

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 24, 2011

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

Absent with Notice: R. MacArthur

Guest: Laura Woodward, Director of Testing, Evaluation and Research Services

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

- \*1. Student Evaluation of Teaching: Ms. Woodward informed the Policy Committee that the research assistant in her office who analyzes the data on the student evaluation of teaching form is on medical leave and no one else in her office would be able to do the work quickly. She has located a software service that can analyze the data quickly. She contacted employees in the Division of Computing and Information Technology, and they were comfortable with the University's using the software but told her to consult with the faculty because neither her office nor C&IT are the owners of the data. The faculty should decide if it is alright to release the information to a third party outside the University. Mr. Parrish said that he spoke with Ms. Woodward last week and consulted with other members of the AAUP-AFT and they did not object to the use of the service. A Policy Committee member pointed out that WSU is a public institution and the information is not kept confidential. It was suggested that Ms. Woodward check with the General Counsel's office and the Associate Vice President for Computing and Information Technology to ensure that legal and security issues are covered. Policy Committee approved the use of the software contingent upon the agreement of the Associate Vice President for Computing and Information Technology and the Office of the General Counsel.

[Ms. Woodward left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:
- a. The Huron Consulting Group will evaluate the University's Research Division in January. The Policy Committee had requested that this be done.
  - b. Provost Brown has prevailed upon Vice President Rick Nork to consult with faculty about the changes in the reporting of travel expenses. At both the Academic Senate and Policy Committee meetings faculty have explained that it may not be possible to get receipts for meals when dining with a group of colleagues.
3. Report from the Senate President:
- a. Dean of Nursing Barbara Redman will attend the Budget Committee meeting on November 7 to talk about the organization of the Nursing Practice Plan.
  - b. Dean Sandra Yee of the Library System will meet with the Policy Committee at the end of November to discuss eReserves.

- c. Vice President Rick Nork will provide the slides from the Huron Consulting Group presentation to the Policy Committee.
  - d. The National Research Council ranks graduate programs. In one of the rankings, faculty rank the quality of programs in other institutions. Wayne State had no programs in the first quartile, two in the second quartile, 17 in the third quartile, and 14 in the fourth quartile.
- \*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of October 18, 2011, were approved as submitted.
5. Research Incentive Plan: Policy Committee revisited the Research Incentive Plan developed last year by a committee chaired by Associate Vice President for Research Joseph Dunbar. Provost Brown and Vice President for Research Ratner had determined that money was not available to proceed with the incentives. Policy Committee discussed the incentive that called for paying the tuition of graduate students supported on federal grants. It was suggested that Mr. Romano contact Vice President Ratner for an update on the Plan. It was also suggested that Provost Brown discuss the plan with the Deans. The Incentive Plan is directed at research that is supported by grants. A Policy Committee member thought the Plan should contain a statement directed to the faculty who do not have grant support and are productive researchers.
6. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: Policy Committee reviewed the issues it would like to discuss with the President's Cabinet at their October 27, 2011, meeting.
7. Huron Consulting Group: On October 12, 2011, the Huron Consulting Group presented its recommendations to the Policy Committee. At today's meeting, Policy Committee discussed some of the recommendations.
8. Graduate Faculty Status: The Graduate Council revised the criteria for appointment to the graduate faculty. Mr. Romano distributed the new policy to the Policy Committee. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Mr. Romano would write to Dean Ratner explaining the Committee's reservations and asking to discuss the issues with her and with members of the Graduate Council. Policy Committee would like to meet with Dean Ratner before the Senate meeting of November 2 because the issue was added to the Senate agenda.
- [Provost Brown left the meeting.]
9. Student Evaluation of Teaching Committee: Article XXIX in the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT, which specifies how the joint committee to review the student evaluation of teaching is formed, was distributed to Policy Committee for information. The Policy Committee is not involved in the selection of the members of the SET Committee but it did suggest two faculty with expertise who might be asked to serve.
10. Academic Senate Meeting: The Committee revised the agenda for the November 2 meeting of the Academic Senate.

11. Reports from Liaisons:
  - a. Research Committee: Mr. Kessel reported that Gail Ryan, the Assistant Vice President for Sponsored Program Administration, updated the Research Committee on the work of SPA.
  - b. Facilities, Support Services and Technology (FSST) Committee: Ms. Dallas reported that Banner 9.1 would be released in May 2012. A new phone system will be rolled out in November that will allow people to forward their voice mail messages to their e-mail addresses. The FSST Committee discussed problems with the new parking hangtags. It discussed the power outages during the summer and learned that the University does not have a clear policy for canceling classes during power failures.
  
12. Scientific Misconduct: Mr. Parrish said that he and Robert Arking, the contract implementation officer for the AAUP-AFT, would attend the December meeting of the Senate's Research Committee to discuss the inadequacies of the University's current scientific misconduct policy.
  
13. Graduate Council Liaisons: Mr. Romano asked Vice President Ratner to appoint members of the Council to serve as liaisons to the Senate's committees, and she agreed to do so.

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Approved as corrected at the Policy Committee meeting of November 7, 2011