brien asked whether the closing of this program would result in job loss or the shifting of personnel to different positions. Provost Whitfield noted that while there were some losses, there were opportunities yet to be capitalized.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Professor Roth, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of the Doctor of Education (EdD) in Reading, Language and Literature (RLL), effective fall term 2019. The motion carried.

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN NEUROSCIENCE**

Provost Whitfield noted that this is a popular major for students in the sciences, including areas such as neurobiology neurophysiology, and psychology. It also parallels the translational neuroscience initiative, is an interdisciplinary major and requires collaboration of multiple departments across different schools. Public health will need to grow the infrastructure to be able to support the program, because it has grown from having an expectation of only 75 students to more than 500 students in three years.

Governor Barnhill asked if more interdisciplinary majors will be created in the future. Provost Whitfield confirmed, noting that there will be intersections between employable areas and what graduate students are seeking. The College of Arts and Sciences, for example, required a minor that allowed students to gain interdisciplinary training, and data science that was done at the master's level between the College of Engineering and the College of Business was an interdisciplinary major.

Governor O'Brien asked whether the program director was already at the University. Tom Fischer from the Department of Psychology worked on the proposal and will serve as the first program director.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Professor Roth, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of a new degree program, the Bachelor of Science with a Major in Neuroscience in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective fall term, 2019. The motion carried.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS ANNUAL REPORT**

Associate Provost Monica Brockmeyer presented the report, and advised that data highlights and figures can be found in the supplementary materials included with the presentation. Graduation rates increased from 26 to 47% between 2011 and 2017 and are the fastest rate of improvement of any public university over that time period, attracting national attention and interest. There is continued commitment to the university's 50%

graduation rate goal for 2021, which may be reached 2 years ahead of schedule. Graduation rates for black students were up 15%, rates for Latino students were up by 25%, and the university also saw increases in first generation and Pell eligible students, while some educational disparities remained. The four-year graduation rate increased and students are passing one more class on average in the first semester than at the beginning of the initiative, with an increase in GPA's above 3.0. The post-graduation employment rate was up over the last decade, and the University has the highest social mobility index among all the Michigan public universities as reported by New York Times.

There has been increased interest from colleges and universities wanting to know how the university accomplished these improvements. Dr. Brockmeyer reviewed about 1/3 of the 150 projects detailing the working initiatives, cultivating the conditions to grow student success with academic advising at the core. Highlights from that list include the hiring of 45 academic advisors, along with creation of an advisor training academy and investments in technology that extended to student services. Financial aid strategy was rebooted together with completion grants and student learning, and course redesign efforts were supported by the wider grant. The One Warrior Vision and Impact Program, piloted in 2017, distilled the best practices of student success with 76 students and outperformed their deepest hopes and imagination. In one year, the black students in that program retained into the second year at a rate of 82%, compared to 81% for white students overall. When students also took the first-year seminar study skills class, they were retained at a rate of 93%, with a GPA analogous to other freshman on campus. The vision for Warrior VIP was that over the next decade, it will become the nucleus of transformation of the whole undergraduate student experience.

Investments were also made in technology and predictive analytics, with some interesting data to report. Students saw advisors three times more per year than they did three years ago. Data showed that students needing advising received 14 times more appointments than students who needed it less. Professional development was also a core part of the initiative. Key strategies moving forward include deepening the partnership and collaboration with the faculty, and partnering with the leadership academy to promote and support student success leadership projects, and others. The second key strategy was the high touch, high tech academic advising in student services to support personal relationships between students, advisors, and other support people on campus. This effort helps bring students not only to an advisor, but to a support team which uses the high-tech analytics approach to make sure that everyone was getting their needs met. Dr. Brockmeyer thanked the Board, the President and the Provost for their leadership and partnership in these efforts.

Professor Roth noted that the undergraduate research opportunities program was a high achieving program and asked about changes that have been implemented and the elimination of the twice yearly competition. Ms. Brockmeyer noted that the award portion of the program was not attracting a diverse population and was discontinued to make a deeper investment in the McNair scholars program and other high achieving students across campus.

Governor Thompson asked about the EAB technology, whether the consultant is still involved in the work, were they effective and what else was used. Dr. Brockmeyer advised that the EAB consultants were effective and that there were multiple relationships with the EAB with respect to student success. There was a previous executive partnership/consultant relationship that advanced cultural changes in student success with cross functional action teams, calendaring, mapping and intervention planning. The contracting year ended early and that work was now being completed in house.

Governor Thomson asked what was being done to address the drop from approximately 8,000 black students to 4,155. Ms. Brockmeyer shared those concerns and talked briefly about efforts in two areas, one to bring in new black students and the other through retention and increases in student success. There were more black students in the entering class last year than the year before. Nearly all of the students of color in the Warrior Way Back program were African American.

Governor Trent asked for clarification of mindfulness meditation for college students. Ms. Brockmeyer noted that it began with Randie Kruman, Director of Disabilities Services and trained in a methodology called Kuro mindfulness meditation specifically designed for college students; the program has a specific curriculum. Psychosocial interventions, through understanding of brain science and learning can maximize student ability to learn and grow.

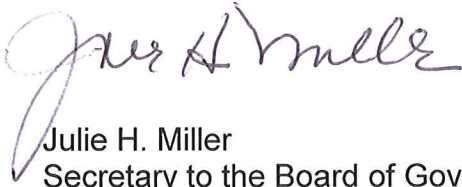
Governor Trent asked about a previous vote to change the requirements for admission for students who were not college ready and noted the importance of pipeline programs and working with K12 systems, particularly in the Detroit Public School System.

Ms. Medley noted that the office of the Provost was bringing all summer programs under a central market place and is working with several foundations providing opportunities for African American students in the city of Detroit to come in and experience Wayne State. The new admission standards started in January of 2013, and the first class to see the 6-year graduation rate under those new standards will be in fall of 2019 and the 50% goal could be reached by the end of the strategic plan. Governor Barnhill asked to discuss the business case for investment in the 150 projects and the future goals pertaining to the 6-year graduation rates for the black, Latino, first generation, and Pell- Eligible students. Ms. Brockmeyer noted that the 150 projects were in various stages of completion or completed and there is funding to invest in the future. Mr. Baum commended the Student Success efforts and the Board for making funding for such projects a priority.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors

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