

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

January 25, 2016

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; B. Roth; N. Simon;  
W. Volz; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: J. Artiss

Guests: Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis;  
Robert Mahu, Research Assistant, Center for Urban Studies; Lyke Thompson, Director,  
Center for Urban Studies

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of January 25.

1. Student Engagement Survey: Since fall 2013, the Center for Urban Studies has conducted the Undergraduate Enrollment Survey of students who were admitted and enrolled at Wayne State and those who were admitted but did not enroll. The purpose of the survey is to find out what we might change for students who did not enroll and what might be enhanced for those who did enroll.

The survey compared the ratings of the students who were admitted in fall 2015 with the ratings of students who were admitted in fall 2013 and fall 2014. The response rates increased with 22.1% of enrollees and 13.1% of non-enrollees responding. The students who are surveyed are first-time-in-any-college students and transfer students.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the results of the survey. Some of the information is contained in the following paragraphs.

The students who enrolled in fall 2015 ranked Wayne State higher than those who enrolled the previous two years. Those who enrolled ranked our location as the first reason for selecting WSU. Other important factors were the diversity of people and campus safety. Non-enrollees did not rate those same factors high. Non-enrollees ranked our in-state tuition as the best thing about the University. Enrollees rated our program offerings lower than in past years.

Enrollees and non-enrollees identified cost as a major drawback to WSU. Enrollees also identified the lack and cost of housing, access to technology, and inconvenience of attending as drawbacks. Asked why they applied to Wayne State, students cited its proximity to home, Detroit and Midtown, its urban location, affordability, the University's reputation and the reputation of the program in which they are interested. Word of mouth and Wayne's website were the major sources of information students used in deciding to apply.

In response to the survey, Mr. Kohrman said that the administration is trying to enhance financial subsidies to high schools to bring them to campus. For example,

some high schools no longer have buses to transport students. We provide buses to bring them to campus for the Advanced Placement day. We are trying to get more potential students to take campus tours and are trying to better coordinate the tours that various campus groups provide.

Policy Committee members recommended that the following questions be added to the survey.

- a. Why do students consider the quality of teaching as poor?
- b. Ask for specific information about parking. Is their opinion due to the cost of parking, the proximity to their classes, and/or safety?
- c. Ask if the advertising on billboards influenced their decision to apply.

A member of the PC questioned whether the University should try to improve its ranking among the organizations that rank universities. We may need to make parents and prospective students more aware of how safe campus is. We ought to publicize the amenities in the area, such as the variety of restaurants, sports, and cultural activities. More financial aid ought to be directed to merit scholarships. We should publicize the accomplishments of our alumni, such as the graduate and professional schools to which they are accepted, their career accomplishments, and their salaries.

It was mentioned that it is important for prospective students to meet faculty in a casual setting. Mr. Kohrman said that faculty are very involved in activities related to the recruitment of students.

Addressing how the demographics in Michigan might affect future enrollment, Mr. Kohrman said that, although the number of high school graduates has dropped statewide, the number of graduates in southeast Michigan has increased slightly. There has been a large decline in the number of graduates in the upper peninsula and in the northern lower peninsula.

[Mr. Thompson and Mr. Mahu left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. Mr. Kohrman provided the enrollment and credit hour numbers for winter term 2016 as known to date. The final census will be available January 26. Both applications and admissions for the fall 2016 term have increased compared with the fall 2015 term at this time last year. Three scholars days are scheduled. Mr. Kohrman predicted that we would have an entering class of 2700 students, which would be an increase of about 140 students over fall 2015. We have retained 93% of the FTIACS from the fall 2015 term to the winter 2016 term. Last year the retention rate from fall to winter was 90.9%. Provost Winters will check the status of the program sponsored by the Brazilian government that brings students to campus to take STEM courses. She is working to develop study abroad programs directly with universities in Brazil. The Provost expects to be able to sign agreements with some universities this year.
- b. Policy Committee previously had asked for data about the introductory courses with high failure rates that delay their graduating or that cause them to drop out.

Mr. Kohrman has learned that there may be a high failure rate when students take certain courses in the same semester. The Provost will provide the Committee with an update.

[Mr. Kohrman left the meeting.]

- c. The firm Brill Neumann and Associates is assisting the University in searches for the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and for the Director of Student Financial Aid. Gayle Reynolds, who was the Director of Enrollment Services, has been appointed Interim Director of the Office of Student Financial Aid.
  - d. The Provost and the Vice President for Finance and Business Operations William Decatur are beginning to plan the transition of the Office of Budget, Planning and Analysis from the Office of the Provost to the Office for Finance and Business Operations.
3. Report from the Senate President:
- a. Mr. Romano reported that, at the Graduate Council meeting of January 20, the Council approved the establishment of a Joint Doctor of Medicine-Master of Science in Medical Research Degree Program, the establishment of a Professional Doctorate in Medical Physics, and the establishment of a Master of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics. The Council also briefly discussed holistic admissions to graduate programs. The Provost said that some schools/colleges have holistic admissions. The Graduate School has applied to the National Science Foundation for an Advance Grant whose purpose is to increase the number of women faculty, particularly minority women faculty, in STEM fields.
  - b. The so-called airport interviews with the candidates for the position of Provost will be carried out soon.
- \*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of January 11, 2015.
- \*5. Sabbatical Leaves Committee: A member selected to serve on the University-wide Sabbatical Leaves Committee will not serve. Policy Committee and Provost Winters selected the replacement.
6. Board of Governors Meeting: The Board's Academic Affairs Committee, its Budget and Finance Committee, and the full Board will meet January 29. Policy Committee reviewed some of the items on the agendas.
- a. Budget and Finance Committee On the agenda for the Budget and Finance Committee is the construction of additional student housing. There is a proposal to demolish the DeRoy Apartments because it needs extensive repairs at high cost. It would be replaced with a new apartment building on land that is now a parking lot on the west side of Anthony Wayne Drive. Mr. Romano noted that the Academic Senate was not consulted about the plan. A Policy Committee member pointed out that, while we need new buildings, the University might experience financial problems if our credit rating is lowered and we could not pay our debts. Other members spoke to the need for new housing and for new and renovated buildings.

- b. Academic Affairs Committee: Among the items on this Committee's agenda are a presentation by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and an overview of student demographics.
7. Cancellation of Senate Meeting: Policy Committee cancelled the February 3 meeting of the Academic Senate.
8. Reports from Liaisons:
- a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Ms. Simon, the liaison to the CIC, reported that, at the January 20 meeting, Associate Provost for Student Success Monica Brockmeyer spoke about increases in retention and a slight increase in the graduation rate. Mr. Romano asked that the CIC request an update on the work of the General Education Reform Committee.
  - b. Faculty Affairs Committee: Ms. Beale reported the issues covered at the FAC's meeting of January 20.
    - (1) The Committee will ask Policy Committee to request information from the Provost's Office about the faculty mentoring program.
    - (2) The FAC is asking that the Graduate School set a new time period during which departments could request criteria that is different from the current criteria for Graduate Faculty Status. Mr. Romano will send the recommendation to the Provost and to Ambika Mathur, Dean of the Graduate School.
    - (3) The Committee discussed the need for quality control of online courses. FAC asked Ms. Beale to inform Policy Committee that the 2N online committee has not met. The online committee's membership is appointed by the administration and the AAUP-AFT, as required in the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT.
    - (4) Also discussed was the need for an improved website to announce faculty awards and to list the faculty who are past awardees, giving the various awards more visibility.
    - (5) Associate Provost for Academic Personnel John Vander Weg told the FAC that about 40 out of 65 units have guidelines for conducting peer reviews.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of February 1, 2016