

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 5, 2009

Present: N. Barrett; C. Parrish; L. Romano; M. Sengstock; H. Tse; A. Vlasopolos;  
W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: J. Whittum-Hudson

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 5, 2009.

1. Senate Meeting of October 7: Policy Committee reviewed the agenda for the Senate meeting of October 7. President Noren will hold an open forum at the beginning of the meeting. Associate Vice President Howard Shapiro will make a presentation about articulation with community colleges and the retention of students.
2. Retention: Policy Committee discussed problems related to retention of students. One member said that the University needed to implement programs that will help students to succeed. The Provost pointed out that the retention rate for first year students increased from 69% to 76%, putting Wayne State in line with other universities. The Provost believes the improvement is largely due to the learning communities.
- \*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of September 21, 2009, were approved as submitted.
- \*5. President's Budget Advisory Committee: In response to the request from President Noren, Policy Committee nominated six faculty to serve on the President's Budget Advisory Committee. From the slate, the President will select three faculty to serve.
6. The Academic Calendar: A faculty member suggested that the academic calendar be changed to begin classes the Wednesday before Labor Day when Labor Day is late in September so classes would not be held the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The Elections Committee and the Student Affairs Committee will survey the students and the faculty late in the fall 2009 semester to learn their opinions about the change initiated this year. The suggestion about beginning on a Wednesday will be included in the survey.
7. Smart Energy Task Force: President Noren requested that the Policy Committee submit the names of four persons to serve on the Smart Energy Task Force. From those nominated, the President will select two persons to serve. Policy Committee began the nomination process. They will complete the nominations at their next meeting.

- \*8. Student Code of Conduct Hearing Panel: Policy Committee nominated members of the faculty and academic staff to serve on the Student Code of Conduct Hearing Panel for cases of non-academic misbehavior.

9. National Research Ranking: Policy Committee identified the members of the University community to whom it will send the report of the 2008-2009 Senate Research Committee ♦ Wayne State University National Research Ranking. ♦ Mr. Tse, who chaired the Research Committee last year, will modify the report as recommended by the Policy Committee.
10. Committee Minutes: Policy Committee received the minutes of the Budget Committee meeting of August 31, 2009.
11. Reports from Liaisons:
  - a. Ms. Sengstock, the liaison to the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee held its first meeting of the academic year, which was an organizational meeting.
  - b. Mr. Volz, a member of the Budget Committee, mentioned budget issues that were brought up at the September 14, 2009, meeting. There was concern expressed by some members that the policy proposed at the Board of Governor's meeting of recapturing unfilled faculty lines was not formally approved and was only a proposal, but the administration has begun the process of taking back the lines.
  - c. Mr. Romano mentioned an initiative under consideration by the administration: to require faculty with nine-month appointments to charge a portion of their academic-year salary to their grants.

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Approved as revised at the Policy Committee meeting of October 12, 2009