



Academic and Student Affairs Committee

October 23, 2024

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Governor Stancato in the Student Center Ballroom. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present: Governors Atkinson, Barnhill, Busuito, Gaffney, and Stancato; renee hoogland, Faculty Representative; Stephen Chrisomalis, Faculty Alternate Representative

Committee Members Absent: Fatima Algahaim, Student Representative, and Finnley Culhane, Student Alternate Representative

Also Present: Governor Kumar, President Espy, Provost Clabo, Vice Presidents Gielczyk, Lindsey, Obasi, Poterala, Ripple, and Schweitzer, Chief of Staff Smiley, Senior Vice Provosts Baltes and Ezzeddine, Vice Provosts Cotton, Ellis, and Gardner, Interim Vice Provost Padgett, Acting Vice President Thompson, Associate Vice Presidents Davenport and Hafner, Assistant Vice President Phillips, Director Wallace, and Secretary Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Barnhill, the minutes of the September 13, 2024 meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING WITH A MAJOR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING WITH A MAJOR IN MIDDLE CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; and
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING WITH A MAJOR IN MULTI-AGE EDUCATION**

Provost Clabo presented recommendations for the establishment of three programs in the College of Education, brought forward in-line with changes in band levels instituted by the State of Michigan last year. Earlier this year, the Board approved program changes at the bachelor's level; those brought forward this morning reflect changes at the master's level. Approval was taken in one motion on all three recommendations, as follows:

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito, and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish three new degree programs: the Master of Arts in Teaching with a major in Early Childhood Education, the Master of Arts in Teaching with a

major in Middle Childhood Education, and the Master of Arts in Teaching with a major in Multi-Age Education, all in the College of Education, effective Fall 2023. The motion carried.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE; DISCONTINUANCE OF THE MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The committee next discussed two recommendations for program discontinuance. The first is to discontinue the pediatric anesthesia graduate certificate, developed in 2001 with Children's Hospital. The program has struggled with enrollment and has not been successful in attracting students. Provost Clabo advised that formal certification in this area comes through the Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia program, and that the certificate program recommended for discontinuance does not lead to national certification. The second recommendation, to discontinue the Master of Education in Educational Psychology, also relates to a program with low enrollment, and comes forward following a faculty review of all of the offerings in the College of Education.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito, and supported by Governor Atkinson, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors discontinue the Pediatric Anesthesia Graduate Certificate Program and the Master of Education in Educational Psychology Program. The motion carried.

CHANGE THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EARNING A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Provost Clabo next presented a recommendation regarding a significant change to the minimum number of credits required to award the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree at Wayne State University. The current requirement is 90 credits post-baccalaureate, which includes 30 credits of dissertation work and 60 credits of coursework. This requirement is considered out of sync with partner institutions and norms across the nation. The Provost's Committee on PhD education, after a comprehensive review involving over a year of work, recommended reducing the total credits to 60, with 42 credits of coursework and 18 credits of dissertation studies.

The committee's rationale included feedback from external reviewers and national grant submissions, which indicated that the current credit requirements are too high and slow down students' time to graduation. The proposed change would align Wayne State's requirements with national norms and would not preclude individual programs from requiring more credits if necessary.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Barnhill and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors change the principal requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from 90 credits to 60 credits, effective Winter 2025. These changes will be implemented by reducing the minimum number of dissertation credit hours from 30 credits to 18 credits and the minimum curricular credit hour requirement from 60 credits to 42 credits through normal curriculum review and approval processes.

The change in credit hour requirements reflects a new minimum standard. Programs can retain additional credit requirements as necessary. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT AND FALL 2024 MASTERS UPDATE

Provost Clabo and Vice Provost Cotton provided an overview of the current enrollment trends at Wayne State University. They highlighted the composition of this year's Honors College class, noting an increase in diversity of the class. An interesting aspect was the increasing number of students who are fluent in a second language. They also discussed the increase in master's enrollment, particularly among domestic students, and the strategies being used to re-engage students who did not enroll anywhere.

AVP Cotton emphasized the importance of enhancing affinity-based communication and strengthening high school dual enrollment pathways to full-time matriculation. He also mentioned the university's focus on expanding presence in strategically important markets, particularly in West Michigan, and leveraging financial aid to improve college access. Provost Clabo provided an update on the increase in master's enrollment, noting a significant rise in domestic students and highlighted the diversity in age and background of the new enrollees. They also discussed the growth in specific master's programs, noting that the Business School has seen particularly significant growth. Graduate programs experiencing such growth include the MBA, and the M.S. in Organizational Leadership, and the M.S. in Finance.

To provide a student perspective, they invited a new master's student from the Mike Ilitch School of Business to share his experience, and why he selected Wayne State university for his graduate studies. The student, Zach Hoffman, advised that he looked at several different programs prior to selecting Wayne State. None of the other schools offered the flexibility that Wayne provided with its hybrid MBA program. He also received tremendous support from his employer on pursuing his master's degree.

The discussion concluded with questions from Governors Barnhill and Busuito, who expressed their appreciation for Mr. Hoffman's perspectives and thanked him for sharing his experiences with the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Miller,
Secretary to the Board of Governors