WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

June 28, 2010

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

Absent with notice: A. Vlasopolos; J. Whittum-Hudson

Guest: James Mazoue, Director of On-line Programs

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of June 28, 2010.

1. Report from the Chair:
    a. Acting Provost Vroom reported that overall enrollment for the fall term continues
        to be strong. Enrollment of continuing undergraduate and graduate students is
        very good. The favorable enrollment figures are attributed to students' completing
        the financial aid process earlier, earlier orientation for new students, and the
        customer relation system.
    b. The WSU Researcher's Dashboard software application won the 2010 National
        Technology Innovators Award.
    c. James Barbret, who is the Associate Vice President for Research, will assume the
        duties of the Controller on an interim basis. Clifford Brown, who has been the
        Controller, accepted a position outside the University.
    d. In response to a question, Dr. Vroom said that she would meet with the Faculty
        Council in the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts about the
        search for a new Dean, but the search will not begin until the fall.

 *2. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee
       meeting of June 21, 2010, were approved as submitted.

[Mr. Mazoue joined the meeting.]

 3. On-Line Programs: Mr. Mazoue was invited to the meeting to update Policy
      Committee about the plans for and the progress in developing on-line courses and
      on-line programs. Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President for Educational
      Outreach and International Programs, was connected to the meeting via Skype.

      Since joining the University in March, Mr. Mazoue has been meeting with the faculty
      and the senior academic leadership to learn their needs and their concerns about
      policies related to on-line courses and programs. His objective is to increase the
      number of on-line programs and to serve the students more effectively.

      The University has three programs that are fully on-line (Instructional Technology in
      the College of Education, Masters of Business Administration, Library and
      Information Science). There is potential for increasing the number of on-line

graduate degree programs and certificate programs, and for putting some undergraduate programs on line.

The University needs a formal process to instruct faculty in the effective use of technology. It needs to look at internal and external policy issues and to assess the quality of on-line programs. It must look at and adopt best practices.

Mr. Ezzeddine explained the goals. First, develop the infrastructure to support on-line courses and programs to ensure that all of WSU's on-line programs and courses are consistent from pedagogical and instructional design standpoints. Second, develop hybrid programs and define them as hybrid so students will know what will be expected when they enter the programs. Third, assist faculty in creating on-line courses and programs.

A Policy Committee member asked about the class size of on-line courses. It is generally understood that an instructor spends more time teaching an on-line course than a face-to-face course in a classroom. Using technology individualizes the learning process, increasing the time that a faculty member devotes to the development and teaching of a course. Mr. Ezzeddine said that if an on-line class is designed well it should require no more effort or time than a course taught in the classroom. However, there are expectations in an on-line class for the instructor to respond to students more quickly, within 24 or 48 hours.

Members raised questions about various technologies used in classrooms and the use of purchased courses for on-line use by some institutions. Mr. Mazoue did not think the use of packaged courses would be suitable for Wayne State; teaching faculty how to teach on-line courses preserves the uniqueness of the University.

Mr. Mazoue noted that students come to the University expecting to get a technology-enhanced learning experience. Research shows that the learning experience for students is enhanced when technology is used appropriately.

The on-line instruction task force should flesh out operational issues, how to identify which courses and programs might be suitable on line, and the evaluation process. Faculty buy-in is necessary.

[Mr. Mazoue left the meeting.]

 4. Updated Summer Calendar: Mr. Wolfson distributed an updated calendar for the remainder of the summer months.

 5. FY 2011 Budget: Mr. Wolfson reported that the Board of Governors approved a 4.4% increase in undergraduate tuition and a 4.9% increase in graduate tuition for FY 2011. An additional 2% was added to the undergraduate rate beginning with the spring/summer term 2011. The Board approval included a requirement that some of the money is to be used to improve student financial aid, to keep the Libraries open longer, and to increase the number of full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty for undergraduate courses.

The University Budget for fiscal year 2011 was given to the Board of Governors prior to its meeting of June 23, 2010. Some revisions will be made. The Board is expected to act on the FY 2011 Budget at its meeting of August 4. The Senate Budget Committee will meet to consider the FY 2011 Budget. Policy Committee members expressed concern about the provision in the Budget wherein the central administration will recapture vacant faculty positions that have not been filled within a certain period of time.

6. Parking: The Budget for FY 2011 includes a recommendation that the parking rate be increased by 50 cents per entry or 50 cents per day for those persons in the University Parking System. Associate Vice President Nabelah Ghareeb wrote to Mr. Wolfson about holding a special meeting on parking. He replied by asking her to respond to the points contained in a memorandum dated May 25, 2010, prepared by the Parking Subcommittee of the Academic Senate Budget Committee.

_____

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of July 12, 2010