



Academic Affairs Committee

April 30, 2021

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Governor Gaffney. The meeting was held in virtual format and livestreamed at wayne.edu. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Busuito, Gaffney, Kelly, Kumar, and Stancato; renée hoogland, Faculty Representative; Mannat Bedi, Student Representative and Kamali Clora, Student Alternate Representative

Committee Members Absent: Ewa Golebiowska, Faculty Alternate Representative

Also Present: Governors Barnhill, Land, and Thompson; President Wilson; Provost Clabo; Vice Presidents Burns, Cooke, Lanier, Lindsey, Lessem, Schweitzer, Staebler, and Wright; and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 21, 2021

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Stancato and supported by Governor Kelly, the Minutes of the March 21, 2021 Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DIETETICS

Provost Clabo advised that the requirement for credentialing in dietetics have changed from a baccalaureate degree to a master's degree. Students with only the baccalaureate degree will not be able to sit for certification and licensure effective January 1 of 2024. The proposed Master's program is consistent with the national accreditation requirements and the requirements of their certifying body. This program includes both didactic and clinical or field practice experiences and will culminate in a capstone course. It has been approved by the faculty in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science, by the CLAS Faculty Council and Assembly, by the Dean of CLAS, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School and the Interim Provost. Governor Gaffney asked if there was a Master's degree in this area prior to the change in certification requirements. Dean Clabo advised that this is a new program.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Stancato, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of

Governors establish a new degree program, the Master of Science in Dietetics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective fall term, 2021. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ONLINE PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Provost Clabo reported that this will be one of the University's first fully online graduate science degrees. This will allow the Department of Environmental Science and Geology in CLAS to recruit a diverse pool of students, including students from outside of Michigan. There are no field requirements; the program includes two tracks and is both relevant and timely across a number of businesses and industries. The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Department of Environmental Science and Geology, by the CLAS Faculty Council and the Faculty Assembly, the Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School and the Interim Provost.

Governor Kelly asked if students in this program will spend any time on campus. Provost Clabo advised that the program is fully online with three core courses and six to seven elective courses. Mark Baskaran, Chair of Environmental Sciences and Geology, added that research was done to find out what similar courses and programs are offered in the nation with the sole focus on changes in the environment, particularly geological changes in the last 200 hundred years, and not many programs were found. Governor Stancato commended all involved and noted the program is a step in the right direction. Provost Clabo advised that this will be the first fully online Science degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Stancato and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new online degree program, the Master of Arts in Environmental Science, in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective Fall 2021. The motion carried.

COURSE MATERIAL FEES REPORT 2021

Course material fees are charged in just under 15% of courses on campus and are largely for materials that are expendables such as beakers and materials in science labs, supplies in the health professions and also includes the cost of standardized testing that is required in some of these courses for accreditation. Governor Gaffney asked VP Burns if students would be able to access scholarship funds to cover these fees. VP Burns noted that there were some scholarships that could specifically address the fees. There were no further questions.

EXTENDING SUSPENSION OF WSUCA 2.34.09.020

Provost Clabo presented a recommendation to extend suspension of WSUCA 2.34.09.020, which requires the ACT or SAT for admission to the University. This provision had been suspended twice in the past year. The reason for a request for an additional extension is that students, particularly disadvantaged students and students in the Detroit metropolitan area, are having trouble accessing the ACT and SAT

standardized tests. Many tests were canceled as a result of the most recent surge in cases in Michigan.

Governor Stancato asked whether the University is considering eliminating the requirement for admission altogether. Provost Clabo noted there is ongoing discussion on this issue at essentially every university over the last number of years and due to the pandemic, there will be reasonable data upon which to make decisions moving forward. Dawn Medley in Enrollment Management and Monica Brockmeyer in Student Success are both collecting data on the success of the holistic review process presently being used in many of schools and colleges, including medicine and nursing, which were among the first to adopt holistic review for admissions at a national level. With this data, the University will be in a much better position to make a recommendation to the Board on an appropriate action moving forward. Governor Thompson asked whether there is information about enhanced diversity at the undergraduate level as a result of the holistic review of applications in admissions. Provost Clabo advised that she did not have the data at the undergraduate level at this time but both Medicine and Nursing have a longer history of using holistic review and locally the University has enhanced diversity. President Wilson advised that while there is increased diversity, there are many other factors that impact these results, including the Heart of Detroit scholarship, more long-term, longitudinal data will be needed to make these assessments, which may take a number of years.

Professor Hoogland asked if students on the undergraduate level skipping this test might experience negative consequences later on in their career. Provost Clabo advised that skipping the test is becoming far more the norm nationally at the undergraduate level, and for graduate school the same process is occurring.

Provost Clabo advised that in the future Dawn Medley should address the impact of holistic review with this committee. Some schools with test blind admissions do not look at the tests, whether the students take them or not, and other schools consider the test as part of a set of factors if a student chooses to take them. Wayne State University is test optional that looks like test blind, so that students that choose to take the test are not disadvantaged if their score is not exceptionally high. President Wilson advised the Board that a very thorough discussion about this topic will take place in the future.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Professor Hoogland and supported by Governor Stancato, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors extend the suspension of 2.34.09.020, the standardized test score requirement for admission to the University, previously extended on June 19, 2020, through the Fall 2022 admission cycle. The motion carried.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT IN A REMOTE ENVIRONMENT

Provost Clabo introduced Dr. Ahmad Ezzeddine for a presentation about the University's global engagement in today's remote environment. She added that this presentation was developed in response to questions from the Board of Governors about how the University is doing in the area of Study Abroad and other forms of global engagement since the

pandemic. Associate VP Ahmad Ezzeddine was invited to present the work of his office in the past year.

Dr. Ezzeddine discussed the importance of providing students with global skills and competencies. He noted the initiative called Global Learning for All provides every Wayne State student with the opportunity to participate in a substantive global experience through the Study Abroad program, virtually, with a global partner(s) or locally, by engaging the diverse communities and immigrant communities in the region.

This program connects WSU faculty with global university partners and promotes Wayne State as a destination which supports international students and scholars. Some activities and successes highlighted included the Fulbright program and the State Department's educational and cultural exchange program. This past year Wayne State was selected as a host university, and initially was one of eight universities set to host the Gateway Orientation in person, which would bring a hundred scholars to campus. Because of the pandemic, the State Department and the Institute for International Education chose Wayne State University to be the sole provider to host the program, presented virtually. The university hosted 1100 grantees, which included any international scholar who received a Fulbright award. The University will host the 3 week event again this summer, with about 1500 grantees in attendance.

In the MENA program, American Fulbright recipients head to the Mid-East region and North Africa to conduct their research and teaching, and the University hosted participants in 2020 and will host close to 40 participants in 2021. The University will also host the Global English Teaching Assistant Workshop Orientation program this year, with 200 scholars participating. The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders brings young leaders from multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. This program covers different focus areas and the focus of the Wayne State program is public management. Wayne State is the only new grantee joining Arizona State, UC Davis, Georgia State and Northwestern University in providing these opportunities for students and faculty to be exposed to these opportunities and programs. The University's students can win these awards, they just need mentoring and support and a new initiative has been launched to encourage those students to apply. Dr. Kevin Deegan-Krause from the Honors College is assisting with this application process for students and a website has been created with information on the awards, deadlines and requirements. There have been many information sessions held and since the launch in December, 113 students have expressed interest, and 19 students are working on applications. Last year there were 3 full ride applicants. There are efforts to increase the number of faculty members teaching Fulbright and similar prestigious fellowships. Another initiative which was accelerated due to the pandemic was the launch and expansion of the virtual exchange program. Starting with students in US and Germany, institutions work collaboratively during a regularly scheduled course that adds a global component. The students work with their counterpart virtually and across time zones, languages and cultures. The University received a grant from the US Embassy in the UAE to develop partnerships between Wayne State and institutions in the United Arab Emirates, particularly with the American University of Ras Al Khaimah with whom the University already partners. A visiting faculty program is being developed as well, as part of that grant.

With grant funding received, the university was able to launch the Learning Faculty Fellows program which includes 15 faculty representing 6 different schools. It initially focused on undergraduate students and first-year and second-year courses with the idea that a global component would expose students early to study abroad when they are juniors and seniors. The planners are working to find appropriate financial support for this initiative. There are 6 schools involved including Business, Education, Engineering, Fine and Performing Communication Arts, Liberal Arts and the School Social Work with a later goal to offer the opportunity to graduate students and the entire campus community.

The new initiatives are built on the success of past efforts to include, enroll, support and engage international students, who are an important part of the Wayne State community. Since September, the University has recruited in 55 countries and has gone virtually to countries never visited before. It has participated in 39 virtual fairs and a series of webinars and meetings with prospective students and scholars, resulting in international applications and admissions at a 5-year high. There is a focus on yield, with webinars and other outreach to the admitted students to encourage them, during this dormant time until embassies start issuing visas. Special attention has been paid to support current international students, particularly Canadian students, struggling with the effects of the pandemic, which include immigration changes, financial stresses and travel restrictions. A third of the users of the Food Pantry are international students, and the office has been working very hard to make sure the University offers them support.

Governor Kumar commended AVP Ezzeddine and his team for their very good work for the University. Professor Hoogland expressed concern that international students are a third of the use of the food pantry. AVP Ezzeddine noted that a lot of international students used to work on campus and that work has stopped due to the pandemic, and the frequency of other sources of financial support slowed down.

Governor Thompson asked how faculty apply and are chosen for the Fellows program. AVP Ezzeddine advised that this year is a pilot, which is taking advantage of two grants. Faculty express their interest, advise their dean of their interest, and the deans nominate the faculty. There are 2 faculty from each college as part of this pilot. Governor Thompson noted that it was a great program and hoped that more faculty have the opportunity to learn about it and potentially participate in it.

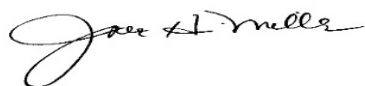
Governor Thompson asked if there was opportunity to engage with international students virtually. AVP Ezzeddine advised that there are a small number of international students starting their courses online from their home country. One challenge is going to be the tuition, because for international students, if they are online from their home country, trying to sell them on the out-of-state tuition rates may be an issue and something to look at in the future, with a differential fee structure. International students really want to come to the US and there is some work with the University's partners through joint programs to make that happen.

Ms. Bedi noted that she is looking into Study Abroad and commented that the virtual exchanges are a great opportunity. She asked whether, after the pandemic, when more traditional Study Abroad opens, the virtual exchange program will still be available for students. AVP Ezzeddine confirmed that the opportunity would still be available. From a global perspective, it is important that there is a global dimension embedded across all disciplines, schools and colleges.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller,
Secretary to the Board of Governors

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