



Academic Affairs Committee

March 8, 2023

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 a.m. by Governor Stancato in the Student Center Ballroom. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Atkinson, Busuito, Gaffney, Kelly, and Stancato; Jennifer Lewis, Faculty Representative and Brad Roth, Faculty Alternate Representative; Mannat Bedi, Student Representative and Batsheva Khaimov, Student Alternate Representative

Also Present: Governors Barnhill, Land, and Kumar, President Wilson, Provost Kornbluh, Vice Presidents Ezzeddine, Lindsey, Massaron, Poterala, Ripple, Schweitzer, Stemmler, and Wright, Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, DECEMBER 2, 2022

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Atkinson, the minutes of the December 2, 2022 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Provost Kornbluh introduced Dean Wael Sakr for a presentation on the university's School of Medicine, one of the earliest and still the largest medical school in the country. Dean Sakr began with some historical references. The school started as the Detroit Medical College in 1868. Over its 155 year history, the school has contributed to solid education for thousands of MDs, PhDs, and MD/PhDs, in addition to being a leader in biomedical and community-based research. Faculty in the school also provide post graduate training for residents and fellows across many hospitals, and at any given time, are training more than 1000 trainees. Dean Sakr provided slides with background information on several aspects of the school, including the number of departments, organizational structure, student body, and employees. The school is divided into 23 departments and enrolls approximately 1200 medical students and about 350 Ph.D. students. He advised that the number of Ph.D. students has declined, and may be impacted by the amount of the stipend the School offers, which the Dean hopes to improve.

In terms of the diversity of the student body, the School has made significant improvements, under a leadership team President Wilson assembled several years ago. The team implemented a quick action plan to improve the number of underrepresented students, and those numbers, which at least tripled what they were previously, have continued to improve.

The number of faculty in the School has remained relatively constant, and is a mix of tenured, tenure track, research and clinical faculty. Dean Sakr reviewed a graph identifying those in each of these categories, and advised that while the School has a fair percentage of assistant and associate professors, it is tilted toward the more seasoned senior faculty. He has an active recruitment campaign in place to bring in new faculty, and can surmise that a number of professors will be retiring in the next few years. The number of employees in the School of Medicine has gone down over the last three years, by about 100 employees. Dean Sakr provided a flow chart detailing the administrative structure of the Dean's office, and added that while the chart may seem a bit "busy", the WSU School of Medicine continues to rank within the 15th lowest percentile of the number of deans and associate deans in the school compared to WSU's counterparts. The Dean provided some highlights on research activity in the school, including the invention of AZT for AIDS treatment, which was invented by a research faculty at the WSU School of Medicine. Dean Sakr reminded the committee that the NIH contracted with the School of Medicine for more than 30 years to serve as the site host for the perinatology research branch, PRB, which resulted in outstanding research. More than 800 papers representing the world literature in this field have been published, and Dean Sakr highlighted a specific finding, which will help lower pre-term birth. He added that the departments of Emergency Medicine, Ophthalmology, Anatomy or OVAS, and Family Medicine rank in the top 20th percentile in the country. The Department of Emergency Medicine is among the top 10.

The School continues to have strong community engagement; they currently have over 500 students at any given time engaged in more than 17 programs within the community. One example is Street Medicine, which has won national prizes in this category for many years. Dean Sakr concluded his report with a review of the pillars of the WSUSOM Strategic Plan, and advised that the SOM will be hosting a program in 2 weeks to present the Strategic Plan to the School of Medicine family. He added that many are familiar with the process used to develop the plan, which included input from several hundred individuals from within and outside the school.

Governor Atkinson asked Dean Sakr for some tangible examples that show how the School of Medicine addresses urban issues with the College of Nursing and the School of Social Work. Dean Sakr agreed that these relationships are critical, citing the importance of interprofessional education among the health sciences schools. As an example, he discussed the contract undertaken with the Wayne County Medical Examiners Office. He added that the vision is to move to an urban forensic medicine institute. Social Work will become very active in this model in these stressful times for families. He added that there are multiple other venues with respect to primary care in particular, where Nursing, Social Work and others will be involved.

Governor Kelly applauded Dean Sakr for the collaboration he is undertaking, in particular with the School of Social Work and Nursing and others, adding that it is both appropriate and appreciated. She asked if he could say more about his work to achieve financial sustainability for the School, and for efforts in transforming the school into a high performing organization. Dean Sakr responded that they are very closely and critically reviewing the school's revenue and expenses, working to put their arms around every avenue of funds flow. David Massaron, the Senior VP for Finance, has been very involved

in this review. He added that Medical Schools, in general, do not make money and that they are very reliant on good hospital partners and a profitable practice plan. The SOM is challenged in this area but they are working very actively on diversifying their clinical engagement across multiple systems to increase these revenues and have better arrangements with clinical partners. Additional discussions and work will be undertaken after the LCME site visit, which will occur next month. In terms of moving forward on becoming a high performing organization, the Dean spoke about improving communications with students as one facet, and recent improvements in communication channels include town halls, small focused meetings and newsletters. They are also making strides in process improvements and effectiveness, both important metrics. In response to a question from Governor Kelly, Dean Sakr confirmed that he will update the Board on the result of the upcoming site visit by the LCME, scheduled in April.

Governor Busuito asked if there are any potential weaknesses that the School may anticipate from that visit? Dean Sakr responded that the site visit will cover 12 standards and 93 elements, and he expects transformation of the curriculum and financial aid process improvements, areas where they have implemented tremendous improvements, may be areas where the work yet to be done will be identified. They are also working on timely and effective access to mental health resources. These are not unique areas to Wayne State's SOM, but are areas where medical schools have been vulnerable.

Governor Gaffney expressed interest in identifying ways to inform the public, especially the community in Southeast Michigan, about the tremendous work being done by more than 500 medical students serving at 70 clinics and other outreach locations throughout the community. He believes there is a lot of positive work to remind the community about, including the important work the medical school did during COVID. Dean Sakr concurred, and will look for opportunities to do so..

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LAW

Provost Kornbluh advised that the next 6 action items are an outgrowth of the review, assessment and evaluations completed throughout the past 6 years. Faculty look closely at their academic programs, and those reviews often lead to the actions being presented today, which include two new programs, the discontinuance of three programs, and a name change. . The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Law in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is a liberal arts degree. The Provost explained that there are very few programs like this in the U.S., although they are much more prevalent in other countries. It is not designed for anyone who want to practice law. It's designed to be an interdisciplinary program to provide students with a broad-based liberal arts degree, and is similar to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health. That degree doesn't license anyone to do public health; some students will go on to Masters degrees in Public Health, but many will go to wide ranging careers. And similarly the Bachelor of Arts in Law will help many students who will go into business with a broad-based critical liberal arts degree. Some may go on to apply to Law School. The university created a minor in Law a few years ago, and it has grown into one of the largest minors on campus. That minor in Law is offered in collaboration with a lot of the other colleges. The program, housed in the

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences was developed in coordination with the Law School and will be run in coordination with the Law School. Provost Kornbluh advised that support for the program was widespread and included relevant department Chairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the dean of both Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Law School, and was approved by the faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the faculty of the Law School, after much discussion and support

Governor Kelly asked whether this program will discourage future law school students from pursuing a liberal arts education prior to entering law school. Provost Kornbluh responded that the program is designed as a broad-based liberal arts education, and students in this major will take classes from many different areas of liberal arts and sciences.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of Arts in Law (B.A. in Law) in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Effective Fall term, 2023. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GENERAL ENGINEERING

Provost Kornbluh advised that the next proposal, from the College of Engineering, is to establish a Bachelor of Science in General Engineering. As background for this proposal, he advised that there is increasing demand for engineers and individuals with a background in engineering in our society. This program is designed to be interdisciplinary and broad-based and has many options to focus in. This program is not for a student who wants a specific career in engineering, such as a civil engineer. It is designed to prepare students who may be entering occupations such as business or Law to have an understanding of engineering. Provost Kornbluh reviewed the approval levels that the program has undergone, which include approval by the Academic Operations Committee of the College of Engineering, their Faculty Advising Committee, the Dean of Engineering, and the Provost

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Atkinson, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of Science in General Engineering in the College of Engineering, effective Fall Term 2023. The motion carried.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING

Provost Kornbluh advised that there is not much student interest in this degree program, and it is very costly to run. Given the accreditation requirements for this program, which are 56 credits, and the lack of student interest, many schools offering this degree have eliminated the program. There has been a moratorium on new students for several years,

and the last cohort will graduate in May 2024. The recommendation to discontinue the major is supported by the department of Kinesiology, Health and Sports Sciences, the College of Education, the Dean of Education, and the Graduate School. Governor Kelly asked whether or not the Board has been asked to review this too late in the process to be impactful, as the moratorium instituted by the administration has ensured that there will be no students in the program by the time it comes to the Board for approval. The Board is, in her mind, rubberstamping a prior administrative decision. Provost Kornbluh understands the issue being raised, and advised that he will commit to the Board receiving prior notice when similar situations occur in the future before a moratorium is placed. Governor Kelly affirmed that the suggestion is as to when the Board should consider these matters. Provost Kornbluh agreed to bring these forward earlier in the process.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Atkinson, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors discontinue the Master of Science in Athletic Training, effective Fall term 2024. The motion carried.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TAXATION

Provost Kornbluh advised that the next request falls under the same provisions as those just discussed. The university will continue to offer this degree, but as a new concentration in the Master of Science in Accounting. There were not many students interested in this as a separate program. Advanced students interested in taxation will receive their preparation in that area as a concentration in accounting, rather than as a separate degree. This proposal has been approved by the faculty and the dean of the Mike Ilitch School of Business, by the Graduate School and by the provost.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito, and supported by Governor Atkinson, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors discontinue the Master of Science in Taxation in the Mike Ilitch School of Business, effective spring/summer term 2023. The motion carried.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE POST BACHELOR CERTIFICATE IN FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

Provost Kornbluh advised that during the program evaluation and assessment of the program, the university determined that the certificate does not result in student employment in the field of forensics, and that there were only one or two students a year interested in it. The initial thought at its creation was that CSI would create a student demand, but that has not materialized. There has been a moratorium on program, with the remaining students receiving their certificate in winter of '24. This proposed action has been approved by the faculty in the department of Health Sciences in the Eugene Applebaum College, by the dean of the college and by the Provost.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly, and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors discontinue the Post Bachelor Certificate in Forensic Investigation in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences effective winter term 2024. The motion carried.

CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

The final action requested is a name change and is brought forward to bring the program name in line with its accrediting agency, which wants to standardize the name across different universities. The name change has been approved by the faculty in the department of Applied Health Science, by the Curriculum Committee of Health Sciences in the Applebaum School, and the dean and the Provost.

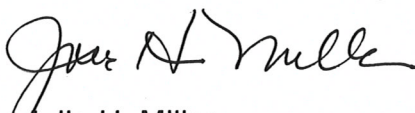
ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Atkinson and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors change the name of the Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science degree to the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science degree, effective fall term 2023. The motion carried.

Governor Atkinson asked for an explanation of the process undertaken when a degree is added or discontinued. Provost Kornbluh explained that with shared governance, the curriculum is owned by the faculty and has to be approved by the faculty and the administration. At both the course level and the program level, the faculty in a particular college approves, then the department, if in a departmentalized college, approves, and the recommendation then moves to the Dean, and then to the Provost, prior to being presented to the Board. Graduate programs have an additional step, of approval by the Graduate School. Governor Kelly asked how long the process takes before it reaches the Board. Provost Kornbluh advised that the time can vary, from one semester, to one or two years, depending on the program under review. Sometimes a visit by an accrediting body or board may recommend a change to be instituted. He advised that the most important take-away is that there is an ongoing self-evaluation process of assessment and evaluation and accreditation that varies by discipline. The University has an Office of Assessment, which includes assessing student learning outcomes in all programs. Every year those numbers are reported to the respective accrediting board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors