

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 18, 2011

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

Guests: Stephen Calkins, Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 18, 2011.

- *1. Chair of the CIAC-I: The faculty member selected at the last meeting to serve as Chair of the Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee – I has declined to serve. The Provost and the Policy Committee selected a replacement.

[Mr. Calkins left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Brown updated the Policy Committee on the searches for Deans, for the Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning and for the Director of Enrollment Management.
- b. The Provost discussed the replacement of employees who accepted the special retirement incentive program.
- c. Provost Brown has asked Vice President Nork to get more input from faculty about the proposed changes in the travel and expense reporting system.

3. Report from the Senate President:

- a. Mr. Nork agreed to provide the slides with the recommendations of the Huron Consulting Group. He will also make a presentation about the recommendations to the full Senate on November 2.
- b. Mr. Romano noted that faculty are concerned about the charge to the Task Force for On-line Instruction. Formed in the winter term 2010, the Task Force was charged with expanding on-line course offerings. However, faculty need guidelines on how to set up quality on-line courses and are concerned about copyrights of their lectures. Ms. Vlasopolos, the liaison to the Senate's Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Committee, reported that the Committee is taking the lead in investigating issues related to on-line courses. The Budget, Faculty Affairs, and Student Affairs Committees will consider the issues from their perspectives.
- c. Mr. Romano said that graduate credit hours have declined 17% over the last 10 years. He compared WSU's graduate enrollment decline of 4.2% from fall 2010 to fall 2011 with enrollment at other universities in the Detroit area. Enrollment is not down at Michigan State University or Western Michigan University. It is down 0.4% at both Oakland University and Eastern Michigan University. The Policy Committee will ask that this issue be on the agenda for its meeting with the President's Cabinet. Another member suggested that the Dean of the Graduate School hold training sessions with graduate directors in departments. At one time, Wayne State had a large number of Masters students, but that is no longer

true. One member believes part of the reason for the decline is the belief of some graduate directors that their departments are training for the professoriate and turn away students who are seeking a Masters degree. A third member suggested that a plan be developed to reduce differential tuition over three years to see if the tuition rate is a factor in the loss of graduate students.

4. Program Closures: The Provost gave the Policy Committee a list of programs slated for closure. His office compiled the list based on enrollment, research funding, and the cost of the program. The Deans were consulted about the closings. Policy Committee asked to see the rationale and background for closing the programs.

[Provost Brown left the meeting.]

- *5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee Meeting of September 19, 2011: After these Proceedings were approved on October 3, a member asked that they be revised. The Committee agreed and approved the Proceedings as revised.
- *6. Proceedings of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 3, 2011: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of October 3, 2011, were approved as submitted.
7. December Commencement Ceremonies: Three commencement ceremonies are scheduled for December. Mr. MacArthur, Mr. Romano, and Mr. Volz will represent the Academic Senate at the ceremonies and give remarks to the graduates.
8. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: The Policy Committee will meet with the President's Cabinet on October 27, 2011. They reviewed issues they would like to discuss with the Cabinet.
9. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed the agenda for the Graduate Council meeting of October 19, 2011. Mr. Romano is the liaison from the Senate to the Graduate Council.

[Mr. Volz joined the meeting.]

10. November 2 Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed the drafted agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of November 2, 2011.
11. Classroom Renovation: Ms. Vlasopolos attended a meeting about the renovation of the fourth floor of State Hall into classrooms. She was told that only minor changes would be allowed to the plans, but she prevailed upon Dean Yee to have a focus group of faculty from a variety of disciplines give their views about the rooms' usage. The Policy Committee will ask that a presentation on the renovation plans be made to the Senate.
12. Reports from Liaisons:
 - a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Ms. Vlasopolos reported that the C&I Committee would ask the Budget, Faculty Affairs and Student Affairs Committees to work on issues related to on-line courses. The Chair, Veronica Bielat, has

prepared a bibliography of websites with information about on-line courses. C&I also began the process of identifying issues that the new committee on the student evaluation of teaching might consider in its deliberations to revise the SET form. The Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT gives the administration and the AAUP-AFT the responsibility to establish “an advisory board to the Provost in the development and use of standard forms and other instruments for student evaluation of teaching.” Policy Committee urged Mr. Parrish to initiate the process.

- b. Mr. MacArthur, a member of the Research Committee, reported that the Committee discussed the research incentive plan developed by a committee chaired by Associate Vice President for Research Joseph Dunbar in 2010. Provost Brown had suggested that the Deans develop incentives for their schools/colleges that would fit within the guidelines developed by Dunbar’s committee. Mr. MacArthur asked that the Policy Committee discuss the report and incentives with the Provost.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of October 24, 2011