



Academic Affairs Committee

April 28, 2023

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 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, and Kumar; and President Wilson, Provost Kornbluh, Vice Presidents Chamblee, Clabo, Ezzeddine, Hafner, Lindsey, Massaron, Poterala, Ripple, Schweitzer, Stemmler, and Wright, Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 8, 2023

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Kelly, the minutes of the March 8 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Provost Kornbluh introduced Dean Ali Abolmaali, Dean of the College of Engineering, who came to the university this past year from the University of Texas. Provost Kornbluh advised that Dean Abolmaali is an accomplished researcher who has created much energy and momentum in the college since he arrived 8 months ago. Dean Abolmaali began by providing an overview of the college's demographics. He advised that the college is one of the most comprehensive colleges of Engineering in the nation with 8 academic departments and over 50 degree programs. In terms of the student body, there are 3,368 students in the college, comprised of 45% White, 23% Asian, 8% African American, and 14% U.S. nonresident. The college has more than 30,000 alumni throughout the nation and its 6-year graduation rate is 61.4%. The college awarded 705 degrees in 2022. Looking at the allocation of students programmatically, 79% are undergraduate, 30% Master's, and 8% are doctoral students. Twenty-four percent are female, which is above the national average. Other demographic information includes a 167% increase in Latinx, and 13% increase in female African American students. The college also saw a retention rate of 81.2% for Black and African American students and their graduation rate is amongst the top 3 in the university. Dean Abolmaali then commented on the wide breadth of the degree programs offered in the college, which is quite extensive. They have some unique master's programs, including Alternate Energy

Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and Electric-Driven Vehicle Engineering, which he believes is the only such university program in the country.

The Dean advised that increasing the number of master's students in the college is a key goal; they are working hard in recruitment and retention of undergraduate students as well as improving the yield, which is currently 32%.

Looking forward at new degree programs, the Dean advised that 6 new unique online degree programs have been created, and they anticipate that a number of international students, and students throughout the U.S. will be interested in these programs. Those programs include Artificial Intelligence, Construction Management, Energy Storage and Vehicle Science, Injury Biomechanics, Robotics and Industrial Automation, and Semiconductor Engineering. Each of these programs are unique, with limited availability at other institutions, and appeal to very specific student interests. Semiconductor Engineering, for example, deals with the development and storage of chips and was developed in consultation with industry leaders, including Ford and Tata, who had significant input in the curriculum. The Bachelor of Science in General Engineering was also recently approved, and is a program designed to recruit students into engineering who may not know which specific area in engineering they wish to study. This also provides students with an opportunity to add a minor in Law or Business, or another area. The Dean added that sometimes the college loses students who don't have choices available to them, and they believe that this will also help them in the recruitment of international students, who sometimes come in with a 2-year degree, looking to complete a full 4- year program. They are also hoping to partner with community colleges, and are working with VP Ezzeddine on those options.

In other areas of student support, they have implemented internship programs at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Students earn 3 credit hours for the internships, which are roughly 4 ½ months in length. The college has also created an Engineering Clinic, a new program the Dean initiated. The clinic provides practical engineering experience to students, at any level. The college brings in projects from industry which the students work on, and they are monitored by an Engineering director and other faculty. They will be hiring a professional engineer with more than 10 years of experience to serve as the Director of the Clinic. Some interesting projects are already in the works for the clinic, including a tunnel construction project, and a project dealing with decarbonization.

Turning to research, Dean Abolmaali advised that current research expenditures are low, at \$11 million per 130 faculty, and they are working significantly to increase those numbers. They have implemented a number of different incentives for faculty to engage in industry research. The Dean shared some charts outlining the demographics of the faculty. The college has a large number of tenured faculty, only 30% of whom are research active. He hopes to recruit new tenure-track faculty, and he hopes also to augment administrative staff, which he feels is not sufficient to support the college.

The Dean also shared charts outlining the number and distribution of degrees granted, and information about retention and graduation rates, and commented that the WSU College of Engineering's 6-year graduation rate is higher than at his previous college.

The college has a goal of \$6 million in philanthropy for this year, and has a strong development team.

The Dean highlighted a number of high caliber internationally known faculty in the college and they are recruiting top notch faculty this year. He cited faculty strength in a number of departments, including Semiconductor Engineering, Health Engineering and Informatics, Materials and Smart Manufacturing, and Civil and Environmental Engineering. He closed his report, touching on the college's mission, which is to be the engineering choice of Michigan and beyond.

Governor Atkinson asked what type of outreach the college does with high school students. Dean Abolmaali advised that the college has staff specifically dedicated to outreach. They have a strong summer camp program, and have hired 40 students this year to help with that camp.

Governor Busuito asked whether the college has co-op programs in place with surrounding industries in the city. The Dean affirmed that the college has corporate programs, and these organizations recruit for us and they recruit from us, they recruit our graduates. Over 90% of engineering graduates have positions already lined up before they graduate. The college has a strong relationship not only with Ford, but with all of the car manufacturers. He also cited the college's relationship with WSP, which is one of the biggest civil engineering firms in the country, with a large office in Detroit and they are recruiting from us. In response to a question from Governor Busuito about workstudy, the Dean explained that these are internships, not workstudy programs and earn college credit. Governor Stancato suggested that it would be helpful for the Board to have a report/presentation on what happens to WSU students after they graduate, and that may be a good topic for a future meeting. Dean Abolmaali advised that he would be happy to do such a presentation, but wanted the Board to know that COE students are "built in Michigan and stay in Michigan."

RESTRUCTURE THE MIKE ILITCH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS FROM FOUR DEPARTMENTS TO SIX DEPARTMENT WITH NAME CHANGES

Provost Kornbluh called on Dean Virginia Kleist of the Ilitch School of Business, for background on the first action item before the committee. Dean Kleist advised that the objectives of the restructuring include having a better focus on its students and to improve the school's placement opportunities which will tighten department chairs' ties to industry. This change will also help the school focus on the curriculum and help ensure that each department chair focuses on that area of expertise that they know. Dean Kleist advised that there's no net impact on the budget, as they were able to fund budget needs internally.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors reorganize the Mike Ilitch School of Business into six departments from its current

four departments, with corresponding name changes, effective Fall term 2023. The new structure will include the following 6 departments:

Accounting
Finance
Global Supply Chain Management
Technology, Information Systems and Analytics
Management
Marketing

The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

Provost Kornbluh explained that the next recommendation is for the establishment of a new program for the Bachelor of Arts in World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Like many universities in the past, Provost Kornbluh explained that the university had degrees in specific languages rather than a general degree in World Languages in Culture. The department is following a national trend to offer the degrees in World Languages, Literatures and Cultures. The university will still continue to offer many of the individual degrees as well, but this will allow students opportunities for more breadth.

ACTION: Upon motion 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 World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective Fall term 2023. The motion carried.

CHANGE THE NAME OF THE JAMES PEARSON DUFFY DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY TO THE JAMES PEARSON DUFFY DEPARTMENT OF ART, ART HISTORY, AND DESIGN

The next recommendation is a request to change the name of the James Pearson Duffy Department of Art History to the James Pearson Duffy Department of Art, Art History, and Design. This recommended change better reflects the breadth of the department, where Design has been an area of student interest.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Atkinson and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors change the name of the James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History to the James Pearson Duffy Department of Art, Art History, and Design in the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, effective Fall term 2023. The motion carried.

RELOCATION OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

This recommendation is to move the Master of Science in Alternative Energy Technology and the graduate certificate in the same area from the College of Engineering to the Division of Engineering Technology. Provost Kornbluh advised that most programs are in departments, not in the college, and that this is an administrative change. .

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Busuito, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors relocate both the Master of Science in Alternative Energy Technology and the Graduate Certificate in Alternative Energy Technology from the Dean's office in the College of Engineering to the Division of Engineering Technology in the same college, effective Fall term 2023. The motion carried.

REVISION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS STATUTE 2.34.11 ON PROBATION; UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC

Provost Kornbluh summarized the next item, a proposed change to the Board Statute on undergraduate academic probation. The language change is designed to be more flexible for students and give them an additional chance. The proposed language has been reviewed throughout the governance structure, through the academic senate committees and the Academic Senate. Kelly Dormer and Kate Burns, Associate Directors, Academic Advising, who worked on this revision, were introduced to provide background about the recommendation.

Ms. Dormer advised that in effect, the updated language will allow schools and colleges and advisors within those units some flexibility and professional judgment on working with students that are on academic probation beyond the traditional 3 semesters before exclusion. She added that many students, such as those who may have decided they're in the wrong major and need to change will not necessarily want to repeat classes they have failed; others may be in a new major and want to offset their GPA by building on new coursework. Returning students might find themselves in their second or third semester and need a little time to get some intervention or support services. Sometimes, when advisors start working with students, they might need a little bit of extra time to get students connected with Academic Success resources, helping them with time management and perhaps other personal issues they might be dealing with. The language allows a recovery plan to be developed. Governor Gaffney asked how many students may fall into this category each year? Ms. Dormer advised that for Fall 2022, which is a fairly good marker for average, under 10% of students may be on academic probation.

Governor Atkinson asked whether implicit bias could be a factor, and about the consistency of treatment for students between colleges and departments. Ms. Dormer advised that most advisors want to work with students, and she does not believe that there is a school or college that wants to exclude students, and some schools have a much lower percentage of students on probation. Many times, advisors really just need to understand the precipitating factors, and the student's willingness to make adjustments, and then the university's willingness to extend the time to work with students.

She added that university advisors are aware of the large amount of resources available for students, including the Academic Success Center, the Office of Student Disabilities services, and CAPS, and those are the 3 most common referrals made by advisors. She added that advisors receive a lot of training on probation. Governor Stancato suggested that once this change was made, that the university look at the data from a before and after perspective, and track what changes have improved. Provost Kornbluh concurred.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors revise Statute 2.34.11 on Probation: Undergraduate Academic, effective fall semester 2023. The statute describes the requirements for undergraduate probation, and specifically, recommends that language be included to allow the opportunity for students to be offered and opt to participate in an academic recovery plan rather than be academically excluded if their cumulative grade point average does not improve above a 2.0 by the end of the standard probationary period. The motion carried.

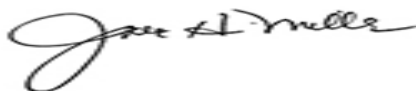
COURSE MATERIALS ANNUAL REPORT (2023)

The final item on the agenda was the annual report on course fees. Provost Kornbluh advised that there are a few course fee changes that either the President or the Provost have approved, depending on whether the fee is above or below \$100. This is an informational item for Board review. There were no questions on the report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors