



## Academic Affairs Committee

October 1, 2021

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Governor Gaffney. The meeting was held in the Ball Room at the Student Center Building. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Busuito, Gaffney, Kelly, Kumar, and Stancato; Brad Roth, Faculty Representative and Jennifer Lewis, Faculty Alternate; and Representative Mannat Bedi, Student Representative and Ibrahim Ahmad, Student Alternate Representative

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JUNE 25, 2021

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Stancato, the minutes of the June 25, 2021 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

### RETURN TO CAMPUS IN TIME OF COVID

Provost Kornbluh advised that management of COVID has been incredibly challenging for all of higher education and the country.

In 2020, from summer through fall, with almost all courses conducted online, a survey of the University faculty and students indicated that they were very satisfied, and felt supported by the University. The President has also been open and available to the entire campus community with open forums, online forums and accepting input. President Wilson has also insisted throughout this period that any actions taken should be guided by science and by the University's Public Health Committee and the approach has been flexible to individual needs. Faculty and students have felt comfortable being on campus and with in-person instruction permitted.

Where possible, the in-person experience was maximized. Provost Kornbluh noted that even if classes were online, students who wanted to be on campus were really enjoying being on campus as evidenced by the Student Center and the Undergraduate Library's filled seats. Student activities included the FestiFall event, which saw large numbers of excited students on campus.

The facilities team did a remarkable job of getting buildings back on line for the fall. The basement of the Nursing building contains all hands-on laboratories and equipment that could not be moved. Facilities ripped out the floors and sides of the rooms and completed work there in about two and half weeks. The Law building was the same, with no loss of in-person teaching due to the floods.

Per the recommendation of the University's Public Health Committee, a vaccine mandate was put in place in August. The numbers of vaccinated students registered for fall is over 95%, faculty is over 99% and the staff is over 90%. All were given flexibility that if they were teaching remotely or taking classes remotely, they did not have to comply with the mandate. Those on campus are also mandated to comply with the mask mandate. Complaints about students violating the mandate has been small in number and there were no complaints in classrooms all semester.

There is a 100% compliance in housing, which is at approximately 2/3 capacity and more students may move to campus in the winter quarters. Chatsworth opened after renovations were completed, and offers suite living, living learning programs, and hosts a first-year experience program. New Student Convocation took place on the lawn on Woodward and Warren Streets and the FestiFall saw over 3000 people and 250 student groups attend.

The course mix for the fall shows that classes have been offered half online and half in-person, indicating that students are moving in each direction with the added flexibility. Provost Kornbluh noted that the University of Michigan and Michigan State have not been flexible with their faculty and unhappiness has been expressed at those institutions. Wayne State has partnered with the faculty through the Academic Senate throughout and all are parties are comfortable. Winter quarter will again see that flexibility, and faculty are encouraged to be optimistic and schedule more courses online.

The pandemic has earned the faculty valuable experience in technology and communication, which is being shared in the classroom, enabling both students and faculty a little more compassion for each other's circumstances. There was an all-hands on deck effort to start the semester to get IT up and running. There was work with students who were going to be remote to get them laptops and webcams. This also included working with faculty who had not been in the classroom for a year and a half to help them remember how to use the technology and how to update the technology. Staff walked through all of the classrooms the first week, and the networks performed well.

There are over 1300 new transfer students this fall, there are more international students than in the previous two years and they are mostly graduate students who worked hard to get their visas. A welcoming picnic event was held for them on Gullen Mall.

The new STEM teaching building was opened and the Provost offered the Board a tour. Every floor has areas for students to hang out, study and work with each other, and the classrooms are all designed for active learning. The first floor is designated to the College of Engineering as a maker space with a glass wall so they can be observed by visitors.

The Physics lab was moved out of a building that was not ADA compliant into a better facility that offers learning classroom space for faculty use across the campus. Provost Kornbluh also noted that his experience at the University of Kentucky, when a new science teaching building was opened, and grade point averages went up almost half a percent for the classes in that building.

There are over 400 student organizations and a large number of students involved in both the Warrior Wardrobe and the Warrior Pantry, where food and clothes are given to students in need with no questions asked. There are many donations of clothes, both for dress clothes for interviews and warm clothes.

The overall graduation rate is 55%, up over 3 points from 2020 and double what it was 10 years ago. The graduation rate for African American students gained almost 10% points, moving to 34% as work continues to close the achievement gap, and the rate for first-generation students is over 40%.

The U.S. News and World Report started ranking of schools by social mobility and the University ranks number one in Michigan and 66<sup>th</sup> in the country for this attribute. The Nursing program ranked 43 out of 700, making it in the top 7% of undergraduate nursing programs in the country.

Governor Kelly commended the successful 6-year graduation rate and asked whether the rate was higher than projected, and what has caused this increase. President Wilson advised that the strategic plan projected 50% in the 6-year, and the rate reached 50% last year. It also increased by 3.6% or 3.8% from last year to this year. President Wilson attributed the increases to the student success staff effort and all of the programs that have been developed that create a culture of helping students and making that a top priority. Provost Kornbluh added that there was also some work done to streamline the programs, including the general education reform that removed barriers to graduation. He advised that his office will work with every department and every program to ensure they have 4-year graduation plans. Governor Kelly and the Board commended the administration, faculty and staff on these efforts.

Governor Thompson asked about the social mobility ranking in the U.S. News and World report and the factors that go into determining rank. Provost Kornbluh advised that *U.S. News and World Report* publishes the factors. He noted that the factors include percentage of PELL students, average economic background, and percentage of first-generation students. Mainly the composition of the student body and how well the University does by the student body. For example, the first-generation graduation rates moving from 14% to almost 50% is reflected in the ranking.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ACCELERATED 3-YEAR MD PROGRAM**

Dean Schweitzer described the principle behind the program, which is to increase the number of primary care physicians. There are about 24 similar programs in the country, and this would be the first one in Michigan. Students apply through the regular Wayne

State application for medical school and if they want to do the 3-year, there will be a second application or a second screening process.

Acceleration involves removing the elective, study and travel time for interviews in the 4<sup>th</sup> year. In order to pick and apply to that specialty, programs will match the student to that specialty on admission to medical school. Students will apply for the regular medical school track, apply for the 3-year track, and if they pass those two screenings, they will pick a residency. That residency will interview the student and theoretically take the student 3 years in the future.

This will provide a niche for mature students and increase the underrepresented students in medicine. It is less expensive and provides a more secure career pathway. It is also beneficial to the state overall as it increases retention of the best and the brightest in Michigan. The program will be limited to 10 students in the first year and will gradually increase to a peak of 20 to 25 in 3 to 4 years. Students in this track will also get more support and have counselors assigned to them.

Governor Busuito asked if a student were to enroll in the program and did not want to continue, whether they could convert automatically over to the traditional 4 year program. Dean Schweitzer advised that the beginning of the curriculum is identical and if the student changes their mind on the specialty or think they may not be sure and want to do electives, they can always at any point convert into a 4-year without any change in their curriculum and without any penalty.

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Stancato, and supported by Professor Roth, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new accelerated 3-year MD program in the School of Medicine, effective January 2022. The motion carried.

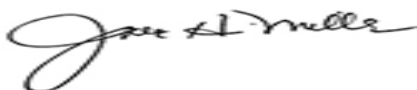
## **ANNUAL STATUS REPORT ON ACCREDITATION/UPDATE ON HLC ACCREDITATION**

Provost Kornbluh advised the Board has the written report provides the annual status on accreditation throughout the schools and colleges. He also reported that the 4-year report back from the HLC came back with absolutely no suggestions of improvements, which is a compliment on what an exemplary job the University is doing. The letter from the HLC was shared with the Board. There were no questions from committee members.

## **.ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors