



Academic and Student Affairs Committee

December 11, 2024

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 Atkinson, Barnhill, Busuito, Gaffney, and Stancato; renee hoogland, Faculty Representative; Stephen Chrisomalis, Faculty Alternate Representative; Fatima Algahaim, Student Representative

Committee Members Absent: Finnley Culhane, Student Alternate Representative

Also Present: Governors Kelly, Kumar and Land, President Espy, Provost Clabo, Vice Presidents Gielczyk, Lindsey, Obasi, Poterala, Ripple, Schweitzer and Staebler, 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, OCTOBER 23, 2024

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Atkinson, the minutes of the October 23, 2024 meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR PHD in INTEGRATIVE NEUROSCIENCE

Provost Clabo presented a proposal for a new PhD program in integrative neuroscience at Wayne State University, to be housed in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. This interdisciplinary program will involve faculty from six schools and colleges, preparing students with both discipline-specific and interdisciplinary skills. The program aims to support interprofessional collaborative practice in healthcare, particularly in neuroscience, and will serve as the foundation for a submission to NIH for a T32 training grant.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Governor Busuito and supported by Governor Atkinson, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Ph.D. in Integrative Neuroscience in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, effective Fall 2025. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: EUGENE APPLEBAUM COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Dean Brian Cummings, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Science, was introduced for an overview and update on the college, its students, programs, and current efforts. The Dean reported that the college is one of the oldest at the University, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. It houses 12 unique programs, 10 of which are nationally accredited. In terms of numbers, the college has approximately 1000 students, 100 full-time faculty, and 20 staff members. It has seen steady enrollment growth, particularly with the introduction of the BS in Applied Health Science Program, which admits students directly from high school. This program has significantly increased applications and enrollment. The college boasts high completion rates, with a four-year graduation rate of 81% and a six-year rate of 95.2%. Its students also perform well on licensure exams, often surpassing national averages.

The college's programs are nationally ranked, with the pharmacy program in the upper 25% and the physician assistant program being the top-rated in Michigan. Students have received prestigious scholarships and national recognition, including the Service Corporation International Scholarship and the CVS and American Association of College and Pharmacy Health Equity Scholarship. The college places over 900 students annually in clinical sites around Metro Detroit, with many students securing jobs before graduation, due to their impactful educational experiences. The college plays a critical role in workforce generation for the healthcare system in Detroit and Michigan.

Dean Cummings invited Annika Jenks, a 2nd year student in the Physician's Assistant program, to share her perspectives about the PA program and its successes. Ms. Jenks provided an overview of the role of physician assistants (PAs), emphasizing their ability to diagnose and treat medical conditions in various medical settings and specialties. She highlighted the encouragement and support students receive from faculty and local organizations for students to get involved in clinical research, student government, and advocacy.

Some of the examples Ms. Jenks provided of student involvement included a colleague presenting research on South Asian Health Disparities at a national conference, and her own role as class president. She also discussed the recognition of PA Week in Michigan, which she helped achieve through a proclamation approved by Governor Gretchen

Whitmer. Other community outreach activities include the Men's Health Fair, the Luke Clinic, the Community Homeless Interprofessional Clinic, and the Special Olympics. These events allow PA students to provide medical care and education to the local Detroit community. Finally, a mentor-mentee pairing program provides an opportunity for PA students to mentor pre-PA students, helping them with their application process and answering questions about the program.

Dean Cummings added that the goal of the Applied Health Science program is to introduce students to various health careers early, and about one-third of applications are from those interested in becoming physician assistants. The program includes first-year interest groups to discuss different health career options with students. He advised that pre-health advisors play a crucial role in guiding students interested in health professions, helping them explore various career opportunities, including less-known fields such as occupational and physical therapy. The college also conducts activities with high schools, bringing students to the college and visiting high schools to expose them to health career options. These events, such as Apple Days, help students learn about the various ways to be part of a healthcare team.

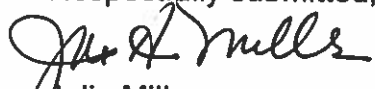
Next, Alexis Brecht, a 3rd year Pharmacy student, shared her perspectives on student success and engagement within the pharmacy program. She began by discussing the importance of student organizations in the pharmacy program, highlighting how they offer professional development and leadership opportunities throughout the four-year program to program students. Students also gain much practical experience and involvement in the community through pharmacy internships, and by volunteering. She spoke of her own volunteer experience at the Gary Bernstein Community Health Clinic, which helped her apply classroom knowledge to real-world practice and build her skills. Ms. Brecht also discussed and provided highlights of the peer mentorship program, citing it and the student pharmacist learning community, and Rho Chi tutoring as key resources that support student success and professional development within the pharmacy program.

Provost Clabo added some final comments, commenting that this presentation was a very good example of leadership in the schools and colleges, starting with the deans and faculty and staff doing work that supports the university's prosperity agenda, and fuels innovation in our communities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Julie Miller,
Secretary to the Board of Governors