



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 21, 2019

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 a.m. by Governor Trent, serving as Chair for this meeting, in Room BC at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Kelly and Trent; renèe hoogland, Faculty Alternate Representative; Linda Beale, sitting in for Professor Brad Roth, Farhana Aktar, Student Alternate Representative, Stuart Baum, sitting in for Mr. Ali Fakh.

Committee Members Absent: Governors Busuito, Kumar, O'Brien; Brad Roth, Faculty Representative, and Ali Fakh, Student Representative

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, May 1, 2019

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Professor hoogland, the Minutes of the May 1, 2019 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES

Provost Whitfield introduced a proposal to establish a new program for a Bachelor of General Studies, which would provide an alternative pathway to graduation for students for whom the traditional major and path do not fit. He introduced Associate Dean Dillaway from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for further discussion on this proposal.

Associate Dean Dillaway is in charge of the undergraduate program for the college, and advised that CLAS sees a lot of returning students, and they see a large number of students who have completed a tremendous amount of work towards a degree, but for some reason, left the University prior to graduating. This is not a new concept for the University, which has had an interdisciplinary studies program, a College of Lifelong

Learning and a Weekend College in its history. Ms. Dillaway advised the committee that the Board document under consideration does not provide the full context of the rationale behind the proposal. There are a large number of returning students, and programs are being developed to address their needs. Some of those returning students, who are coming back to complete their degrees, began their studies decades earlier, in the 1970s, 1980s or 1990s, and the college attempts to retrofit current majors, looking at waivers and exceptions to try to help these students have a chance to finish their degrees, but they also need to keep the integrity of the existing programs and majors. She provided examples of two students who returned after substantial time away from the institution, whose original programs of study were no longer available, or had been reformulated. They also have students returning from the former interdisciplinary studies major, which was discontinued in 2007. In these cases, advisors work with the students to find a path forward to graduation. These are students in good standing, in most cases who have already met minimum university requirements for graduation, have satisfied residency requirements, but there is not a current program that provides a way for them to graduate.

Professor Hoogland raised concerns about the discrepancy in the document before the committee and the one that was approved by the faculty council of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The document approved by the CLAS faculty council indicated that students cannot opt into this pathway, and must be invited, and that there was a maximum limit on the number of students in the program at any one time. Associate Dean Dillaway advised that the removal of the cap was part of the discussion with the CLAS faculty council and faculty assembly, to provide flexibility should there be just over 20 students who fit the background and requirements for this program. She confirmed that students must be invited in, which will occur through a secondary admissions process, and based on HLC guidelines, students have to be allowed to apply, but the college does not have to accept them. It will be a selective process, using the same criteria as described and discussed.

Governor Kelly asked Professor Hoogland if she felt, given Associate Dean Dillaway's response, the faculty council would no longer support this initiative. Professor Hoogland does not believe faculty support would change, and appreciated the additional information. She suggested that those clarifications should be added to the current document so that the correct description and intention of the program is made clear for the record. Ms. Dillaway added that it was her intention to talk about this with the faculty council in the Fall, to clarify implementation and next steps.

Professor Beale raised concerns about intent, as the language in the Board document appears to open this up to a large group of students, potentially even transfer students, and that students with academic challenges may see this program as a way to complete their college studies with less rigor. Given Associate Dean Dillaway's explanation, she asked why the narrow student limit was not included in the Board recommendation, and suggested that a statement should be included that the program is not open to transfer students, or to students early in their programs at the university.

Associate Dean Dillaway commented that the subheadings and program description in the document before the committee are misleading, and what is missing from that

document is the specific rationale and information about the group of students for whom this program is intended. The College must abide by HLC guidelines, and cannot earmark a program for a specific group of students. The College will stick to the secondary admissions process, with the curriculum as structured. Students must complete all General Education requirements, they must complete all college level requirements, have 20 credits in a CLAS major, either current or discontinued, they must have 30 credits at Wayne State and must have been at the university for at least 3 semesters. This is not a program meant for transfer students or for students who don't want to finish their major.

Professor Beale asked whether a minor is required, as the document and CLAS program requirements contradict each other, and has concerns about the differences in the way the program is described in the Board document, which normally contains all program information, and what has been described by Associate Dean Dillaway. She feels the document should be more reflective of actual intention and indicate that it is for returning students, or students that have either been in a similar program or are in a program that no longer exists, which would meet the accreditation standard. Governor Kelly asked if that language could be added to the document. Associate Dean Dillaway indicated that the language could be added, and advised that the goal in the Board document before the committee was to show that a new degree program was being created, and provide the requirements and method for admitting students. In addition to the discussions with faculty, the college council and the faculty assembly, they also discussed the policies and the structure of the document to be brought forward, with the emphasis on the curriculum and the selective admissions process at the forefront.

Mr. Baum expressed support for the program, and has confidence that CLAS will be selective in identifying those for admission. He believes that CLAS courses have rigor, and hopes that CLAS will have flexibility in the evolution of the program, as there is a need for more programs that are interdisciplinary in nature.

The committee next discussed whether or not it would be better to return to the Board in the fall with an amended document, or if an agreement could be reached on how to update the existing document to accurately reflect the discussion that had ensued. Associate Dean Dillaway understands the concerns raised. The original proposal to the college was 30 pages; the information was condensed down to 3 pages for the Board document. She believes that the questions raised during the discussion are covered by the full proposal and structure that has been developed for the program. Professor Hoogland indicated that she fully supports the purpose of the program, and the curriculum is clearly defined, but the program description is misleading. She suggested that the rationale included in the original proposal for the program could be condensed and added to the Board document.

Governor Trent asked for clarification on the HLC requirements/guidelines, and suggested that if it would ease some of the concerns raised by the faculty, it would be helpful to incorporate that in the document. Professor Beale suggested that the issue of the requirement of a minor needs to be resolved, as the language is contradictory. She added that the list of bullets included in the Board document is confusing, as it relates to other institutions, and not necessarily the situation at Wayne State. She supports the

goals described by Associate Dean Dillaway, but wants the Board document to be reflective of the program to ensure that everyone understands those goals.

Associate Dean Dillaway spoke to the question on the requirement of a minor. The college changed its college level requirements in 2018, and for those students who entered Wayne State Fall 2018 or later, a minor will be required. She added, however, that the purpose of this degree program is to help students graduate who were under a prior set of degree requirements. So those students with the older catalog who have completed their Gen. Ed. Requirements will not be held to the new minor requirement. She added that 10 years from now, the college level requirements will for this degree program will require a minor.

President Wilson indicated that he had not heard a lot of opposition to the concept, other than wording in various places in the program proposal, and suggested that, if the faculty representative agrees, that the committee consider a motion and move it forward with the understanding that the Associate Dean will return with a revised document that reflects this discussion. Professor Beale asked for clarification on whether or not a student who has been at the university six years and completed their Gen Ed requirements is eligible for this program. Associate Dean Dillaway responded that there will be a selective secondary admissions program, which will be run by a committee, and it will determine which students are accepted to this track. There will be both faculty and advisors from CLAS on the committee.

Governor Kelly agreed with the President's suggestion, and asked if there is a way to take action today on this program, with a report back at the September meeting reflecting the suggested modifications. Mr. Baum concurred, and expressed support for the program. Ms. Aktar agreed that more clarification would be helpful, and with that clarification she would be willing to support the recommendation. Professor Beale had concerns remaining with the description of the minor requirement, and suggested that a statement be added that said "the program will function as described in the proposal passed by the CLAS faculty council and faculty assembly, and a minor will be required under the college level requirements once students are no longer covered by the earlier bulletins." Associate Dean Dillaway indicated that phrase could be added, and that the provision is already in place.

With the above understanding, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly, and supported by Ms. Aktar, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of General Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective Fall 2019. The committee takes this action understanding that CLAS officials will present a revised document reflecting the changes discussed at this meeting at the next meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee.

Governor Gaffney asked whether it would be appropriate for the Academic Senate to offer a counter proposal at the next meeting, should they want to do so. Professor Hoogland

advised that she did not believe a counter proposal was necessary. Rather the proposal needs to reflect what it is supposed to do in line with the discussion with Associate Dean Dillaway at today's meeting. She supports the motion on the table, with the proviso that the program description will be clarified, and specifically focus on what this program aims to do. A question was raised on HLC requirements, and the Associate Dean reported that the institution cannot create a program that is only open to certain categories of students. The institution can have a secondary admission process that can reflect selection. The university can set minimum criteria, and institute a selection process, similar to what is used for Nursing, or Biomedical Engineering, for example. Programs are selective, they are competitive, and the college is looking for the best fit. Each case will be reviewed and a decision made.

Governor Trent called the question and asked for a show of hands. The motion carried.

CHANGE IN THE NAME OF A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER TO THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Provost Whitfield advised that many years ago, the Department of Computer Science was moved from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the College of Engineering. The degree under consideration here is a holdover from that previous action - it remained in CLAS. The proposal is to change the title and transfer the newly named program to the College of Engineering.

Governor Gaffney asked whether this proposal is counter to the move towards multi-disciplinary work, and expressed concern about such an effect. Provost Whitfield responded that this proposal is making sure that the degree program resides where the faculty who teach it reside. They have been researching why this program wasn't moved when the department of Computer Science moved, as it should have occurred at that time but did not. Governor Gaffney asked if this move will reduce redundancy - Provost Whitfield responded that there aren't faculty in this college who would teach students who would get this degree. The Provost asked Dean Hartwell from CLAS if she had any further comment on this proposal. Dean Hartwell indicated that there are very few students in this degree program, and that most students are looking for the B.S. in computer science. This was a B.A. program, and the College of Engineering did not want a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) program, only B.S. programs, which she believes is why it did not move at the time.

There were no further questions, and action was then taken on the following motion:

ACTION: Upon motion made by Professor Hoogland and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors change the title of the Bachelor of Arts in Information Systems Technology (BAIST) to the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT) and move the degree program from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the College of Engineering, effective Fall 2019. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie H. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Julie Hearshen Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors