

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 19, 2010

Present: C. Parrish; L. Romano; M. Sengstock; H. Tse; A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz; P. Vroom; J. Whittum-Hudson; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Guests: John Davis, Vice President, Finance and Facilities Management; Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President, Budget, Planning and Analysis; Hilary Ratner, Vice President for Research

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of April 19, 2010.

1. Report from the Chair: Acting Provost Vroom informed the Policy Committee of the status of the searches for the Deans of Education and Engineering. Faculty had expressed concern that the searches might be conducted during the summer when many faculty are not on campus. Acting Provost Vroom said that President Noren wanted to begin the process for the Search for the Dean of Education before the end of the current academic year by identifying the search committee and the search firm and publishing ads for the position during the summer. The search committee would begin work at the beginning of the fall term. Meetings will not be held nor will candidates be interviewed during the summer.

Mr. Woodyard is on the search committee for the Dean of Engineering and he explained what work the committee had accomplished to date and the schedule for the remainder of the academic year. He talked with people in the College of Engineering about the search being conducted during the summer and there was much opposition to it. The search committee plans to maintain contact with the applicants for the Dean's position during the summer and to conduct on-campus interviews at the beginning of the fall term.

2. President's Cabinet Budget Work Group: Acting Provost Vroom, Vice President Ratner, Vice President Davis, and Mr. Kohrman comprise the Budget Work Group, a subgroup of the President's Cabinet. They attend Policy Committee meetings to discuss the preparation of the budget for fiscal year 2011.

Mr. Kohrman said that meetings are being held in which the Deans make presentations before the Board of Governors focusing on three areas. One, what are the primary concerns of the school/college. Two, if they had a budget cut up to 3%, where would they take the reduction and what would the effect be. Three, if there were additional resources available, where would they make additional investments in their school/college. The theme that emerged from the first group of presentations was the need for more full-time tenure-track faculty.

Mr. Kohrman reported that students have expressed support for a tuition increase similar to last year's increase. They would like to see investment in the operation of the Libraries and additional lighting across the University. Mr. Kohrman noted that the Student Senate has used money from its budget to keep the Undergraduate Library open 24 hours as final exams approach.

Michigan State University surveyed the other universities in the state to learn what they will propose for tuition increases and what faculty salaries will be in the next year. Mr. Kohrman reviewed some of the information gathered in the survey. The possible tuition increases range from 4% to 7%.

The committee formed to consider how to allocate funds that the University would receive if it raised tuition over 3% met once. Mr. Kohrman thought the meeting was productive. Mr. Kohrman chairs the committee; Mr. McIntyre, Mr. DeGracia, and Mr. Romano serve on the committee.

The WSU Board of Governors is expected to act on the recommendation for tuition for the 2010-2011 academic year on June 23.

The Board of Governors will hold working group sessions over the next several weeks to discuss the general fund budget and the auxiliary budgets for the next fiscal year. Participating in these meetings will be the members of the BOG Budget and Finance Committee, President Noren, Acting Provost Vroom, and Mr. Kohrman. Mr. McIntyre serves on the Committee as the faculty representative and Mr. Parrish serves as the faculty alternate representative.

Members raised concerns about the Deans being told to prepare for budget cuts when it appears reductions will not be necessary. Lecturers have received notices that their contracts will not be renewed. While it is standard practice that lecturers receive such notices when their contracts expire, those who are to be re-hired immediately receive a letter of offer for the next year. The letters of offer have not been sent and departments will lose good instructors if they do not receive the renewal offers.

Mr. Kohrman said that very few Deans have talked about terminating lecturers. They plan to cut part-time faculty, general expenses, or staff positions. Some Policy Committee members reported that lecturers in their departments have received the notices of non-renewal of contracts. Another problem is that classes cannot be staffed if departments do not have lecturers and part-time faculty. Mr. Kohrman said that he would look into the issue of re-hiring of lecturers.

Mr. Parrish noted that the University would have money to re-hire lecturers. All of the full-time tenure-track faculty positions that were authorized will not be filled and that money will be available to hire lecturers and part-time faculty. It was noted that the budgeting process for fiscal year 2011 has had an impact on academic programs.

A member asked about the status of a plan that was espoused at one time for the state to change the appropriation for higher education to cover two years at a time. Mr. Kohrman said that was not part of the state government's plan at this time. The state is planning to fund higher education according to the guidelines of the federal stimulus package for fiscal year 2011. Funding for FY 2012 is likely to be different.

[Vice President Davis, Vice President Ratner, and Mr. Kohrman left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Chair:

- a. Acting Provost Vroom reported that Associate Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Management James Sears liked the idea of having a web page where members of the University community could report concerns. The feedback line was proposed by the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee after its experience working with custodial services this year. It was also championed by Mr. Woodyard in years past. Acting Provost Vroom said that Mr. Sears, Chief Information Office Joseph Sawasky, and she would meet about the issue.
- b. Last week Policy Committee mentioned that there are problems with water drainage in the parking structure at Cass and Putnam. Acting Provost Vroom informed Vice President Davis about the problem and he will check into it. This week problems associated with notifying users of the structure that the elevators did not work and with the emptying of trash barrels were mentioned.

4. Apportionment for the Senate: Mr. Wolfson explained that when the Elections Committee figures the apportionment to determine the number of members from each unit to serve on the Academic Senate, it uses information received from Human Resources. There are about 45 people who are identified as being in the Division of Research because they are in centers and institutes. The

Elections Committee cannot identify in which school/college they have retreat rights. Mr. Woodyard said that the list of the faculty at the end of the Graduate Bulletin identifies the school/college where they have their appointments. It was noted that the Bulletin is printed every two years and would not contain recent hires.

5. Report from the Senate President:

- a. A faculty member contacted Mr. Wolfson about the post approval monitoring for animal research, and he brought the question to the Policy Committee. Policy Committee charged the Research Committee with learning what the monitoring involves.
- b. The second candidate for the position of Provost is visiting campus this week.
- c. Policy Committee discussed how to inform the President of their recommendation for the Provost position.

*6. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of April 12, 2010, were approved as submitted.

7. Research Misconduct: Policy Committee received the revised draft of the Policy and Procedure Regarding Research Misconduct. Policy Committee suggested a revision to the draft. Mr. Wolfson will inform Vice President Ratner.
8. Search Committee for the Vice President for Finance and Facilities Management: In response to the request from President Noren, Policy Committee nominated six faculty to serve on the Committee. The President anticipates selecting three faculty from the nominees to serve on the Committee.
9. Review of Curriculum and Courses: Associate Vice President Howard Shapiro discussed with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee whether a committee should review new courses and curricula across colleges and departments to determine if there are conflicts. Acting Provost Vroom will investigate what types of mechanisms for these reviews now exist.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of April 26, 2010