

## COLLEGE ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

### Report from the Graduate Council: Stephen Chrisomalis

- Newly approved co-directors for Ph.D. candidates on their committee, in case the director is not able to be available for the Ph.D. candidate at the time that they are ready to defend.
- Rumble report CLAS has 44 Rumble fellowships, if the number of Ph.D.s for program enrollment per department goes up or down, it will be recalculated based on a three-year rolling average.
- The provost's Ph.D. report has been given the Grad Council Policy Committee, here are a few of the recommendations: 1) Credit hours is the biggest impact from graduate hours going from 30 to 18 cr. hrs. for dissertations, this will affect all programs from 90 to 78 cr. hrs., this was voted on by the grad council; 2) Also recommended from the report was to have departments to move down to 60, by program by program basis; 3) Recommendation is the removal of tuition from grants.
- 18 cr. hrs. of dissertation are needed to be taken for grad students to graduate with a Ph.D.

### Report from the Academic Senate (AS): Stephen Chrisomalis

- Hiring for OVPR VP, chief of staff, and the VP for enrollment management, VP for finance, are currently going on, and a few have been filled and the AS has been involved in these hirings.
- School of Public Health, the sub-committees are moving slowly as they go forward to plan these committee meetings, some have met, and some will start soon, with an official charge meeting to happen.
- Free Speech of the University, Year of Civil Discourse, John Weinberg and dean of Education will be heading up this group, with seminars and lectures for future.
- **Detroit Center for Black Studies (DCBS):** Hiring is currently ongoing, 10 of them are pathway to faculty hires, some of these may be invited to part of the center, this is happening in a three-year period, with 26 have already been hired.
- **Student Affairs Committee:** Grad admission applications are high with a backlog of delays for processing, departments are to contact the grad school directly if they have

specific applicants that need to be processed immediately, we have an increase by 300% of masters degree applications and 180% Ph.D.'s applicants, mainly from Ghana and Nigeria because we removed the language requirement and application fee

- AS recommended for campus to have a faculty club.
- AS, no March meeting, but will have a plenary meeting to discuss the Wayne Experience course with the possibility of eliminating.

## Report from the Faculty Council, Jenn Wareham

- Marc Wolf, our CLAS BAO, discussed the upcoming budget cut of \$650K deficit, and the GTA funding for the college, the dean mentioned that the deficit will be covered by the college, and a 3% and a 6% budget reduction for the next two AYs, respectively. CLAS will have a 3% budget reduction, totaling \$1.7 million. The 6% budget cut two years from now is less certain.
- The college has formed a grad education committee meeting to discuss the probability of a reduction of the CLAS GTAs.
- P&T process is now completed, all of the applications for promotion and/or tenure were supported for the university's P&T Committee for review.
- WSU distinguished faculty award ceremony was held, honoring last years awardees. These awardees were mostly from CLAS.
- Discussed computer language to be considered as part of the CLAS languages that are offered.
- Grading standards were discussed for online vs. in-person, and the struggles that faculty are having with cultural issues and hopefully some examination of this issue.
- Master's degree process for administrative support is outdated and hopefully changes can be made to simplify things.

## CLAS P&T – CLAS bylaws changes – Jennifer Wareham

- Changes made to the CLAS bylaws, added to the bylaws are the number of members represented on the committee was nine members (two from each division) and one at-large. We added one member to each division of the non-tenure teaching faculty, with specifications that they cannot vote on tenure-track faculty applications, and removed the at-large member to the P&T Committee. There will be a total of 12 members on the CLAS P&T Committee for next year.

- Motion made and seconded by assembly, voted to approve on the changes made to the CLAS bylaws P&T Committee members.

## Curriculum items for vote: Jenn Wareham

- Changes to the political science B.A. – motion made and seconded by Assembly, voted to approve the changes to the courses offered.

## Report from the Dean, Stephanie Hartwell

- HR consultants are on campus, and making the rounds with the colleges.
- Increase the master's degree programs to hopefully offset the budget cuts that CLAS will take.
- Some departments are giving the dean proposals on the GTAs allocations.
- Ph.D. programs are large in CLAS vs. the masters degree programs, hoping to increase these.
- Talked to MSU and UoM CLAS deans with similar issues regarding the cost of GTAs and the costs to maintain these programs.
- Free speech conference happening this week, Rushton publishing event, and Brad Roth presenting in the Humanities Common entitled “Disagreeing About Anti-Zionism as Anti-Semitism.”

## Announcements – Michelle Jacobs re: Prison Education Program

To collaborate with the MDOC, looking for faculty to teach at the Macomb prison. WSU collaborates and offers a full degree housed in prison may be a five-year program. A course release can be offered on a case-by-case basis for faculty that participate, no online degree only in-person. Grant monies have been provided by the MDOC.

- A question regarding that departments may have too many Ph.D.s – the dean responded that CLAS has 335 GTAs with a cost of over \$7.6 million a year, faculty lines and staff can't be cut further, other expenses are being looked at in the college, this area is being discussed by having a committee called the graduate education committee to review this data, and right-size Ph.D. programs.
- BAO will be presenting CLAS budget data to the Faculty Council and dept. chairs at the March meeting.

- CLAS dean's office has unified our grant administrators in CLAS, as part of budget reductions.
- Block tuition is a concern with spring/summer registration being lower than in previous years.

## CLAS Assembly dates

Apr. 23 (UL in the Community Room, 3rd floor), 2-3:30 p.m.