



Academic Affairs Committee

April 29, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 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 Ricardo Villarosa, Faculty Alternate Representative; and Ibrahim Ahmad, Student Alternate Representative

Committee Members Absent: Mannat Bedi, Student Representative

Also Present: Governor Kumar; and President Wilson; Provost Kornbluh; Vice Presidents Burns, Ezzeddine, Johnston, Lindsey, Massaron, Staebler, and Wright; and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 11, 2022

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Gaffney, the minutes of the March 11 meeting of the Academic Affairs committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: LAW SCHOOL

Provost Kornbluh called on Dean Rick Bierschbach for the presentation. Dean Bierschbach began with the current state of the Law School and noted that the growth strategy includes plans to make the JD program as strong as possible and to drive growth in other areas beyond the JD. Charts referenced in his presentation provided metrics of recent successes, including incoming student credentials, diversity numbers and the bar passage rate. Graduation employment rose from 73% to 94 %, referencing full-time, long-term jobs that required bar passage or for which a JD is an advantage. The law school ranking has also shown tremendous improvement, moving to from around 100 in 2018 to 58 in the most recent US News rankings. Students pay attention to the rankings, and that has helped the law school in the market for JD students. In the ratio of debt to starting salary of law school graduates, the law school ranked four out of all public law schools and fourteen out of all law schools in the nation. These metrics meet the law school's mission to provide the most outstanding education possible at the most affordable price.

The Dean further explained that the other part of the growth strategy is to move beyond the JD and use successes to branch into other areas of demand for what law schools can offer outside of a JD degree.

He used the University of Arizona as an example of a school that has encapsulated the Wayne State Law school strategy. About 10 years ago, the University of Arizona recognized that law schools could fill the demand for legal education for people who don't want to be lawyers and now offer master's degrees and operate in the undergraduate space. Their non-JD enrollment has gone up to almost two thousand students, while their JD enrollment has held steady. The Wayne State Law school plan would involve leveraging the strength of the JD program and all the possibilities of an urban R-1 university in the middle of Detroit to branch out into the non-JD space. A few years ago, Wayne State Law school had about 12 non-JD students. This year, there are 126 non-JD students taking classes, and it is anticipated that there could be almost 600 non-JD students by 2026. Leveraging these offerings for new skills and career opportunities at the Law School and at other academic units will differentiate it from competitors and bring new students to the Law School and the University. Dean Bierschbach provided charts listing all of the School's program, with descriptions, including the Online Master of Studies in Law, for non-lawyers, an asynchronous program with a 2-year completion. This program, in Human Resources, had forty students. Other program areas include Higher Education Compliance, Health Care law, Corporate Financial law, or a general Master of Studies in Law.

The Master of Laws, or LL.M., is an example of a non-JD program in the lawyer's space, and is aimed at lawyers but is not a JD. This program is not new, and needs less infrastructural building to see growth. With new marketing and attention, the School was able to double enrollment in one year. As the reputation of the Law School goes up, there is room to increase enrollment.

Turning to undergraduates, the Minor in Law is a program where Wayne State undergraduates can get a minor in Law by taking Socratic Law School classes taught by Law School faculty, in combination with certain classes in their home unit. Four WSU colleges have partnered with the Law School, providing an interdisciplinary collaboration, including CLAS, the Ilitch School, Social Work and CFCPA, and partnerships with other schools at the university are being explored. There are 272 students currently in the program and the numbers are growing quickly.

The next initiative is the BA in Law, to be launched in fall of 2023. This is a collaboration with CLAS and will allow undergraduates to major in law. The curriculum will be more intense, and will be an enormous differentiator for the university. There are only two universities in the country that have this program, and one of them is the University of Arizona, which has about 1500 undergraduate majors in law. At Wayne State, the large number of inquiries from prospective students show a great interest in these programs. Wayne State will be the only university in the Midwest that offers this opportunity, thus increasing enrollment and exposing students to a type of training and a way of thinking that they otherwise might not be exposed to.

A conservative revenue projection indicates that in about 4 years, revenue could be \$8 to 9 million, with projected costs of \$1.5 to \$2 million. Ten years ago, the University of Arizona Law School was getting 98% of its revenue from its JD program, now 31% of its

revenue is from its JD program. This occurred not because the JD program has gotten smaller, but because there is so much demand in the non-JD space. The Dean believes that law schools that can recognize that legal education is a portfolio and not just one thing can really thrive. To do this requires strengthening the infrastructure with more student support, the faculty, marketing and coordinating with the University at large and making sure the physical plant is appropriate for this kind of advancement. There is active discussion about replacing the Law School's old classroom building, which has been an issue for both the JD and the non-JD programs and will not help with scaling the program. Dean Bierschbach expressed thanks to his faculty and staff for the last 5 years of successful team effort. He thanked the students, who acted as real partners in making the JD program stronger. He also thanked the president, the provost, his fellow deans, and the chief of staff who have been supportive of the Law School and lastly, he thanked the Board of Governors for their support of this new direction and great opportunities for the School.

Governor Kelly offered her congratulations to Dean Bierschbach for the wonderful increase in rankings and noted that she is aware of the problems with the old classroom building. Dean Bierschbach noted that the state of the building is not competitive, and is the weakest link for new and prospective students, especially on tours and at admissions events. He noted that a new building is needed to accommodate big non-JD lecture classes, smaller breakout rooms and modern technology. Governor Thompson agreed with Governor Kelly's comments and thanked the Dean and his team for all of their remarkable work. Regarding strengthening the JD program, she asked about the strategy for increasing the numbers of underrepresented minorities and what lessons were learned for recruiting faculty. Dean Bierschbach noted there are many strategies for increasing the representation from marginalized and underrepresented groups within the Law School. Dedicated positions have been created, including an Associate Director of Admissions in Diversity Recruiting, and that office was charged with making intentional efforts. Their efforts included conversations with each potential student receiving an offer to identifying what is important to that student thus increasing the yield. And almost \$5 million in scholarships were raised to fund the Damon J. Keith Scholars program which gives scholarships to students who went to school in Detroit.

The ranking also helps with recruiting underrepresented students and there were changes made within the Law School to try to make it a place where everybody could feel like they belong. The relationships between the administration and student affinity groups have improved and there have been successes recruiting faculty. Of the tenure-track hires, more than half of them self-identify as underrepresented and they also worked closely with the Black Law Alumni Council. Governor Thompson then asked about the strategy for the improvement of the ratio of debt to starting salary. Dean Bierschbach advised that a balance was achieved with increased scholarships, branching into the non-JD space, and cross subsidization with employers supporting some of these efforts. The University's large undergraduate program helped defray the cost of financial aid, as did summer stipends to students, third-party scholarship opportunities and service. A balance of all of these were a part of the strategy, and with the strong Wayne State brand and reputation, students are getting good jobs. The law school is number 19 in the country for jobs.

Governor Kumar thanked the Dean and his team for the excellent improvement in the Law School rates. He added his appreciation for the non-JD programs and then asked about how these programs will be advertised to the community. Dean Bierschbach noted that the law school is present at all the tabling events, utilizes online advertising and is working with an outside vendor. He noted that timing is important, along with the ability to scale the programs so that they are ready to meet that demand. He agreed that advertising and marketing are an enormous part of their strategy. Governor Stancato noted that the University of Arizona is very good at recruiting from across the United States because of their online programming, and asked if the Law School was considering this strategy. Dean Bierschbach noted that everything was being considered.

There are some other factors to consider in on-line programming. The University of Arizona had about four hundred people doing the BA in Law online. In considering that they could have many more times that number of students, the challenge is on the question of whether it is still a law school if the number of on-line students are so high. International students are another area of focus. The University of Arizona opened a campus in China to accommodate demand for its BA in Law because of intense interest by international students. Foreign students study Law as undergraduates and the chance to do that as an undergraduate at an American university is a big opportunity. Dean Bierschbach hopes that looking forward 5 years, that the University will have all of these programs thriving. Provost Kornbluh added that this is informed by and aligns with the strategic plan. The type of faculty and hiring and the research being done focuses on community-engaged scholarship and engaging with the community at each level of student success, expanding the market and serving adult students. He added that the Law School has seen enormous growth under the Dean's leadership and the School is helping the University see the opportunities with the JD program by staying small and selective and using the intellectual capital of the faculty.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCES

Provost Kornbluh called on Associate Provost Ellis to present several new proposals. The first one is to add a graduate certificate in an area that will help professionals better prepare for careers. Mr. Ellis advised that the graduate certificate program in Geographic Information Sciences will be housed in Urban Studies and Planning and consist of a minimum of twelve credits in specific areas that are identified in the proposal. Governor Thompson asked about the impetus for creating this particular program.

Mr. Ellis advised that this is a rapidly growing field with a broad range of potential placement opportunities in the region. Dr. Mohamed, Chair of the Department of Urban Planning, advised that it could be used in a variety of fields including Urban Planning, Environmental Science, Civil Engineering and Public Health and is in high demand by the industry both in Michigan and across the nation. The certificate does not require any new resources, with the existing lab and the classes drawn from Environmental Sciences and Geology, Civil Engineering, and the School of Information Science programs.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Thompson and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS) to be offered by the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), effective Fall 2022. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ASTRONOMY

With regards to the proposed B.S. in Astronomy, Mr. Ellis advised that the University has a strong bachelor science in physics, and for a number of years, there had been a BA in astronomy but the department noticed many students wanted a double major. This program will organize the path in a way that makes more sense in the field and provides more options for students and their emerging needs.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Thompson, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of Science in Astronomy in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, effective Fall term, 2022. The motion carried.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION DISCONTINUANCE OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SECONDARY EDUCATION DISCONTINUANCE OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Provost Kornbluh asked to take the next three related items in one group. He advised that the College of Education used to have both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in all their majors, but has found that there is virtually no enrollment in the Bachelor of Arts because it required an extra foreign language competency. The College is eliminating these Bachelor of Arts degrees but will continue the Bachelor of Science degrees. No students are disadvantaged by this change.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of the BA in Elementary Education, the BA in Secondary Education, and the BA in Special Education, all of which reside in the College of Education, effective fall term, 2022. The motion carried.

REVISION OF BOARD OF GOVERNOR STATUTE 2.34.04 ON TRANSFER STUDENTS

Provost Kornbluh advised that next three proposals were the result of collaborative work with the Academic Senate and the Senate Policy Committee through shared governance and with the Colleges. These changes grew directly out of the strategic plan and efforts to better serve students. He called on Associate Provost Ellis to present the proposals.

Mr. Ellis advised that the proposed recommendations would bring transfer credits from accredited 2-year schools and from 4-year schools to equal footing and eliminate the artificial cap on transfer credit coming in from community colleges. The revised statute

will simplify the approach to the application of technical, vocational and applied credit. It was driven by a number of academic programs, including Engineering Technology, Public Health and others. Provost Kornbluh gave an example, and talked about the ability of students who earn an Emergency Medical Technician degree, classified as a vocational or technical degree, to come to Wayne State for a BA in the Public Health department. The new statute will allow for that type of transfer to occur. The statute is related to social mobility and focuses on working closely with community colleges.

Governor Thompson asked what the expected impact on enrollment will be with these new changes in place. Mr. Ellis advised that it is difficult to generate a statistical prediction on the numbers. From the perspective of the competitive landscape, this will attract students at community colleges who are shopping around to see where they can find the best match using their credits wherever they can. He advised that he previously testified in Lansing to the Higher Education Committee on this subject, so the State Legislature is also concerned about finding new ways of attracting a broader range of students. VP Ezzeddine advised that 46% of Schoolcraft College's students were in a type of vocational program and that will increase the pool of potential transfer students for Wayne State.

Mr. Ellis advised that this process is already in place in Engineering Technology, which uses up to twenty-one credits of TVA credit toward their programs, and Nursing also includes a number of degree paths. The language of the statute will encourage innovation in using the credits where they make sense. Governor Thompson asked how these changes will be communicated. VP Ezzeddine advised that they are partnering with marketing and communications on an advertising campaign with the colleges on pathways to promote it. Governor Gaffney asked if the agreements will be with all Michigan community colleges, and whether it could be expanded to Ohio community colleges as well. VP Ezzeddine confirmed that the agreement is with all Michigan community colleges, and they are open to exploration with other colleges, once the agreements with the twenty-eight community colleges in Michigan are completed, and advised those discussions are ongoing.

Governor Kelly asked that, given that the statute will eliminate the cap on the numbers of credits that can be transferred from technical, vocational and applied-type courses, how many credits a student could bring into Wayne State.

Mr. Ellis advised that the statute requires students to take at least thirty credits in residence for all bachelor's programs. The ninety credit limit is not limiting credit transfer per se, but is requiring that a certain number of credits toward a nominal 120 credits are done in residence. Before the recommended changes, a student could bring ninety plus credits to Wayne State and the limit was only on the 2-year schools. The new statute will bring the 2-year schools and transfer students from 4-year schools up to the same level of opportunity. Application of specific transfer courses will be left to the programs.

Governor Kelly expressed concern that a student could get a bachelor's degree with less than 2 years of upper level classes, and asked whether or not that program would not be as vigorous. VP Ezzeddine advised that Governor Kelly raised a valid concern, but

advised it was not the case because the dynamics and the programming at the colleges have changed and it is up to the departments to evaluate the quality and the rigor of what a degree in any of the fields requires. Provost Kornbluh emphasized that this is an institutional limit being removed and the control belongs completely to the faculty who control the majors as they know best what high quality is in their field. It is their choice in what they accept as transferring into their major.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Thompson and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors revise Statute 2.34.04 on Transfer Students, effective fall semester 2022. This statute is related to the number of credits that students may transfer in from non-baccalaureate degree institutions. The motion carried.

REVISION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS STATUTE 2.43.12 ON GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Mr. Ellis advised that these changes are an effort to offer more innovation in the academic programs and that several academic programs want to offer a lower division certificate. The new major revisions will reduce the number of credits from 15 to 12, and remove the restriction on coursework to upper division only.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Thompson, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors revise Statute 2.43.12 on Guidelines for Undergraduate Certificates, effective fall semester 2022. This statute is related to the number and type of credits required for a certificate, as well as the timeline for awarding an earned certificate. The motion carried.

REVISION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS STATUTE 2.34.07 ON GRADING POLICY

Mr. Ellis advised that these revisions are in the sections on recording of withdrawals. Currently, if a student chooses to withdraw from a course, the instructor is asked to provide a last date of attendance, make a grading assessment based on work completed to date, and enters a WP, a WF or a WN. Pre-health professions advisors noted that this has had negative impact on students in their application process, compared to students at other schools. Many professional schools will recalculate a WF as an F in their GPA, while a W would be excluded from the GPA calculation. This change will help students seeking graduate professional school placement.

Inclusive excellence committees noted that the WF grade has disproportionately affected students of color and there is a disproportionate assignment of the WF grade to these students. Governor Kelly asked if the faculty had approved the revision. Provost Kornbluh noted that it was unanimously approved by the Academic Senate and, if approved, will be retroactive to every student who is currently enrolled at Wayne State. Governor Thompson asked why there was a disproportionate impact on students of color? Mr. Ellis

advised that there is not enough data to speculate with any sort of certainty. Mr. Villarosa asked whether this was a recent practice; Mr. Ellis advised that the practice began in 2005.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Thompson and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors revise Statute 2.34.07 on Grading Policy, effective fall term 2022, specifically in sections regarding the assignment of withdrawal grades. Specifically, it is recommended that the marks of WF, WP, and WN be discontinued and replaced in all instances with the grade of W for all active students. The motion carried.

REVISION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS STATUTE 2.43.62 ON ACADEMIC RECOGNITION OF DECEASED OR CRITICALLY ILL STUDENTS

Mr. Ellis advised that this proposal came after consultation with the faculty and an examination of the policies existing at peer Michigan schools, and as revised, can be used in a broader range of cases. Under the existing statute, a student had to have just one course remaining to qualify, which made application across the board challenging. The current proposal recommends a minimum completion of 75% of degree requirements instead of 90%, making this a more equitable opportunity to recognize student achievements. Two typographical errors were identified in the revised statute, and Mr. Ellis will correct those in the final document.

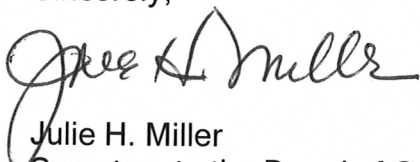
Governor Stancato noted the revisions and asked for a motion to approve the proposed, as corrected.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors revise Statute 2.43.62 on Academic Recognition of Deceased or Critically Ill Students, effective fall semester 2022. This statute outlines the requirements for bestowing a degree to either a critically ill student, or, posthumously to a deceased student. Specifically, it is recommended that the threshold for minimum completion of requirements be reduced to 75 percent for all students, with the exception of those enrolled in the School of Medicine. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Sincerely,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors