



Academic Affairs Committee

March 11, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Governor Stancato in the Student Center Ballroom. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Busuito, Gaffney, Kelly, Stancato, and Thompson; Jennifer Lewis, Faculty Representative and Jane Fitzgibbon, Faculty Alternate Representative; and Mannat Bedi, Student Representative

Committee Members Absent: Ibrahim Ahmad, Student Alternate Representative

Also Present: Governors Barnhill and Kumar; President Wilson; Provost Kornbluh; Vice Presidents Burns, Ezzeddine, Johnston, Lanier, Massaron, Schweitzer, Staebler, and Wright; and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JANUARY 28, 2022

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Busuito, the minutes of the January 28, 2022 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: COLLEGE OF NURSING

Provost Kornbluh introduced Laurie Lauzon Clabo, Dean of the College of Nursing, and the University's Chief Health and Wellness Officer, for a presentation and update on the College of Nursing. Dean Clabo began with an explanation of the mission of the college, which encapsulates much of the University's mission. It is a tripartite mission, to create and translate knowledge to educate a diverse body of students who we prepare to serve as clinicians, scholars, and leaders, who improve health in our local community as well as the global community. The college's baccalaureate degree prepares nurses for frontline practice in acute and community settings. They have a variety of routes for students to the baccalaureate degree, some of which differentiate WSU from other programs. One is a second degree option for students with a baccalaureate in another discipline who wish to change careers. It is an 18-month program to a baccalaureate in nursing. The VBSN is the veterans BSN program, a tremendously successful program which was developed about 6 years ago. The initial funding for the first 4 years of the program was through a grant from the federal government, but the college has continued the program for the last 2 years and will continue to do so. It's a special entry program for those who have served in the military services or are currently in the reserves. The college reviews the students' military transcript to give them advanced standing and credit towards a degree in nursing. They do all of their clinical assignments, the clinical

practica (SIC), with the exception of women's health and obstetrics, at the Detroit VA. This program is offered in partnership with the Detroit VA and the clinical faculty teaching these students are also veterans. A number of our graduates stay in Michigan, and many of them work at the Detroit VA.

The College has two paths towards a doctorate degree, a practice doctorate, called the Doctorate of Nursing Practice or DNP, and a doctorate focused on research, the PhD. The Masters and PhD programs prepare nurses largely to function as nurse practitioners. WSU offers the only neonatal nurse practitioner program in the state, which is very highly regarded nationally. Other programs include the pediatric nurse practitioner, both acute and primary care, and a psych mental health nurse practitioner, which is actually the most popular MSN and DNP enrollment. At the doctorate level only, the college offers Family and Adult Gero Nurse Practitioner options. And finally, the college also offers graduate certificates for nurse practitioners who may want dual certification or may want to change certification.

In terms of enrollment, Dean Clabo advised that over the last 6 years, undergraduate enrollment in the college has grown by 71% and graduate enrollment by 24%. She added that the increase in graduate enrollment reverses what had been a 10 year downward trajectory in graduate enrollment in the college. In terms of rankings, Dean Clabo advised that the college's graduate program is very highly ranked, and is currently at #34 in the country, #2 in Michigan and 34 places ahead of the program ranked 3rd. The DNP program is ranked #44, #2 in the state of Michigan and up 20 places over the 3rd ranked program. She added that those changes, up 36 places from 2017, up 18 places from 2017, in US News and World Report, don't happen without tremendous work done by college faculty to put the College of Nursing on the map as a destination. Those programs are currently the only programs in the college eligible to be ranked. She advised that this year, for the first time, US News and World Report ranked baccalaureate programs in the country, and the WSU program ranked #43 of 464 in the country, putting the college in the top 7% of undergraduate programs in the United States.

Nursing graduates also perform very well on national licensing exams. This past year's pass-rate of 90% exceeds the state and the country by about 10%. The college is increasing the number of students in its Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program through funding from MDHHS. Students graduating from this program will stay in Michigan, and have agreed to practice in an underserved area.

Dean Clabo next discussed the college's PhD program and the importance of educating the next generation of the professoriate. The faculty shortage in this critical area is palpable. Through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, called Future Nursing Scholars, the college has received funding, over a 3-year period, for 5 Ph.D. students, who have now graduated and will go on to be nursing faculty. There were a very limited number of those scholars funded, and WSU was in a select group of schools receiving such support.

Turning to research, Dean Clabo highlighted the work of two members of the faculty. First, Dr. Margaret Campbell has historically been the most highly funded scholar in the

College. Professor Campbell studies ventilator withdrawal in patients and end of life. Her work has been to develop an evidence-based algorithm that's used across the world to help nurses and respiratory therapists manage end-of-life ventilator withdrawal in a way that promotes comfort for both the patient and their family. Professor Campbell is widely cited in the literature and the college is very proud to have her as a member of the faculty. Dr. Dalia Khalil, a graduate of WSU, is the highest funded scholar in the college. She has her first RO3, and was awarded the Young Investigator Award by the Brain and Behavior Foundation. Her research is in parenting and particularly mother-baby attachment, both biological and psychological stressors in Arab immigrant families. In addition to her dedication to research, she also serves as a role model for students, as they see her in the classroom and as a researcher and what life in the professoriate might be like for them. Contemporary Issues in Urban Health is the college's annual research conference. About 300 participants attend, and many come from across the United States to do so.

Dean Clabo next spoke about the clinical focus for the college, through the Nursing Practice Corporation, the faculty practice plan of the College of Nursing. The Corporation operates the Campus Health Center on the first floor of Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments. The Corporation also provides service to an underserved community through a primary care clinic, the Taylor Street Clinic, they operate out of the old Tried Stone Baptist Church in collaboration with the adjacent Community Center. Prior to the opening of the clinic, about 60% of people in the immediate neighborhood had no primary care provider and more than 80% had used the emergency department for primary care services in the past year, which is the most expensive and least effective method for medical care. The clinic, opened just prior to the start of the pandemic, is slowly building a neighborhood practice on Taylor Street. The clinic also serves as a great learning opportunity for our undergraduate and graduate students and a place for advanced placed faculty to practice.

Dean Clabo next provided highlights on an important project undertaken to improve physical and community space for students, who previously had no dedicated space to study or congregate. Through donations raised from alumni, faculty, staff, members of the CON community, and in partnership with the college's Student Nurses Association, funds were raised to convert space into the College of Nursing Student Commons. It's an open study space for students; student groups can meet there, and no teaching occurs in this area. It provides an atmosphere conducive to mentoring and sharing study aids, and connecting with each other. Dean Clabo added that nursing is a difficult discipline at Wayne State, and the college wants to do everything it can to provide support to students, including supplemental instruction, tutoring and peer mentoring. She added that there is something about putting students in community in a space where they can reach out to other students or faculty that may change their experience.

Looking forward, Dean Clabo wants to sustain the growth that has been achieved, both in external funding, and in its rankings. The recruitment initiative to find senior faculty for their named professors, and to groom junior faculty, is also highly important. She is confident they will be able to fill the 4 faculty positions they currently have open. She is very proud of the work that she and her team have been able to accomplish over the last five years, and looks forward to the future.

Governor Kelly thanked Dean Clabo for her presentation and asked for her to reflect on what she has done during her tenure as Dean that has accounted for the wonderful record just described. Dean Clabo advised that the leadership of the college is present and deeply engaged with students, and never satisfied with the status quo. The faculty are highly accomplished, are recognized at the national level, and dedicated to the College. And the CON has worked hard to solidify its brand as the nursing school where students learn about how to deal with problems that are unique to an urban setting, how to deal with health disparities, and how to change policy, and that differentiates the CON from its competitors.

Governor Busuito has used the Campus Health Center and advised that it is as efficient of an out-patient facility as he has seen. As a physician, he believes wholeheartedly that nursing schools are at the heart of what the country needs to improve health care. Governor Kumar concurred, and thanked Dean Clabo for her excellent leadership of the school.

Governor Thompson asked for additional information on how faculty in the CON collaborate across campus, and with other schools, colleges, and institutes on issues of health disparities and urban health issues and asked if the Dean could speak to partnerships in this area as well. Dean Clabo advised that this is an area for growth at the college. The efforts demonstrated during the pandemic, where students were given the opportunity to work in interprofessional practice sites to do work is an example, along with the work faculty and students did with the city on offering vaccines and vaccine education. The College's Community Health students are almost all in interprofessional settings where they work with colleagues across a variety of disciplines, including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work, and other behavioral health teams. The College also has a large behavioral health grant held between the College of Nursing and the School of Social Work, and the Michigan Area Health Education Center, the AHEC, is the only AHEC in the country that is jointly awarded to the Medical School and the College of Nursing. Governor Thompson thanked Dean Clabo, and hopes that the university continues to talk about those relationships, which she feels is a wonderful way to distinguish Wayne State from others.

CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRIC ENGINEERING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN LINGUISTICS

Associate Provost Darin Ellis presented the action items to the committee. The first is the establishment of a graduate certificate program in Linguistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The faculty and the College have reviewed the offerings and have advised that this certificate complements many of the current graduate offerings both in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in other colleges across campus. The certificate answers the need for a broader fundamental understanding of how language works as a key factor of human cognition and intelligence. This applies to a lot of disciplines today, spanning areas such as artificial intelligence, security and strategic intelligence.

Governor Thompson asked what type of professions individuals with this certificate would be interested in. Professor Haiyong Liu, Director of the program, responded that because it is a certificate program, it increases marketability for students who already have their graduate degree, in fields such as anthropology, business or medical school. Governor Thompson asked if there were some practical examples of how this would be used. Associate Provost Ellis commented that it would be useful in areas such as search engine optimization and sentiment analysis where language is at the heart of these tools. He believes the certificate adds a niche for people who don't want a whole degree in Linguistics but see the benefits of its use in their particular niche. Provost Kornbluh added that the certificate program is using existing classes, so it is adding a few students to existing graduate courses.

Governor Gaffney asked if the need for the certificate comes at this time because of the increased use of searches and algorithms, or are there other factors as well. Associate Provost Ellis responded that with the rise in the use of the internet and electronic communication today, the volume of information is astounding. The use of language to address cross-cultural competencies is another area, and this certificate could benefit a broad range of professions, not just those in IT. Professor Liu added, as an example, PhD students in Spanish Literature who succeeded in finding a job because they had some understanding of linguistics. Graduate students have gotten jobs with insurance companies because their text analysis and structural training helps them read between the lines and identify loopholes.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Thompson and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new Graduate Certificate in Linguistics, to be offered by the Linguistics Graduate Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), effective Fall 2022. The motion carried.

CHANGE THE NAME OF THE MASTERS OF ARTS IN TEACHING IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TO THE MASTERS OF ARTS IN TEACHING IN EARLY AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Next, Associate Provost Ellis presented a proposal to change the name of the Masters of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education to the Masters of Arts in Teaching in Early and Elementary Education, effective fall '22. The proposal modernizes the title to keep up with the changing state demands of early childhood certification and to specifically signal the existence of the track that will serve younger children.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Thompson, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve a change to the name of the Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Elementary Education to Master of Art in Teaching (MAT) Early and Elementary Education, effective Fall 2022. The motion carried.

CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

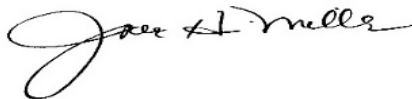
The last proposal presented by Associate Provost Ellis was a recommendation to change in title of the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering to the Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering, effective fall '22. When the department named was established many years ago it was focused on electrical engineering, the primary uses of electricity, such as power transmission, motors, circuit boards. Mr. Ellis advised that there have been dramatic changes in the last 20 years in this field, in electronics and computer architecture, all those elements that are required for a baseline electrical engineering degree. The faculty in the College of Engineering who have great expertise in this interdisciplinary area believe this revised title would more appropriately reflect the curriculum. It will also signal a unique niche among electrical engineering programs at the bachelor's level in the State of Michigan. There were no questions on this proposal.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the change in title of the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) to the Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering (BSECE), effective Fall 2022. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors