

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2015

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

Absent with notice: L. Romano

Guest: Joseph Rankin, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

In the absence of Mr. Romano, Mr. Artiss, the Vice Chair, performed the duties of the Senate President.

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of April 13.

1. Undergraduate Affairs: Mr. Rankin presented three draft policy changes for Policy Committee's comments.
  - a. Priority Registration: The current priority schedule is being revised to improve our graduation rate and to prevent the online registration system from crashing as it now does at the beginning of the registration period. Mr. Rankin explained the proposed new priorities. Policy Committee made suggestions for revisions. A committee will be formed to plan the implementation of the new policy and to inform students about it.
  - b. Graduation Policy, Bulletin in Effect: Under the current policy, undergraduate students "may choose to graduate under the academic regulations and degree requirements as stated in the Bulletin in effect at the time of their graduation, or either of the two previous Bulletins provided one of the Bulletins covers a period of the student's registration." The wording would be changed from "two previous Bulletins" to "three previous Bulletins." Under the current wording if students do not complete their degrees in five years, they are to move to a more current Bulletin and they would potentially have to complete new curriculum requirements. The proposed change would allow students who are admitted in a Bulletin's mid-cycle to complete their degrees in six years under the Bulletin that was in effect when they entered the University. The schools and colleges and a university-wide Bulletin in Effect Committee can make adjustments to accommodate students as best they can to adapt their previous coursework to a new Bulletin. Mr. Rankin expects this change to be implemented soon.
  - c. Revising the Course Scheduling Matrix: A committee has been working to change the course scheduling matrix. Mr. Rankin had brought the issues to the Policy Committee earlier in the academic year, and the Policy Committee had raised the need for improved scheduling of courses. Provost Winters talked with the Deans about scheduling and the need for them to provide leadership. Mr. Rankin and the Provost updated the Policy Committee on the progress on the issues. The committee tried to make all courses start and end on the hour and the half hour. Work will continue. Mr. Rankin will consult with other faculty, as well.

[Mr. Rankin left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. On April 10, the University awarded a posthumous degree to civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo. The Law School erected a plaque to honor her memory. A public park in Detroit that bears her name is being restored. Mrs. Liuzzo, in response to the march on March 7, 1965, now known as Bloody Sunday, in Selma, Alabama, joined other activists in a protest march on March 25, 1965. She was murdered as a result of her involvement. At the time of her death, Ms. Liuzzo was a part-time nursing student at Wayne State.
- b. The airport interviews with the candidates for the Dean of Pharmacy and Health Sciences were held. The search committee will shorten the list, and the finalists will visit campus.
- c. Last week President Wilson announced that William Decatur will assume the position of Vice President for Finance and Business Operations, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer effective June 1, 2015.
- d. The data summit the Provost held was well received. The participants discussed big data and how it can assist with advising and improving teaching. The conversation about the use of big data will continue and more people will be included in the discussions.
- e. The Graduate Employees Organizing Committee-American Federation of Teachers ratified the agreement with the University.

3. IT Security Awareness: Mr. Artiss chairs the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee. Last week Kevin Hayes and Geoff Nathan from the Division of Computing and Information Technology presented their program on IT security. Wayne State is subjected to millions of targeted attacks per week. Some phishing attempts have been successful. The security awareness program will help people avoid scams. Policy Committee will request a training session. Mr. Hayes and Mr. Nathan are available to go to colleges and departments that request training. The Provost said that training for some employees is mandatory because they work with confidential information.

\*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of March 30, 2015, were approved as submitted.

5. Reports from Liaisons:

- a. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Mr. Artiss continued the report from the Committee's most recent meeting. FSST members were pleased that a 2N committee was being formed to look into on-campus daycare. Marquita Chamblee, the Associate Provost for Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, is addressing the LGBTQA issues that were raised by the Student Senate. Tarek Bazzi, the Student Senate liaison, said that the Student Senate is moving forward with a recycling proposal and for the support of FSST. About 12% of the materials that could be recycled are being recycled
- b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Ms. Dallas, the liaison to the CIC, reported that Monica Brockmeyer and Thomas Fischer, who co-chair the General Education Reform Committee, reported on the Committee's work. They are

collecting data from focus groups and they also will survey various groups. Students do not understand why they have to take general education courses. Financial literacy is also a concern. After collecting data, the Reform Committee will develop learning outcomes and design curricula. The Committee will set up a website so everyone in the campus community will be able to see the process. Provost Winters added that the website would have a mechanism to give feedback to the Committee.

- c. **Research Committee:** Last month, the Research Committee members expressed their concerns and needs. As a result, Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier will address the issues at the April 14 meeting.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of April 27, 2015