

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 8, 2010

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

Absent with notice: N. Barrett; J. Whittum-Hudson

Guests: John Davis, Vice President, Finance and Facilities Management; Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President, Budget, Planning and Analysis; Jay Noren, President

In the absence of Provost Barrett, Mr. Romano, the Vice Chair, chaired the meeting.

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of February 8, 2010.

*1. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 1, 2010, were approved as submitted.

[Vice President Davis, Associate Vice President Kohrman, and President Noren joined the meeting.]

2. Discussion with President Noren: The President was asked about the status of the state appropriation for higher education for fiscal year 2011. The Governor will submit her budget proposal for FY 2011 to the House of Representatives on February 11. The President said the revenue forecast for the state is optimistic in that a slight increase in state revenue is predicted. A cut in the state appropriation to higher education is expected. Policy Committee members discussed with President Noren ways the University might save money.

A Policy Committee member spoke about the need for consultation, which he described as making information available and responding to suggestions. He asked whether the Policy Committee would receive the memoranda sent to the Deans and Vice Presidents seeking information to be used in preparing the FY 2011 Budget and the responses from the Deans and Vice Presidents. Mr. Kohrman had copies of the memorandum that was sent to the Deans; he distributed them to Policy Committee later in the meeting. President Noren said that he would not release the responses. The Deans and Vice Presidents are submitting ideas. A process of discussion will follow and most likely changes will be made. At some point, the proposals will be made public.

Policy Committee advocated to protect faculty and the academic side of the University because the University is about education and research. The faculty bring in revenue because students pay tuition. A member suggested that cuts be made in administrative positions that do not generate revenue. President Noren agreed that full-time faculty needed to be preserved but he did not agree that administrators should be cut.

Also discussed were the range of a possible tuition increase and the perceived image of WSU at the capitol. The President believes the focus in working with Lansing should be on the University's positive and constructive future.

[President Noren left the meeting.]

3. Budget Work Group: Mr. Kohrman distributed the memo and questions that were sent to the Deans asking for information about the academic units. He said that the difference in the memo sent to the Vice Presidents was that they did not have to address questions about enrollment and they had more questions about cost containment. He will send that memo to Mr. Wolfson for distribution to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Kohrman will give to the Policy Committee the agendas for the Strategic Planning Budget Committee. In response to questions, Mr. Davis explained the relationship of the University to TechTown.

Policy Committee and Mr. Kohrman discussed possible tuition increases for the 2010-2011 academic year. Policy Committee members discussed the importance of preserving the faculty.

Asked if upgrades in classroom facilities were planned, Mr. Davis said there were no major projects. There are a number of smaller projects in departments and colleges. Asked if an analysis was done to determine what savings would result from the LEADS program, Mr. Kohrman said an analysis had not been done.

4. Strategic Planning Budget Committee: A faculty representative to the Strategic Planning Budget Committee who was nominated by the Policy Committee has not attended meetings. Mr. Wolfson suggested that the administration select a replacement from the list of nominees originally submitted. Mr. Kohrman agreed.

[Mr. Davis and Mr. Kohrman left the meeting.]

5. Provost Search Committee: Policy Committee reviewed the nominations submitted for representatives from the humanities, the social sciences, and the academic staff to serve on the Provost Search Committee. Policy Committee members will contact some of the nominees to determine if they are able to serve.
6. Task Force for On-Line Instruction: Policy Committee reviewed the nominations. Mr. Wolfson will contact some of the nominees to determine if they are able to serve.
7. Nominations for the LEADS Task Force: The Policy Committee members recommended that Mr. Wolfson solicit nominations from the full Senate for the LEADS task force
8. Parking Advisory Committee: The Policy Committee asked Mr. Woodyard to continue on the Committee since he was the person most familiar with the history and the data. Mr. Woodyard agreed but only if there was an agreement to his conditions which he would prepare in a memo to be sent to Executive Vice President Dickson.
9. Agenda for the February 10 Senate Meeting: Policy Committee received the agenda. No changes were made.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of February 15, 2010