

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

December 5, 2016

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

Guest: John Vander Weg, Associate Vice President and Associate Provost for Academic Personnel

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of December 5, 2016.

1. Article XXX Committees: As in past years, prior to the regular meeting, the Policy Committee met without the Provost to identify the members of the faculty and academic staff whom they would like to serve on the university-wide committees formed according to Article XXX in the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT.

[Provost Whitfield and Associate Provost Vander Weg joined the meeting.]

2. Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee: The Policy Committee had asked that the slate of nominees for the University-wide Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee be revised to increase racial and gender diversity. It also objected to the number of associate professors on the slate, particularly from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Policy Committee members discussed their objections with Provost Whitfield and Associate Provost Vander Weg, who will seek additional nominations.
- *3. Selection of the Members of the Article XXX Committees: Provost Whitfield and the Policy Committee jointly selected the members of the Academic Staff Tenure and Promotion Committee, the Excellence in Teaching Awards Committee, the Academic Staff Professional Development Committee, the Educational Development Grant Committee, and the University Research Grant Award Committee. Mr. Vander Weg participated in the selection process. The selection of the members of the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee and of the Sabbatical Leaves Committee will take place at a future meeting.

[Mr. Vander Weg left the meeting.]

4. Report from the Chair:
 - a. Provost Whitfield announced that John Vander Weg would be stepping down from the position of Associate Provost for Academic Personnel in August 2017. The Provost is accepting nominations for his successor.
 - b. With the encouragement of the William Davidson Foundation, Wayne State is seeking grant support for our activities in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

- c. Provost Whitfield and President Wilson want to hire two additional full-time counselors for Counseling and Psychological Services to reduce the time that students wait to begin treatment. The Provost met with representatives of the School of Social Work, the College of Education, and the health sciences about the possibility of their providing counseling to students on the CAPS' wait list to reduce the wait time.
 - d. Wayne State has many silos operating in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship. There are programs in Business, Engineering, and Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. The Provost would like a program that could serve people in the community who are interested in learning about some aspects of innovation and entrepreneurship but do not want a degree or a certificate.
5. Report from the Senate President: The Board of Governors, at its meeting of December 2, approved the merger of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Department of Immunology and Microbiology into a new Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Biochemistry in the School of Medicine effective winter term 2017. There were objections to the procedure used because the faculty in the Departments had not been consulted on a timely basis. The Policy Committee discussed the need for consulting on such issues.
 - *6. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Policy Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of November 21, 2016, as submitted.
 7. Freshmen Free Parking Pilot Program: Mr. Romano chairs the FTIAC Parking Assessment Committee. The Committee looked at several metrics to learn if students changed their class schedules and their attendance in class if they did not have to pay for parking every time they came to campus. Not much information was available as fall was the first time free parking was available for freshmen. There was a slight increase in the number of credit hours for which students registered for fall 2016 and a slight increase in class attendance compared with fall 2015, but not a significant increase. People who organize extracurricular activities said that participation increased. The free parking program will continue through the winter term. The Committee will follow up to see if attendance in classes changes.
 8. Graduate Assistant Allocation Process: Ambika Mathur, Dean of the Graduate School, is forming a committee to look at the way in which graduate assistantships are awarded to departments and the possibility of adjusting the allocations. Policy Committee nominated faculty to serve on the committee.
 9. Deans Searches: The Provost updated Policy Committee on the status of Deans' searches. The position of Dean of the Law School will be posted by mid December. The contract of the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been extended one year during which the College will be reviewed. The contract of the Dean of the School of Social Work expires this year. An Interim Dean will be appointed when Dean Waites steps down and a search is conducted. The search for the Dean of the University Library System will be started soon.

10. Institute of Environmental Health Sciences: The Policy Committee agreed with the recommendation of the Type II Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee that the charter of the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences should be renewed for six years.
11. Professor Watch List: It was called to the attention of the Policy Committee that a new website “professorwatchlist” is asking people to “expose and document” professors who “discriminate against conservative students, promote anti-American values and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom.”

Approved as corrected at the Policy Committee meeting of December 19, 2016