

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
October 9, 2017

Present: L. Beale; B. Roth; V. Dallas; r. hoogland; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano;
N. Simon; W. Volz; K. Whitfield

Guest: Jennifer Lewis, Associate Professor, Mathematics Education, College of
Education

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of October 9, 2017.

1. Report from the Chair:
 - a. Provost Whitfield gave the reports of the Senate's committee on general education reform to his staff so they can respond to the questions that have been raised.
 - b. Ambika Mathur, the Dean of the Graduate School and the Associate Provost for Scientific Training Workforce Development and Diversity, is offering micro-credentials to certify competency in several areas for graduate students, such as leadership and communication. The Provost discussed with the Policy Committee the possibility of offering micro-credentials for undergraduate students. Students who complete micro-credentialing programs receive a badge; they do not receive a certificate or a degree. The badge can be put on a person's LinkedIn account. An employer can click on the badge to see what training the person had.
 - c. Last week the Policy Committee requested information about the effect the policy that requires students to take 15 credits to maintain their scholarships was having on students. Had some students lost their scholarships or had their GPAs been affected? The Provost will provide the information.
2. Report from the Senate President:
 - a. Policy Committee discussed the status of the University Pediatricians practice plan.
 - b. The Budget Planning Council met on October 9. Larry Fodor, Director of Energy Management, told the Council how utility costs were calculated.
 - c. At the Board of Governors Budget and Finance Committee meeting on October 6, Ms. Beale and Mr. Romano, the faculty representative and faculty alternate representative to the Committee respectively, spoke about the need to correct the problems in Scott Hall. Harry Wyatt, Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management, stated at the Budget Planning Council meeting that Scott Hall is the building he worries most about and that it needs major repairs and that the laboratories need to be upgraded. Mr. Romano thinks the building is in such poor condition that the Medical School may have difficulty hiring faculty.
- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: Policy Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of October 2 as submitted.

[Professor Jennifer Lewis joined the meeting.]

4. Mathematics Competency: Ms. Lewis asked to address the Senate about the general education math competency requirement. Mr. Romano invited her to meet with the Policy Committee prior to the November Senate meeting. Ms. Lewis is concerned that the proposed math competency requirement would be taught the same way the current course is taught, but with more support. Currently procedures are taught. The content of the course, Ms. Lewis said, needs to be different. Fluency in some procedures is necessary, but students need to understand math and have some control over it, necessitating a different curriculum.

Provost Whitfield is forming a committee to address the problems with how the math competency has been taught and to explore how a co-requisite model might be implemented. Policy Committee asked Ms. Lewis to suggest faculty who might serve on the committee.

[Professor Lewis left the meeting.]

5. Committee to Explore Revising the Math Competency: From Ms. Lewis's suggestions, Policy Committee selected faculty to serve on the Committee. Mr. Romano will contact them to ascertain their willingness to serve.
6. General Education: Policy Committee began preparing for the November Senate meeting when the Senate will be asked to vote on general education reform. The Curriculum and Instruction Committee was charged with developing a revised general education proposal based on recommendations of the Budget, Curriculum and Instruction, Faculty Affairs, Research, and Student Affairs Committees. The Budget Committee was charged with providing the cost of developing the new courses, the administrative costs, and the impact that the new program would have on instructors and on enrollment, particularly in the departments that will lose credit hours. The Faculty Affairs Committee was charged with working with the Budget Committee to estimate the effect on part-time faculty and lecturers. The Student Affairs Committee was charged with developing a timeline and commentary for implementation in the fall 2018 term.
7. University Policy 2005-01, Class and Room Scheduling: Some members of the Policy Committee are concerned about proposed changes to this policy that would transfer authority for the scheduling of departmentally-owned classrooms from the department to the Registrar once registration begins. Some departments have purchased equipment for their specific instructional needs. They monitor the use of their rooms, ensuring that the rooms are clean, the equipment is in good condition and the doors locked to prevent vandalism and theft. If the departments lose control of the rooms, they would not be able to oversee their use. Mr. Romano asked that the Registrar meet with the Policy Committee to discuss the issue.
8. 2017 Student Survey: Ms. Simon and Lyke Thompson, Director of the Center for Urban Studies, co-chaired the 2017 Student Survey. Policy Committee did a quick review of the results of the survey.

Approved as revised at the Policy Committee meeting of October 23, 2017