WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 7, 2011

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

Absent with notice: L. Romano

Mr. Wolfson served as Chair of the meeting until the Provost arrived.

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of February 7, 2011.

1. Report from the Senate President:
    a. President Gilmour will host a reception for the Academic Senate after the Senate's meeting of April 6.
    b. Mr. Wolfson updated Policy Committee on the status of the nominations for the Type II Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee.

2. Scholars Days: Two members of the Policy Committee attended the Scholars Days last weekend. They discussed their experiences with leading the interviews of high school seniors who attended the sessions. When students were asked what might deter them from coming to Wayne State, some responded that they were concerned about parking; they had heard parking was expensive and difficult. They named other universities where students park free.

[Ms. Dallas arrived during the discussion of item 2.]

*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of January 31, 2011, were approved as amended.

4. Eligibility to Vote in Member-at-Large Election: In preparing for the member-at-large election, questions arose about eligibility of faculty and academic staff to vote for and to run for member-at-large seats. In determining the number of representatives from the schools, colleges, and divisions, a question was raised whether faculty and academic staff who are administrators with retreat rights should be included in the units. Mr. Woodyard, who chairs the Elections Committee, checked the Senate's Bylaws. Past practice on these two issues did not agree with the Bylaws. Policy Committee decided that the Bylaws should be revised to agree with past practice. Mr. Woodyard will draft the amendments, which will be taken to the full Senate for action.

[Provost Brown joined the meeting during the discussion of item 4, and assumed the chair.]

5. Student Evaluation of Teaching: During the 2009-2010 academic year, the Policy Committee charged the Curriculum and Instruction Committee with making a

recommendation in response to a faculty member's complaint that the Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) did not control for student interest despite there being a recommendation to control for student interest in the report of the 1995 Academic Senate Student Evaluation of Teaching Committee. The C&I Committee made its recommendations on that question and also recommended that a committee be appointed to examine the current SET process because teaching is different today than in 1995. The Policy Committee concurred with the C&I Committee and submitted the recommendations to Provost Barrett in March 2010, but no action was taken. The questions were brought back to the Policy Committee to discuss with Provost Brown.

The Policy Committee and the Provost discussed the types of questions that should be in the SET. Mr. Wolfson will invite the Director of the Office for Testing, Evaluation and Research Services to a meeting to discuss the recommendations of the C&I Committee and the issues raised today.

6. Video Surveillance Policy Draft: Policy Committee commented on the draft policy written by a committee formed by Chief Information Officer Joseph Sawasky. Mr. Woodyard, who now serves on the committee that wrote the draft, will inform the committee about the comments. Policy Committee members expressed serious concerns about the value of the system.

7. Security in the Parking Structures: The Video Surveillance Policy Draft led to a discussion about security in the parking structures and the lack of a response on the part of administrators to consultants' reports about security in and maintenance of the structures. Provost Brown asked to see the report of the Parking Task Force, which, Mr. Woodyard said, should be completed soon.

8. Committee Minutes: Policy Committee received the minutes of the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee meeting of November 17, 2010.

9. Report from the Liaison to the Student Affairs Committee: Mr. Woodyard reported that faculty again requested that student pictures be made available on class rosters or at least viewable by faculty. Mr. Wolfson will ask Mr. Sawasky to merge the photographs from students' one cards with the class lists. Cheryl Kollin, Director of the University Advising Center, made a presentation to the SAC and indicated that the advisors assist 15,000 to 17,000 students per year. They want to work with the students to set up goals. Students are able to build a plan of work in STARS, which faculty will be able to access.   Al Hermsen, Senior Director, Office of Student Financial Aid, indicated that the majority of aid is in the form of loans amounting to $226 million per year. Ten percent of the students at Wayne State who receive financial aid have problems getting the aid. Nine percent of the problems are due to the students' failure to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and one percent is due to problems within the Financial Aid Office. The Office is trying to get parents involved in submitting the FAFSA. The SAC also discussed the proposal to transfer the Department of Computer Science from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the College of Engineering. Concerns raised in the Committee's discussion were: the lack of a transition plan for current

students; the differences in degree requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the College of Engineering; the lack of student participation in the process; the rapidity of the move; and the need for more information. The Chair of the Student Affairs Committee was asked to write a report of these concerns to the Senate President. The Student Affairs Committee will survey students about the proposal.

10. Proposal to Move the Department of Computer Science: Mr. Parrish reported that the Faculty Council of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) discussed the proposed move of the Department of Computer Science including the political and intellectual dimensions. The number of faculty in the Department of Computer Science and the amount of the Department's outside funding have increased in the past ten years. There was concern that the focus of the Department of Computer Science would change from software to hardware if the move occurred. The CLAS Faculty Council asked that the Provost be invited to a meeting to discuss the move.

Provost Brown prefers to work through the questions of the proposal with the Academic Senate and referred the Faculty Council to the Senate. He is in favor of the move but he would look at the different perspectives and if faculty believed keeping the Department in CLAS was best for the University he would take into consideration their reasons for the decision.

A member of the Policy Committee stressed that more information about the proposed move was needed. He reported some of the questions that were raised at the open forum held by the Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee on February 1. A plan for current students in Computer Science to complete their degrees was needed. Mr. Wolfson explained that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in Computer Science is working on the plan. Provost Brown asked that the Senate seek answers for the questions from Farshad Fotouhi, the current Chair of Computer Science who will become Dean of Engineering on February 15. Policy Committee members also expressed concern about the deadline for the Senate to respond to the proposal. The Provost said that if more time was needed to do a thorough review of the proposal, the deadline could be extended. However, he would wait to see how the review progressed before making that decision.

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Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of February 14, 2011