

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

January 24, 2011

Present: R. Brown; V. Dallas; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos;  
W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: D. Kessel

Guests: S. Calkins, Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel; K. Feathers,  
Chair, Curriculum and Instruction Committee; M. Sengstock, Chair, Faculty Affairs  
Committee; M. Wardell, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of January 24, 2011.

1. University-wide Committees: Prior to the regular meeting, the Policy Committee met without the Provost to select replacements for the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee and the Excellence in Teaching Awards Committee. During the regular meeting, the Provost and the Policy Committee will jointly select the replacements.

[Ms. Feathers, Ms. Sengstock, and Dean Wardell arrived. They were invited to discuss guidelines for students' publishing research.]

2. Ethical Guidelines for Students' Publishing Research: In the fall term, a question arose about students' publishing research results without the knowledge of their advisors and without giving credit to the faculty members or other students who were involved in the research. The Policy Committee charged the Curriculum and Instruction, Faculty Affairs, and Research Committees with developing a policy to cover such activities that protects the faculty advisor and the University and that provides some regulations to which graduate students need to adhere when publishing research results. The Research Committee held a meeting on October 21, 2010, that included representation from the Graduate School, the Division of Research, and members of the C&I and Faculty Affairs Committees. At that Research Committee meeting Dean Wardell offered to have the Graduate Council draft guidelines for faculty and students and to return the draft to the three Senate committees for their input. In addition, the Faculty Affairs Committee developed recommendations that it submitted to Provost Brown.

Dean Wardell outlined the areas covered in the draft that the Graduate Council is preparing. A compact, not a contract, to be used as a template is being developed. It will include such topics to consider as mentoring, professional behavior, and publishing. The template could be customized by departments or faculty to meet their needs. Dean Wardell stated that the draft document had been shared with the Graduate Council but one of the members stated that his Council representative had never received it.

Policy Committee discussed whether it was wise to have individual faculty writing their own compact. Some members thought there should be rules that apply to everyone, but others pointed out all disciplines do not need such rules because students are encouraged to publish their work without advisor review. If there is a compact between faculty and students the legal backing of the University was necessary, but it would be difficult to enforce.

One member thought the incident that sparked the discussion and recommendation for a policy was rare and that requiring an advisor's approval prior to students' publishing their work could open the situation to abusive power. However, others present had contacted colleagues at other institutions and found that they were dealing with similar situations and they expected them to increase.

Committee members talked about the need to educate students about their responsibilities.

[Provost Brown arrived.]

The Provost had provided the Committee with standards from the "Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct" from the American Psychological Association.

There was consensus that the advisor and student should sign guidelines to which they both agree. The Graduate Council will continue to work on developing guidelines. When the draft is ready, it will be given to the Academic Senate Office for distribution to the Policy Committee and the C&I, Faculty Affairs, and Research Committees.

[Mr. Calkins arrived toward the end of the discussion of item #2.]

[Dean Wardell, Ms. Feathers, and Ms. Sengstock left the meeting.]

- \*3. Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee: Two of the faculty selected to serve on the Committee are unable to serve because they serve on their college committees in departmentalized colleges. The Provost and the Policy Committee jointly selected replacements.
4. Selection Process for the University-wide Committees: Policy Committee discussed with the Provost and Mr. Calkins the process used to staff university-wide committees. The present system does not necessarily result in a very diverse slate. The members discussed ways of revising the process. The process is mandated by the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT. The Provost suggested that the Deans supply a rationale and some information about the nominees to assist in the selection process.
- \*5. Excellence in Teaching Awards Committee: One of the faculty selected to serve on this committee was removed because he has been nominated for the award. The Provost and the Policy Committee jointly selected a replacement.

[Mr. Calkins left the meeting.]

6. Report from the Chair:
  - a. Carolyn Shields from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign accepted the position of Dean of Education effective July 1, 2011.
  - b. Initial interviews with candidates for the Deanship of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts will be conducted next week.
  - c. Changes will be made in the reception area for the President's Office and the Provost's Office so that there will be one entrance for visitors to the two offices.
- \*7. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of January 10, 2011, were approved as submitted.
8. Retention Implementation Task Force Report: Provost Brown reviewed the presentation that he will make to the Board of Governors Executive Committee on January 26, 2011. Next week he will give the full report to the Policy Committee.

[Provost Brown left the meeting.]

9. Meeting with Consultants: The Policy Committee will meet on January 28, 2011, with consultants visiting campus to review the Office for Teaching and Learning.
- \*10. Proposal to Transfer the Department of Computer Science: Provost Brown has proposed transferring the Department of Computer Science from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the College of Engineering. Policy Committee had voted electronically to send the question to the Curriculum and Instruction, the Faculty Affairs, the Research, and the Student Affairs Committees. Policy Committee ratified the action it had taken electronically. The Committee also discussed potential curricular issues and tried to discern the reasons for the proposed move.  
  
Mr. Wolfson offered to recuse himself from handling the issue but the Policy Committee did not accept the offer.
- \*11. Cancellation of the Senate Meeting: Policy Committee cancelled the Academic Senate meeting scheduled for February 2, 2011.
12. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: Policy Committee received the list of agenda items suggested for the January 27, 2011, meeting with the President's Cabinet.
13. Mathematics Competency Requirement: Policy Committee received the revised Mathematics Competency requirement for its information.
14. Board of Governors Meeting: Policy Committee received the FY 2010 Year-End Budget Report and the Draft Financial Report dated September 30, 2010, that are on the agenda for the Board of Governors Budget and Finance Committee meeting of January 26, 2011. It also received the "New Initiatives at the WSU Library

System,” which is on the agenda of the meeting of the BOG Academic Affairs Committee.

15. Postponement of Agenda Items: Due to the lateness of the hour, Policy Committee deferred consideration of the Revision to the Student Evaluation of Teaching, the membership of the Type II - Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee, and Graduate Tuition in Engineering to later meetings.
- \*16. Apportionment for the 2011-2012 Academic Year: Mr. Woodyard, who chairs the Elections Committee, distributed a table showing the apportionment for the past few years and the number of representatives from the faculty and academic staff to the Academic Senate. In the past, the number of slots to be filled was determined by using the number of full-time equivalent faculty and academic staff. However, the Bylaws state that representation is to be based on the number of full-time and at least one-half fractional-time faculty and academic staff, and that is how the number of representatives was determined for next year. The total number of representatives increases from 83 in the 2010-2011 academic year to 86 in the 2011-2012 academic year.
17. Amendment to the Bylaws: Mr. Woodyard noted that the Bylaws needed to be amended to change the language to represent the change of the Library and Information Science Program to the School of Library and Information Science. He will write the proposed amendment.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of January 31, 2011