

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010

Present: N. Barrett; C. Parrish; L. Romano; M. Sengstock; H. Tse; A. Vlasopolos;  
W. Volz; J. Whittum-Hudson; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson

Absent with notice: J. Woodyard

Guests: John Davis, Vice President, Finance and Facilities Management; Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President, Budget, Planning and Analysis; Timothy Michael, Director of Housing and Residential Life; Jay Noren, President

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of March 22, 2010.

1. Open Forum with President Noren:

a. The Purchase of the Detroit Medical Center by Vanguard Health Systems

President Noren was asked how the sale of the Detroit Medical Center to Vanguard Health Systems might affect the University's relationship with the DMC. Based upon what is known now, President Noren does not expect the relationship to be affected. The agreement that was recently signed between the University and the DMC states that the agreement applies to the DMC or to any successor organization. The impact on the community is expected to be positive because of the construction jobs that will be generated by the renovation and building plans for Medical Center facilities.

The President was asked if the investment by Vanguard would support equipping of a biomedical research building. It would not, but the changes that Vanguard plans would help the University in advocating for the building.

None of the other hospitals owned by Vanguard are affiliated with a medical school, however the company has been successful in urban hospitals.

b. The FY 2011 Budget

Initially when proposing her budget for fiscal year 2011, Governor Granholm said that she would veto any budget that contained a cut to education. She later clarified her statement; she would veto cuts to K through 12.

The Senate Budget Committee met earlier in the day on March 22. Mr. Romano mentioned that some members of the Budget Committee did not believe the Committee should recommend a large tuition increase for the 2010-1011 academic year. The Committee had recommended a large increase last year but the percentage of the budget allocated to the schools and colleges decreased again. However, other members of the Budget Committee were concerned that

a smaller increase in tuition would mean a reduction in the number of faculty. Mr. Romano asked if

it was possible to couple any increase over the status quo directly to an increase in full-time tenure-track faculty. President Noren thought this was a good suggestion.

Policy Committee members discussed with President Noren the preparation of the FY 2011 budget. At one time, Deans had been asked to prepare for cuts as high as 15%. However, they are now being asked to prepare budget scenarios that range from a flat budget to a cut of 5%. President Noren said that to continue current programs with no cuts the University needs a net increase in all funds of \$24 million. If tuition were increased so that the University received \$14 million in tuition, cuts would not be necessary.

Members noted that colleges have sent notices to lecturers that they will not be rehired for the next academic year and that some colleges have stopped their searches for faculty. The President said that he has told Deans to continue searches for full-time faculty. If Deans have discontinued searches, it was their decision.

[President Noren, Vice President Davis, and Mr. Kohrman left the meeting. Mr. Michael joined the meeting.]

2. Student Housing: Mr. Michael gave Policy Committee an overview of campus housing. When Mr. Michael came to the University in June 2008, Housing and Residential Life was moved from the Division of Business Operations to the Division of Academic Affairs in order to tie the support services for campus residents to academic programs. The focus of Housing and Residential Life is to maximize student success, to support their academic endeavors in the classroom and their extracurricular activities to help them be successful people. There is a diverse group of students living in the residence halls; their interaction prepares them for a workforce that is diverse. More than 2900 students live on campus in the residence halls and in the apartment buildings. Until recently the apartments were almost full. When opened, the residence halls were full but very few people paid because large discounts were available. Occupancy in the residence halls has increased gradually since the Towers residence hall opened in fall 2005. In fall 2009 all residence halls were full with wait lists for the freshmen residence halls and the residence for upperclassmen. Last year the incentive programs were removed so that now all students pay. Eighty-one percent of the students living in the residence halls are from Wayne County and the contiguous counties.

Students who live in campus housing are more likely to persist and to have higher grade point averages. They are more connected to the faculty and advisors and report a more satisfactory college experience. Over the last two years, the retention rate of the students from the fall to the winter semester was five points higher each year for the students in the residence halls than was the overall average of the campus. Over 95% of the students in the residence halls returned for the winter term.

Provost Barrett noted that under Mr. Michael's direction, the climate in the residence halls has improved considerably, contributing to the interest of upperclassmen living in the residence halls. Mr. Michael noted that there are fewer incidents that go through the judicial process and the incidents are less severe.

Mr. Michael noted that in fall 2008 50% of the residents in the apartments were international graduate students. The numbers of international graduate students have been declining, and in fall 2009 the number dropped significantly. Two floors in the DeRoy Apartments are being converted to undergraduate housing.

Mr. Michael outlined the goals of the business plan for Housing. He wants rates to remain

competitive, but the residence halls have a deficit, largely due to the debt service assumed to build over \$100 million of bed space. With the residence halls being full, the debt for this year has dropped compared to previous years. Housing will receive a subsidy to help address the debt service. As rates increase, the debt service becomes a smaller part of the budget. Mr. Michael explained that Housing needs to reinvest in the facilities so that students will want to live there. He is trying to contain costs and make strategic investments. He explained mentioned the proposed room and board rates for the 2010-2011 academic year.

A member pointed out that, with Housing receiving a subsidy from the general fund, all students are paying for the students who live in the residence halls. Rent from the businesses in the residence halls brings in about \$400,000 per year.

[Mr. Michael left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Wolfson is scheduled to meet with the President's Cabinet on March 25. Because President Noren met with Policy Committee today, Mr. Wolfson will ask about the possibility of not meeting with the Cabinet this month. He and the Vice Chair are scheduled to meet with the Cabinet monthly.
- \*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of March 8, 2010, were approved as submitted.
- \*5. Nominations for the Position of Interim Provost: President Noren asked that the Senate submit the names of 8 to 12 individuals for his consideration for the position of Interim Provost. Mr. Wolfson solicited nominations from the full Senate. Policy Committee added to the list. It was moved that the list of eight nominees be forwarded to the President. The motion was seconded and failed. Policy Committee members voted on the list, and submitted to the President the names of the persons who received a majority of the votes cast.
6. Board of Governors Meeting: The Budget and Finance Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee, the Student Affairs Committee, and the full Board meet March 24, 2010. Policy Committee members had questions about the establishment of a Department of Oncology. The faculty representatives on the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee were asked to raise the questions at the meeting.

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7. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the documents for the Graduate Council meeting of March 24, 2010. Policy Committee discussed the recommended change in the GPA for graduate admission that was approved at the Graduate Council meeting of February 17, 2010, and the proposal for the Accelerated Master's Programs, which is on the agenda for the March 24 meeting. Members were concerned how these proposals would affect programs.
8. Academic Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed the drafted agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of April 7, 2010.
9. Committee Minutes: Policy Committee received the minutes of the Budget Committee meetings of November 9, 2009, December 7, 2009, and February 1, 2010, and the minutes of the Research Committee meeting of January 28, 2010.

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Approved as revised at the Policy Committee meeting of March 29, 2010

