



Academic Affairs Committee

September 29, 2023

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:23 a.m. by Governor Stancato in McGregor Memorial Center, Room BC. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Busuito, Gaffney, Kelly, and Stancato; Jennifer Lewis, Faculty Representative and renee hoogland, Faculty Alternate Representative; Batsheva Khaimov, Student Representative and Dhruval Bhatt, Student Alternate Representative

Committee Members Absent: Governors Atkinson

Also Present: Governors Barnhill, Kumar and Land; President Espy; Provost Kornbluh, Vice Presidents Clabo, Ezzeddine, Lindsey, Massaron, Poterala, Ripple, Schweitzer, Staebler, Stemmler, and Wright; Associate VP Hafner, Associate Provost Padgett; Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JUNE 22, 2023

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Busuito, the minutes of the June 22nd meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: OVERVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Provost Mark Kornbluh, Associate Provost Darin Ellis and Vice President Ahmad Ezzeddine presented an update on enrollment, associated data on the undergraduate class, and new academic programs. They discussed the significant changes at Wayne State over the past 25 years and recent efforts to improve undergraduate enrollment. Those included a collaborative strategy across both the Provost's team and the schools and colleges, with a focus on students with higher financial need and improving academic quality. An external consultant, RNL, was retained to help enhance recruitment processes. Significant effort was focused on marketing programs and improving their websites, as they are a crucial tool for prospective students to learn about the university. The provost's office plans to present an update on graduate programs and certificates in the coming months.

VP Ezzeddine advised that the Honors College enrolled their largest Honors class ever this fall, with no compromise of standards. The average GPA of the incoming class was around 3.5, with the mean ACT and SAT remaining constant, confirming the recruitment of high-quality students. The Honors Class consisted of 592 FTIACs, a 64% increase over the previous year, and also includes transfer students from community colleges and students enrolled through a partnership with Warrior 360. Notably, 54.8% of the

University's incoming students are attending tuition-free, with approximately 90% receiving scholarships, including the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and the Wayne Direct scholarship. They also saw a 21% increase in recipients of the Heart of Detroit and the Detroit Promise scholarship programs. Vice President Ezzeddine believes that as more students and families become aware of these scholarships, there will be an increase in enrollment, particularly from students with limited financial means. Enrollment increases were seen across all schools and colleges, with significant increases at the FTIAC level, which speaks to the collective team efforts centrally and at the schools and colleges.

The university continues to lead in community college transfers, with 1116 out of 1491 transfers coming from community colleges. Governor Kelly asked about Nursing and Social Work having the biggest areas of increase, but not the largest number of students. Vice President Ezzeddine advised that despite the increase in enrollment in Nursing and Social Work, these programs have smaller cohorts due to limited capacity and placement opportunities. Dean Clabo further advised that the numbers for Nursing appear small because most students are not admitted to programs like Nursing and Social Work in their freshman year. They are admitted after they have completed their prerequisites. The number seen in Nursing represents a select group of students who are admitted directly into the college, thanks to a donor who funds wraparound services for these students. This number grew from zero to 27 this year. Provost Kornbluth noted that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is about half of the entering FTIAC class and about a third of transfer students.

Provost Kornbluth then discussed the diversity of the incoming class, with over 20% identifying as African American or Black, over 10% as Hispanic, and 12% as Middle Eastern. He emphasized that the university did not compromise on admission standards to achieve this diversity. A survey conducted among admitted students revealed that the top reason for choosing Wayne State was its inclusive culture.

Governor Kumar asked about classification, indicating that there was some confusion between Asian Indians versus Indian Americans and Native Americans. He noted that Indian Americans and Chinese Americans or Asian Americans are all combined in the Asian classification. He then asked to see a more detailed breakdown of the Indian student population at Wayne State, specifically the percentage of Indian American students.

Provost Kornbluth explained that the categories used are based on federal designations. However, he acknowledged the need to check the nomenclature for Native Americans and the possibility of separating Asian classifications.

Associate Provost Darin Ellis discussed the geographical distribution of students, noting that the majority come from the tri-county area, within a 30 to 55-mile radius of the university. While this is beneficial, as Wayne State is a destination for these students, it also presents a challenge due to the presence of other universities in the area.

He addressed Governor Kumar's concern's regarding classification and noted that the institution has flexibility in how it conducts its internal reporting. For instance, after a lengthy multi-year process involving numerous constituencies in the MENA community, they chose to represent MENA students separately in their internal reports starting from fall of 2020. However, when reporting to IPEDS, they still have to categorize MENA students under "White". If they wanted to do similar reporting for other identity groups, such as those from the Asian subcontinent, it will require a comprehensive and inclusive process to ensure all voices are heard. This is something his office can definitely do, as they did with the MENA group, but they will need direction on it.

Associate Provost Ellis continued, noting that there is an effort to examine potential growth areas within the state and there will be planned activities to attract students from these areas. Some counties have no FTIACs but do have transfer students. The Transfer Student Success Center is reaching out to community colleges to discuss the opportunities and pathways available at Wayne State.

The top 10 enrollments for both FTIACs and transfers primarily come from the tri-county area, with a significant number from Detroit and Dearborn schools. They accepted almost 4000 students who did not go to college, indicating a need to better communicate the affordability of Wayne State. His team also identified their main competitors as Michigan State and the University of Michigan. They plan to use the National Student Clearinghouse data to track students who did not enroll or dropped out and to recruit at the graduate level. A new dashboard has been designed to access this data automatically for analysis and tracking.

VP Ezzeddine highlighted the success of the students, with the most common grades being A's and B's, and an average GPA of around 3.4. The six-year graduation rate for 2022 was 60.3%, and they are on a path towards a 70% graduation rate. The average time to degree for students who graduate is 4.13 years. He also noted that the undergraduate population is increasingly traditional college-age students, with 97% of incoming freshmen being full-time students. His team has implemented numerous initiatives since 2010 to support student success, including Warrior 360 and flat-rate tuition. They plan to scale these programs and add more high-impact practices such as internships for credit, service, global experiences, community engagement, and research for credit.

He discussed the impact of flat-rate tuition, which has led to students taking more credits. They are encouraging students to use these extra credits for internships, research, and directed study. Advisors are in constant conversations with students about these opportunities. The team is committed to creating these opportunities and guiding students towards them. The introduction of flat-rate tuition and the focus on providing practical experience aligns with the strategies used by many universities, particularly online ones, making Wayne State forward-looking in its approach.

Mr. Khaimov asked whether students were being properly advised about the benefits of the flat tuition in terms of their junior or senior year activities, such as internships and directed study. VP Ezzeddine indicated that his team is in constant dialogue with advisors

about the implementation of flat-rate tuition. Initially, there were some concerns from advisors about students' ability to handle additional academic loads. However, the team believes that students are capable of taking on these responsibilities and that their job is to help students manage these additional loads. Many students are already working, so the goal is to help them gain experience related to their degree field, which could also provide them with income. The team is committed to creating these opportunities for students and working with advisors to ensure they are guiding students towards these programs.

CHANGE IN THE NAME OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE OR BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH A MAJOR IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE OR BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH A MAJOR IN TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND ANALYTICS

Provost Kornbluh presented this request from the Ilitch School of Business for a name change. There were no questions on this proposal, and the following action was taken.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Kumar, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors change the title of the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a major in Information Systems Management to Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a major in Technology Information Systems and Analytics, based on the recent change in the department name, effective fall 2023. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED SCIENCES

Provost Kornbluh advised that Dean Cummings worked in collaboration with the deans of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Education to bring forward a new undergraduate option. Associate Provost Ellis discussed the proposed new program, a Bachelor of Science degree, in the Applebaum School. The degree offers nine pathways, five aimed at students headed to professional schools and four designed to make students job-ready at the end of their bachelor's degree. The degree requires 120 credits, including about 40 credits in the Applebaum College and the usual minimum bachelor's degree requirements.

Ms. Khaimov asked how this new option will be advertised to students. Dean Cummings advised that his team has been working with the Dean of CLAS, advising, and Student Affairs to help students find the degree that suits them best. They have made it clear from the start that the new Bachelor of Science degree in the Applebaum School is not a direct path to Nursing or Medical School, but rather a pathway for those who may want to work with patients. They are planning to create a pamphlet to guide students in choosing the right health program for them. Academic advisors are being brought in to work on campus and with Central Advising to help answer students' questions. The goal is to get students into the right program early on so they can start their careers on the right track.

The Applied Health Sciences degree is designed to be interdisciplinary, incorporating various disciplines and providing a broad understanding of health sciences. It also includes a capstone course where students create a portfolio and work on their applications, making them job-ready upon graduation.

This could be beneficial for students who have a clear idea of their career path and know that a deep understanding will be beneficial. In essence, the choice between these paths will depend on whether the student values a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of health sciences or a deep, focused understanding of a specific field.

Both paths, coupled with a minor in Business or Social Work or in CLAS, could lead to a variety of career opportunities. That allows students to get this expertise in Health Sciences and then move on to other desired areas with that academic background knowledge that makes them more effective and do so earlier. It is important for students to discuss these options with academic advisors to make the best decision for their individual career goals. He noted that his team is working with advisors to ensure students understand that this degree is not a direct pipeline to professional schools.

Governor Busuito noted that there was a large industry in pharmaceuticals and medical device representative companies and that students are not going to college preparing for those careers. He asked whether this program might suit those students. Dean Cummings noted that the degree could potentially suit students interested in becoming pharmaceutical or medical device representatives, a significant industry that currently lacks specific preparatory programs in many colleges.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Kelly, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Sciences in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, effective fall term 2024. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors