

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 25, 2011

Present: V. Dallas; D. Kessel; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos;
W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: R. Brown

Guests: Benjamin Kennedy and Lauren Halloran, Huron Consulting Group; John Schiavone, Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost

In the absence of Provost Brown, Mr. Romano, the Vice Chair, chaired the meeting.

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of April 25, 2011.

1. Huron Consulting Group: The Huron Consulting Group was hired to review, analyze, and recommend improvements in university operations across many aspects of administrative functions. Mr. Schiavone said that the company is expected to complete its review about the end of June and then submit a report to President Gilmour. Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Halloran introduced themselves. Mr. Kennedy explained the types of services the company has provided to universities.

The Huron Group was hired to look at the symptoms and root causes of why some processes at Wayne State do not work well. They are to look at customer satisfaction and operational effectiveness and efficiencies. The review focuses on administrative services, but the schools and colleges are involved in the work because staff in those offices handle services such as payroll. A Policy Committee member suggested that the Huron Group also talk with the business officers in the schools and colleges to understand the problems the units face in processing purchase requisitions and payroll information, etc. He encouraged them to talk with faculty and custodians and to walk through the campus. Mr. Kennedy said that they have met with custodians, with grounds and maintenance workers, and did a two-hour tour of the campus. A member mentioned the effort to set up a website where anyone on campus could report problems with the concern being sent to the party responsible for the area and then follow up from that person when the problem is resolved.

Another member asked if the Huron Group was looking into the administration of grants. They were specifically told not to do that, but the Policy Committee will ask President Gilmour that the research area be included in the review.

Another member spoke to the culture at the University, where some service departments seem to have the attitude that academic departments and faculty are working for them rather than their understanding that they exist to facilitate the teaching and research functions of the University.

In response to a question from Mr. Kennedy, the faculty informed him of their use of the new effort reporting system, which the Huron Group had set up.

Policy Committee members raised issues related to parking facilities and will send to Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Halloran the Walker Report and the report of the Parking Advisory Task Force completed in the winter 2011 term.

[Mr. Schiavone, Mr. Kennedy, and Ms. Halloran left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Wolfson reported that the portion of the May 4 Academic Senate meeting where Brett Green, Director of Total Compensation and Wellness, will answer questions about the retirement incentive program will be recorded and posted on the Academic Senate website for people to view later.
- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of April 18, 2011, were approved as corrected.
- *4. Faculty Representative and Alternate to the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee: Karen Feathers, who has been serving as the faculty representative to the Academic Affairs Committee, is unable to continue in that role. Policy Committee asked Anca Vlasopolos, who has been serving as the faculty alternate, to serve as the faculty representative, and will ask Veronica Bielat, who has assumed the position of Chair of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, to serve as the faculty alternate.
5. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: The Policy Committee reviewed the list of issues to discuss with the President's Cabinet on April 28. They reordered the items.
6. The May Meeting with the President's Cabinet: President Gilmour needed to change the meeting of the President's Cabinet and the Policy Committee scheduled for May. The meeting was changed to May 19.
7. Academic Senate Representatives: Professors Robert Reynolds and Seymour Wolfson are faculty in the Department of Computer Science and represent the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) on the Senate. When the Department transfers to the College of Engineering in fall 2011, they will serve as representatives from the College of Engineering, creating two vacancies in representation in CLAS. CLAS will be notified that they have two vacancies to fill. The new members' terms will begin August 18, 2011.
8. Member-at-Large Election: Anca Vlasopolos (English, Liberal Arts and Sciences) and James Woodyard (Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering) were re-elected to three year terms on the Senate as members-at-large.
9. Report from Liaison: Ms. Dallas reported that Chief Information Officer Joseph Sawasky presented the results of the information technology survey to the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee at its April meeting. The satisfaction rate of 77% was a slight improvement over last year. The Division of Computing and

Information Technology wants to move Blackboard to mobile devices because students are using them more. Mr. Sawasky reported that only 53% of the classes were active on Blackboard.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of May 2, 2011