

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

March 5, 2018

Present: L. Beale; B. Roth; r. hoogland; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; N. Simon;  
W. Volz; K. Whitfield

Absent with notice: V. Dallas

Guest: Darin Ellis, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice  
President for Institutional Effectiveness

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of March 5, 2018.

1. General Education Reform: Mr. Ellis reported on the progress in implementing the new general education program. Completed are the Bulletin in Course Leaf, Degree Works, math placement exam, and advisor training. The general education website has been revised and adjustments are being made as more information is available. Work is continuing on the transfer equivalency table.

Policy Committee asked about the math placement exam. Mr. Ellis said that members of the Mathematics Department, the Testing, Evaluation & Research Services Office, and Accuplacer worked out how to identify students who need the most help with math. In the same testing platform they are adding questions to place students into higher mathematics courses. Students who take both sections of the exam will be charged \$35.00 for the test. Students would be placed based on ACT scores or on other factors.

Mathematics 1000 is being rewritten by the working group that Provost Whitfield formed in consultation with the Policy Committee to develop quantitative reasoning courses. The members are from the Mathematics Department and from Mathematics Education in the College of Education. Mr. Ellis will make flow charts showing the paths that different students may take to complete the math/quantitative reasoning requirement: STEM students, students who are pure arts, and students who are not well prepared but want to take some higher math courses. A member was concerned that students would be charged tuition for the co-requisite course for the math competency requirement but receive no credit. If they have to pay tuition for the co-requisite, students should receive credit. That proviso, Mr. Ellis said, might change. A full-time lecturer will coordinate the teaching of MAT 1000; the Math Department will be responsible for assigning instructors. Policy Committee had been concerned about the staffing of the Math 1000 course in the past. Their concern continues. In the past, the instructors were usually foreign-born graduate assistants with limited English language skills and lacked an understanding of our student population and their math preparation. Provost Whitfield and Associate Provost Ellis will continue to work on the instruction of the course.

2. Michigan Transfer Agreement: The MTA allows universities to add additional requirements to students who transfer from community colleges with the MTA stamp. Under the current general education program students who transferred with the MTA were required to complete a basic composition course and either an intermediate composition course or an oral communication course. The state legislature wants community colleges and universities to agree on the courses that transfer and does not want universities to add requirements. Under the new general education program students who earn the MTA endorsement are considered to have completed the competency requirements, the inquiries, and the Wayne Experience. This decision was made without consulting the Academic Senate. The only significant changes, other than a reduced credit requirement, between the old and the revised general education programs are the Wayne Experience course and a course in diversity. The purpose of the courses is to integrate students to the University.

Mr. Ellis maintained that the General Education Oversight Committee is the body that determines the general education requirements. However, a Policy Committee member pointed out that the MTA is not necessarily general education. He was also informed that per the BOG statutes, the Academic Senate is the only body that has authority and responsibility for the formulation and review of educational policy affecting the University as a whole. Mr. Ellis will inform the GEOC of the Policy Committee's concerns. Provost Whitfield asked that the GEOC consider the implications of the decision.

The legislature, Mr. Ellis said, wants uniformity across institutions of higher education so that students don't shop around for the best deal when they transfer. They want additional requirements to be moved into college or major requirements.

A member said that it is problematic if the legislature dictates what universities teach. Mr. Ellis said that the institutions try to recognize the constraints by Lansing and they try to provide a good curriculum. In fall 2017 Wayne State admitted 285 students with the MTA endorsement out of a total of 4200 new students.

A member raised another issue. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences submitted 62 courses for the general education program. He questioned whether all the courses would fulfill the learning objectives of the various categories. All courses will be reviewed to determine if they meet the goals.

Another member mentioned that the General Education Reform Committee thought students might better accept having to take general education courses if a brochure explained the purpose of the program. Mr. Ellis and the Provost thought this a good idea.

[Mr. Ellis left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Chair: The report of the review of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been submitted to the Provost.

4. Report from the Senate President: The enrollment report for the spring/summer term shows an increase in both undergraduate and graduate enrollment.
- \*5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of February 26, 2018, as submitted.
6. Financial Aid: Policy Committee received the response from Dawn Medley, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, to its most recent questions about the awarding of financial aid. The Administration reduced the amount of financial aid for merit scholarships and is providing more need-based scholarships. A member pointed out that transferring money from merit-based financial aid to need-based financial aid impacts instruction and affects the long-term health of academic programs. High achieving students affect teaching and help the poorer students. They improve our ranking and our reputation. The Committee returned to the topic it has discussed for the past several meetings, i.e., if donors designate funds for merit but they are not used as designated and simply replace other financial aid, they might no longer provide support. The Provost said that the goal was not to use merit money for need; the goal was to use all of the merit money so we can distribute our need money differently. The University is not taking money designated for a specific purpose and applying to another area. We are determining the cost of attendance and identifying how to meet the student's needs. Policy Committee members pointed out that students lose merit money if the merit money replaces need-based money. One reason for merit money is to recruit students. However, the Provost noted that we were giving students merit money after they had arrived on campus and the term had begun.
7. Assessment: An article "The Misguided Drive to Measure 'Learning Outcomes'" that was published in *The New York Times* on February 23, 2018, was distributed to the Policy Committee. Policy Committee and the Provost discussed the purpose of assessment and its role in the accreditation process.
8. Holistic Admission Policies: Recently the Division of Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation petitioned to admit three students who were slightly below the requirements for holistic admission. The coach had promised the students they would be admitted, but they were denied admission. Athletics has a very good graduation rate. Mr. Romano suggested that an appeals process should be available based on a unit's past performance.
9. Apportionment: Mr. Romano distributed the chart showing the number of faculty and academic staff in the units and the number of representatives each unit will have on the Academic Senate for the 2018-2019 academic year. There was a substantial increase in the number of personnel in the Student Affairs units in the Provost's Office and that Office's representatives increase from four to five. The School of Medicine lost one position on the Senate.
10. Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws - Voting: On the agenda of the Academic Senate meeting of March 7 is the first reading of a revised proposal to amend Article X, Section 9 of the Bylaws regarding voting. After the proposal was distributed to the

Senate members, the parliamentarian suggested clarifications. Policy Committee reviewed a revised amendment. It will be e-mailed to Senate members and presented at the March 7 meeting.

[Provost Whitfield left the meeting.]

11. Search Committee for the Senior Associate Vice President of Finance: Professor of Finance Ranjan D'Mello and Professor of Law Eric Zacks were nominated and accepted appointment to the search committee.
12. Board of Governors Meeting: Neither the faculty representative nor the faculty alternate representative to the Academic Affairs Committee are able to attend the meeting on March 23. renee hoogland volunteered to serve as the representative and Linda Beale volunteered to serve as the alternate representative for that meeting.
13. Commencement Ceremony: Mr. Romano and Mr. Volz volunteered to represent the faculty at Commencement ceremonies on May 8.
14. Liaison Reports:
  - a. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Ms. Simon is the Policy Committee liaison to the FSST Committee. At its most recent meeting, Bhavani Koneru, Senior Director of Administrative Applications in the Division of Computing and Information Technology, told the Committee about the Banner 9 upgrade. It is a simpler more user-friendly platform. The upgrade costs \$850,000. It will work with DegreeWorks. Ms. Beale added that the transition from Banner 8 to Banner 9 would take eighteen months. The two platforms will run parallel for a period of time. The FSST Committee also had an update on TravelWayne. Canvas, the replacement for Blackboard, is being phased in.
  - b. Research Committee: Susan Burns, Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs, made a presentation to the Research Committee about how to get more endowed chairs.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of March 19, 2018