

theWAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

December 14, 2009

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

Guests: Stephen Calkins, Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel; Andrew Feig, Associate Professor and Graduate Recruiting Chair, Chemistry; Mark Wardell, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of December 14, 2009.

- *1. Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee: Prior to this regular meeting, the Policy Committee met without the Provost to decide which nominees it would like to serve on the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee. When Provost Barrett and Steve Calkins joined the meeting, the Policy Committee and the Provost jointly selected the members of the 2009-2010 Committee.

[Mr. Calkins left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Barrett said that overall enrollment for the winter 2010 term is 3.9% higher compared with the same period for winter term 2009. Undergraduate enrollment is up 6.6% and graduate enrollment is down 2.4%. The University has encouraged students to register early.
- b. The University awarded honorary degrees to U.S. Congressman John Dingell and to Ronald Gettelfinger, President of the UAW, at the winter commencement exercises held last weekend.
- c. Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Volz represented the Academic Senate at commencement exercises. At the invitation of President Noren, Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Volz, on behalf of the faculty, addressed the graduates.
- d. At the December 9, 2009, Board of Governors meeting Marick Masters, Director of Labor@Wayne, made a presentation about the program. Labor@Wayne combined several programs, including the Fraser Center for Work Place Issues, the Labor Studies Center, the non-credit labor courses, and the Labor Studies Major.

[Mr. Feig and Mr. Wardell joined the meeting.]

3. Graduate Awards: Dean Wardell and Mr. Feig were invited to the meeting to discuss proposed changes in the awarding of financial support to graduate students. Dean Wardell explained that the purpose of the proposal was to increase the prominence of doctoral education by enabling programs to be more competitive in recruiting from the national pool. His analysis of applications to doctoral programs for the fall 2009 term indicated to him that Wayne State was not attracting students from a certain type of institution and he thought the proposal would change that.

Members expressed concern that the proposal would not help some disciplines recruit students or allow them to provide funding to complete their degrees. In particular it was noted that the concept of offering research assistantships to newly admitted students was not a useful way to spend our limited resources. Newly admitted students have no way of knowing what research they should do and are much too busy doing course work their first year. Furthermore, Rumble Fellowships are more useful in recruiting new students, than using them for students who are close to completing their degrees. It

seemed to members of the Policy Committee that this entire proposal had not been well thought out and had not been developed in consultation with other impacted academic groups. Dean Wardell seemed to agree that the Rumbles could be used as a department wanted and he would accept that. The Provost thought the proposal was flexible enough to be adapted to different programs.

Dean Wardell said that the Graduate School is holding workshops for students to write proposals for external fellowships. If the stipend is equal to or higher than the stipends offered by the University, the student will receive \$1,000 just for submitting the proposal. The program began September 1, 2009.

A member noted that at one time one of Wayne State's strengths was its large graduate program and expressed the desire to see an increase in graduate enrollment, particularly at the Masters degree level. Members thought that tuition, particularly differential tuition, may have contributed to the decline in enrollment. Dean Wardell suggested that colleges might not be offering programs that meet students' needs.

Dean Wardell was asked to present his plans for revising the graduate awards to the full Senate in January, and he agreed.

[Dean Wardell and Mr. Feig left the meeting.]

4. Report from the Senate President:

- a. Mr. Wolfson announced that the commencement ceremonies in May would be held inside the Matthaei facilities.
- b. Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Romano met with the President's Cabinet on December 10. They discussed the concerns about the LEADS evaluation system being used for academic administrators, and the concerns about Dean Wardell's plans to change the awards that support graduate students. President Noren stated that the plans submitted by Dean Wardell were only a proposal and were not yet finalized.

5. The Promise Scholarships: A member asked what the University was doing to cover the money that it did not receive because the state has cut the Michigan Promise Grants to students. Provost Barrett said that, while the state was determining whether or not it would fund the Promise Grants, the University sent students a tuition bill that gave them short-term credit for the \$1,000. Now that the state has cut the Grants from the budget, WSU is billing students for the money. [These statements were accurate at the time of the December 14 Policy Committee meeting. However, the University was very concerned about the affect of a \$1000

loss in scholarship funds to students, especially the students with need. Therefore, it used some of the stimulus money to replace these scholarship funds for students with demonstrated need. Demonstrated need is defined as cost of attendance (as determined by the Office of Student Financial Aid) minus the Expected Family Contribution (as determined by students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Any student that had even \$1.00 of demonstrated need was awarded the replacement scholarship.]

- *6. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of December 7, 2009, were approved as corrected.

- *7. Student Newspaper Publications Board: Policy Committee nominated Alicia Nails to serve as the faculty representative to the Student Newspaper Publications Board for a two-year term

8. January 2010 Senate Meeting: Policy Committee revised the drafted agenda for the January 13, 2010, Academic Senate meeting.

9. Committee Minutes: Policy Committee received the minutes of the Student Affairs Committee meeting of November 11, 2009.

10. Reports from Liaisons:

- a. Ms. Vlasopolos informed Policy Committee about the discussion at the Curriculum and Instruction Committee regarding the student evaluation of teaching scores.
- b. Mr. Woodyard said that the Student Affairs Committee is preparing the instrument to survey faculty and students about the change in the academic year calendar. SAC wants focus groups to have input on the survey.
- c. Ms. Sengstock said that the Faculty Affairs Committee would meet on December 14. They are collecting feedback on what merit review involves at the department and college levels. They want to have a joint meeting with the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee about Blackboard and they are discussing mentoring of faculty.

11. Admission: A member mentioned a problem with the admission of a potential freshman. He was concerned that the same problem may involve many other freshmen.

Approved as modified at the Policy Committee meeting of January 11, 2010