

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2017

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

1. Report from the Chair:
 - a. The candidates for the Dean of the Law School will be visiting campus in the next two weeks.
 - b. An outside consulting group is conducting a review of the Division of Marketing and Communications. Provost Whitfield recommended that they include faculty on the review committee and ask the Policy Committee to name faculty to serve.

2. Report from the Senate President:
 - a. Dean of the Graduate School Ambika Mathur submitted a pre-proposal for an INCLUDES grant. The pre-proposal was approved, and Dean Mathur, Professor Christine Chow (Chemistry, Liberal Arts and Sciences), and Professor Romano are writing the grant. About 20 grants out of 100 submissions will be funded. Wayne State's application will focus on forming a partnership with the Detroit public schools to increase the number of male African American students who enter STEM fields. The hope is that this will encourage these students to enroll at WSU and will improve retention of our male African American male students, which is currently very poor.
 - b. Members of the Policy Committee thought the site visit by the Higher Learning Commission went very well.
 - c. Mr. Romano gave an update of the plans for the symposia for the Sesquicentennial celebration.
 - d. Mr. Romano has been investigating how to broadcast Senate meetings to members who are unable to attend.

3. Proceedings of February 27: The drafted Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 27 were returned to the secretary to add details to the reports of the General Education Reform Subcommittees.

4. Article XXX Conflict of Interest Rule:
 - a. The Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT states that "Faculty bargaining-unit members who are currently serving on School/College/division tenure and promotion committees, except for those which are initiating committees, shall not be eligible to serve" on the University-wide Tenure and Promotion Committee. Mr. Romano informed the Provost that this rule was violated because a faculty member who served on a college committee in a departmentalized college is serving on the University-wide committee.
 - b. Two members of the University-wide Sabbatical Leaves Committee applied for sabbaticals this year.

5. HERI Data: The Policy Committee reminded the Provost that it would like to see data from the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) Faculty Surveys in which the University participated. Provost Whitfield will follow up on the request.
6. Center for Community Engagement in Health: Policy Committee asked Provost Whitfield about the status of this proposed new center. He will report back to the Committee.
7. Associate Professor Statistics: Data show that faculty stagnate at the rank of associate professor for a long time. One member of the PC mentioned that the University ought to have a timetable when faculty should apply for promotion to full professor and should state what criteria are needed for promotion. Provost Whitfield said that only the last five years of a person's record were considered for promotion, but the elected members of the Policy Committee had not heard of this rule. Policy Committee discussed with the Provost the need to increase the number of full professors through faculty development. Ms. Beale, the Policy Committee liaison to the Faculty Affairs Committee, noted that the FAC surveyed recently-tenured faculty. One of the findings was that the mentoring of faculty needed to be improved. Mr. Romano asked the Provost to share the data with the Deans.
8. Winter Semester Commencement Exercises: Ms. Rothe, Ms. Beale, Mr. Volz, and Mr. Romano will represent the faculty at the Commencement exercises held May 9 and May 10.
9. Board of Governors Meeting: The Board of Governors meets March 24. Policy Committee discussed several items on the Board's agenda: Authorization to Guarantee a Line of Credit for CORVIAS Campus Living – WSU, LLC; Corvias Housing Update; authorization to construct a weight room addition to the Matthaei Center; FY 2017-18 Campus Housing Room and Board Rate Recommendations. The proposed increase for all accommodation types for fiscal year 2017-18 is 5%.
10. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the materials for the Graduate Council meeting of March 22. A member thinks the University should have a strategy to attract graduate students. Several graduate programs are being discontinued and several are being proposed.

One member stated that Wayne State does a poor job of covering undergraduate courses with tenured and tenure-track faculty. He believes that the increase in the number of these small graduate programs will only exacerbate this problem because the faculty would much rather teach graduate courses. He thought that we do need to rebuild the graduate program but that it should not happen at the expense of the undergraduate program. Mr. Romano responded that the plan is to try to attract more graduate students with these new program offerings and to use the revenue that is generated to hire additional tenure-track faculty. Hopefully the new faculty will increase the amount of undergraduate teaching by tenured and tenure-track faculty.

11. April Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed topics for the April 5 Academic Senate meeting. The agenda will be finalized at the Committee's next meeting.
 12. Reports from Liaisons:
 - a. TravelWayne Committee: Mr. Kessel is a member of this Committee. They are conducting a survey.
 - b. Graduation Action Committee: The GRAD Committee analyzed the six-year graduation rate disparities for minority and white students by college. Committees are being formed to guide the EAB project on *Inclusive Excellence*. They are: Advising Excellence Committee; Financial Optimization Committee; Student Services Center Committee to possibly redesign the Center; Guided Pathways Committee that will look at academic plans; and Student Communication Committee. Associate Provost Monica Brockmeyer and Associate Provost Darin Ellis co-chair the GRAD Committee. They will request faculty to serve on the committees.
 - c. Faculty Affairs Committee: Ms. Beale reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee is considering conducting another survey on faculty mentoring to get additional information to use to improve mentoring. The FAC has representatives serving on the quantitative experience subcommittee and the diversity subcommittee of the General Education Reform Committee. They reported on recent meetings. It appeared that the quantitative experience subcommittee had not determined what a quantitative experience course should cover for students whose majors do not require a specific course. The FAC suggested that the subcommittee decide what outcomes they want students to achieve and to design a syllabus around those outcomes. Ms. Beale reported the latest discussions about the diversity course requirement, but decisions have not been made.
 - d. General Education Reform Committee: Mr. Volz is a member of this GEREC. It has been discussing the work of the various subcommittees.
-

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of April 3, 2017