

COLLEGE ASSEMBLY

DECEMBER 12, 2023

Report from the Graduate Council: Stephen Chrisomalis

Reduction in minimum PhD credit hours required for completion

Currently: 90 credits (30 are for dissertation credits).

Two proposals under consideration by the “Provost’s Committee on Ph.D. Education.”

- 90 to 78 cr, taking 12 cr off the dissertation 9991-9994 sequence only, recommendation from Academic Standards in 2018-2019.
- 90 to 60 cr, which would also permit (though not require) departments to reduce course credits by up to 18, to move students more quickly through and reduce costs

At present neither proposal has been approved or presented to GC, then to BoG.

Allocation of Rumbles

- Data collection towards compiling a report to produce for January on historical allocation and use for different purposes (recruitment, retention, completion), Todd Leff has the data and is looking to have it in a usable format in the near future.
- Aimed at a possible reallocation and funding increase, but the process has not been laid out, funding rate is currently \$20K.

Allocation of GTA-ships

- Ongoing discussion of how to allocate.
- Challenge that there is no one metric (program size, UG enrollment, funded research, etc.) that will satisfy all programs.
- Discussion of desirability of GTAs in first year of program.

GTA salary

- Set by GEOC, but even after last negotiation, well below national market, leading to competitiveness issues.
- Sense that we must increase stipends substantially – with the acknowledgement that this will result in fewer GTAs overall (see above, allocation).
- Process by which that would happen is still unclear.

Admissions

- Very little discussion of admission at GC, unlike last year.
- Application fee waiver remains in place for SS24, F24 admissions.
- High number of applicants from anglophone African countries, which no longer require language proficiency exam.

Other items

- Pathway to faculty program: Ongoing recruitment to the program and monitoring.
- Standards for asynchronous online graduate instruction: no current standards.
- Graduate faculty status: ongoing discussion with apparently no action.
- Policy on medical withdrawal: Approved by senate, no additional discussion.
- New programs: Various program approvals, modifications.
- Role of GS with respect to master's programs.

Report from the Academic Senate: President Linda Beale

After reading the announcement of Mark Kornbluh, President Beale welcomed Acting Provost Laurie Clabo. Senate president mentioned that Kornbluh has brought positive changes to the university and President Beale also mentioned having knowledge of the general substance of the complaint and there was no significance there regarding complaint, in hopes of a positive outcome.

Higher Education is the brunt of political issues across the U.S. regarding campuses reaction to Israel/Gaza situation. WSU's response has been to have academic freedom and free speech used in panel discussions and academic symposia, and the senate feels this is the appropriate way to handle these discussions. This conflict impacts so many people of the WSU community; we can generate civil dialogue on campus by having these talks. Early next semester a plenary discussion will be planned to further discuss academic freedom and freedom of speech.

School of Public Health: Next steps are under review, an executive committee will be formed and charged, funding is a main issue with monies coming from many external funding sources, with some new hires and SoM faculty being transferred via the M.P.H. program from within WSU.

Student Senate did a resolution for religious holidays, faculty need to be responsive to student needs, with further discussion.

Disclosure policy: Will review revised drafts to get a good policy, to disclose consulting activities with said countries, to protect faculty under this policy.

AI committee is continuing to operate, big data and research needs to be further developed.

College-to-Career President Espy's initiative to the campus, senate has met with VP Ezzeddine to assist in the management of internships and externships, engagement in the community to gather all of this info, and hopefully to create a marketing document.

Centers/Institutes rechartering and working with OVPR to hopefully streamline the processes.

Report from the Faculty Council: Pramod Khosla

The FC has had four meetings this term and the council has several key topics. CLAS P&T by-laws need to change to accommodate the teaching faculty. Student health and performance via the office of CAPS and the teaching preference of in-person vs. online course instruction. Faculty and staff well-being and what services can be made available for help. Following an idea from the senate, FC elicited discussions amongst smaller groups of its members on topics for further discussion in the winter semester.

Curriculum items for vote

New program: Professional Biomedical Sciences BSc (Academic Advisor Kim Hunter): Voted and approved by assembly.

Report from the Dean, Stephanie Hartwell

College-to-Career and discussing this issue with the student senators in hopes of further working with them to accomplish these initiatives that the president has set forth.

Working with our newly updated and approved CLAS Strategic Plan infusing our DEI initiatives.

Recruitment committee meeting with Erica Searcy and working to grow the master's degrees with the Great Lakes promise, we will work with students that have completed applications and connecting them with our departments.

Center/program directors: These centers/programs have an academic connection to the college and will provide them with recruiting/marketing efforts.

Corporate and foundation relations currently has a dashboard that can be reviewed to see what grants can be accessed.

OVPR search and CFO search will be starting soon.

CAPS came to give a presentation to FC and dept. chairs to discuss the levels of academic distress among with students and faculty.

Event announcements: At the college holiday reception, we will remember those that have died this past year. At Commencement our student speaker has a great story to tell during her speech.

Humanities Commons: Please use this space and contact the dean and M.L. Liebler if you are interested in utilizing the space.

The dean mentioned that these topics will be further discussed and worked on in the college:

- Continue to have open dialogue with students.
- Civil discourse among students, faculty and staff.
- Students feel unwelcome on campus .

Matters arising

- Faculty hires are continuing for the college.
- An inquiry made by a faculty member, about CLAS response to the Anti-Semitism culture on WSU campus: The dean responded by mentioning that CLAS faculty continue to help students and the broader community better understand and synthesize the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Professors Saeed Khan, an associate professor of teaching in Near East and Asian studies and director of the Center for the Study of Citizenship, and Howard Lupovitch, a professor of history and director of the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies, have held on-campus events and

participated in several media interviews to share their thoughts and expertise. The Department of Political Science held a lecture and discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on Nov. 13. The faculty member clarified his comment about Anti-Semitism to indicate he was speaking of a broader issue with this form of prejudice on campus that some students have personally mentioned to him. The dean responded that CLAS will continue to support and advocate for an open and welcoming environment to all.

CLAS Assembly Dates: 2/27, 4/23 (UL in the Community Room, 3rd floor), 2 to 3:30 p.m.