WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 28, 2011

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

Absent with notice: R. MacArthur

Guests: Stephen Calkins, Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel; Karen Feathers, Chair of the Academic Senate Curriculum and Instruction Committee; Hamid Siddiqui, Research Assistant, Testing, Evaluation and Research Services; Timothy Spannaus, College of Education; Kristi Verbeke, Assistant Director, Office for Teaching and Learning; Laura Woodward, Interim Director, Testing, Evaluation and Research Services

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of February 28, 2011.

 1. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Wolfson asked for volunteers to represent the Academic Senate at the Spring Commencement exercises on May 5 and 6. Mr. Volz, Ms. Feathers, and Mr. MacArthur volunteered.

*2. Proceedings of the Policy Committee of February 14: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 14, 2011, were approved as amended.

*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee of February 23: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 23, 2011, were approved as amended.

[Provost Brown joined the meeting and assumed the Chair.]

 4. Report from the Chair: The Provost is forming a committee to consider ways to cut the budget on the academic side of the University. Policy Committee members discussed with Provost Brown how budget cuts might be handled.

[Mr. Calkins, Ms. Feathers, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Spannaus, Ms. Verbeke, and Ms. Woodward joined the meeting. They were invited to discuss questions that had been raised about the student evaluation of teaching form.]

 5. Student Evaluation of Teaching: Ms. Feathers explained that during the 2009-2010 academic year the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Committee looked into the issue raised by a faculty member that the Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) did not control for student interest despite there being a recommendation to do so in the report of the 1995 Academic Senate Student Evaluation of Teaching Committee. In examining that question, the C&I Committee looked more broadly at the SET and decided that the University needed to review the entire SET process. C&I thought that a more broadly representative committee should look at the questions asked on the SET and how the scores were used. Many people thought the questions did not

reflect the type of teaching done in an inquiry-oriented class, in hybrid courses, and in on-line courses. The concern raised by the faculty member initially was that whether the students wanted to take a course or were required to take a course were not factored into the evaluation of faculty for tenure and promotion. At one time, a ratio and scatter plot that took that into account was reported to faculty but that is no longer done.

Ms. Woodward noted that questions on the SET ask about the student's interest in the subject matter of the course and what grades they expect. However that data are not currently included in the reports. A member of the Policy Committee thought useful information could be obtained from analyzing classes according to size.

Policy Committee asked that the C&I Committee work with the Office of Testing, Evaluation and Research Services to determine what type of data could be gathered from the current SET form. If it is determined that the SET should be redone, the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT requires that a 2N committee be constituted to consider and make recommendations.

[Mr. Calkins, Ms. Feathers, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Spannaus, Ms. Verbeke, and Ms. Woodward left the meeting.]

6. Proposed Transfer of the Department of Computer Science: Policy Committee received the report of the Curriculum and Instruction, Faculty Affairs, Research, and Student Affairs Committees on the Proposal to Move the Department of Computer Science from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the College of Engineering. Provost Brown gave the report to Dean of Engineering Farshad Fotouhi, who responded to the Committees' concerns. The Provost asked that Dean Fotouhi meet with the Policy Committee to discuss the issues raised. The Chairs of the Committees who contributed to the report will be invited to the meeting, also.

The transfer of the Department was on the agenda of the March 2 Academic Senate meeting. It was removed from the agenda. It is expected to be on the agenda of the April 6 Senate meeting.

There are budget issues involved in the move, and the Policy Committee asked the Senate's Budget Committee to review the proposal to move the Department.

7. Post Doctoral Advisory Council: Policy Committee nominated faculty members to serve on the Post Doctoral Advisory Council, which Provost Brown is forming.

8. Graduate Compact: Policy Committee received the draft Guideline for Creating Faculty-Student Compacts dated February 15, 2011. They will wait to get responses from the standing committees that are reviewing the draft.

9. Faculty Mentoring Survey: The Faculty Affairs Committee developed a survey to ask faculty about their perceptions of mentoring within the University and their desires for University versus departmental support regarding mentoring. The FAC hopes to use the information from the survey to enhance mentoring programs within

the University. A member of the Policy Committee suggested that some revisions be made to the survey instrument. The comments will be forwarded to the FAC.

10. <u>Report of the Parking Task Force</u>: Mr. Romano reported that the report of the Parking Task Force would not be submitted by President Gilmour to the Board of Governors for its March 9, 2011, meeting. The report recommends technology upgrades for the parking facilities, regular maintenance of the facilities, and a different fee structure. The recommendations have academic ramifications.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of March 7, 2011