

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

March 30, 2015

Present: J. Artiss; L. Beale; V. Dallas; R. N. Frank; D. Kessel; C. Parrish;
L. Romano; A. Sankar; W. Volz; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of March 30.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. The University-wide Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee will complete its work soon.
- b. On March 31, the Office for Teaching and Learning is hosting Professor of Psychology Nilanjana Dasgupta from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She works in the area of equity and inclusion for faculty.
- c. Provost Winters is using a grant from the Kresge Foundation to hold a data summit on April 1. This is an invitation-only meeting for people who are using data analytics to look at how students succeed as well as evidence-based teaching. It is a combination of lecture and small-group activity. The Provost would like to hold an event in the fall on data analytics and applications for student success that would involve more people. The Huron Group looked at data across campus and found that we have collected data but we don't use it to evaluate student success. The Provost is interested in finding out the courses that prevent students from succeeding in a major.
- d. At last week's meeting of the Policy Committee and the President's Cabinet the failure rate of students in Mathematics 0990 and 0993 was discussed. Policy Committee told the Provost that they would like to meet with faculty in the Math Department to discuss the problem. Many other introductory courses have high failure rates, too. The Provost will contact the Chair of the Math Department so Mr. Romano can arrange a meeting.
- e. The University and the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee (GEOC) have reached a tentative agreement.
- f. A 2N Committee is being formed to work on issues related to childcare on campus. The Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee gathered data on the issue and may be able to assist the 2N Committee in its work.

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. Mr. Romano reported that, at its meeting of March 25, the Graduate Council reviewed the progress of the BEST program. This program, housed in the Graduate School, encourages graduate students to explore career options other than academia. The review of the program by the National Institutes of Health went well.
- b. The Libraries Task Force that is looking for new funding met. Journal subscriptions increase 5 to 10% per year. Library materials are increasing beyond inflation and beyond the Library's budget allocation. As in other units, the Library's budget has been cut every year. The Provost said that the Library's budget would not be cut this year. The task force talked about

transferring money from other sources to help cover the costs as well as funding it outside of the Library budget.

- c. He also attended the Foundation Board meeting. Discussion centered around strategies for investing in endowments. Over \$180 million of the money raised in the capital campaign, which is targeted to raise \$750 million, is slated to be from the Fund for Medical Research and Education (FMRE). The Senate's Budget and Policy Committees have pointed out that the Development Office should not take credit for raising that money. At the Foundation Board meeting, Mr. Romano advocated for using faculty, especially clinical faculty in a Grateful Patient program, to solicit donations.

*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of March 23, 2015, were approved as submitted.

- 4. Provost's Fellows: The Provost is establishing a group of faculty to serve as Provost's Fellows who will work to increase student retention and improve time to graduation. They will work with staff in the area of student success to develop materials for faculty and advisors to become more involved with the issues. The Fellows also will engage their colleagues in these efforts. Provost Winters will report on the Fellows' work during the next academic year.

A member suggested having a three- or four-week summer class taught by expert teachers. The course would cover innovative teaching methods, online course development, etc. The faculty would be given a one-course reduction in their teaching load for a semester during which they would develop a new course or teaching methodology. The faculty members would report on what they did and how it worked. It was suggested, also, that the faculty get a partial summer salary when they complete the class. The Provost expressed interest in the idea.

- 5. Center Chartering: The Statute on the Creation, Operation, Review, and Discontinuance of Centers and Institutes spells out the process for establishing new centers. It authorizes the President to issue a temporary charter while university centers are under review, and it authorizes the Provost to issue temporary charters for college centers. Policy Committee asked that this be done for the Levin Center at Wayne Law and the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. Also, the charter of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies has to be rewritten and be given to the Policy Committee for approval because the Center's Director asked that it be converted from a college center housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to a university center reporting to the Office of the Provost.

6. Reports from Liaisons:

- a. Research Committee: Mr. Kessel reported that, at its last meeting, the members of the Committee talked about the needs of the research enterprise. They have invited Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier to their next meeting to discuss the issues raised.
- b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Ms. Dallas is the liaison to the CIC. The Committee discussed teaching of online classes. Karen McDevitt, who is an

online instructor in the Department of Communication, showed the Committee members how to teach online courses and how to evaluate them.

- c. Faculty Affairs Committee: Ms. Beale, the liaison to the FAC, said the Committee would discuss progress on the peer review of teaching and the mentoring of faculty with Associate Provost for Academic Affairs John Vander Weg in April.

7. Online Courses: A member asked how to involve junior faculty in online teaching when they are not evaluated fairly by students because very few students submit an SET evaluation. Their not getting a good sample of reviews could disadvantage them when applying for promotion and tenure. It is an issue that should be pursued.

8. Enrollment Decline: Another member is interested in learning if other universities have experienced a decline in enrollment similar to Wayne State's decline.

9. Visit to iBio: The Policy Committee visited the iBio building that is under construction and received a tour by the Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of April 13, 2015