

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

July 17, 2017

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; B. Roth; N. Simon;  
W. Volz; K. Whitfield; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: A. Rothe

Guests: Krista Brumley, Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee; Darin Ellis, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness; Catherine Kay, Director, Financial Aid; Kurt Kruschinska, Registrar; Ericka Matthews-Jackson, Director, Undergraduate Admissions

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of July 17, 2017.

1. Proposal for Mentoring of Faculty: Ms. Brumley presented a proposal from the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) that the University join the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD) as an institutional member. The FAC has worked on the issue of mentoring of faculty for many years. In the fall term 2016, the FAC surveyed recently tenured faculty about their mentoring experiences. The responses indicate that Wayne State needs to improve its mentoring practices. The Committee will expand the survey next year to include graduate students, assistant, associate, and full professors, and post-docs. The NCFDD provides mentoring on teaching, research productivity, professional development, and balancing the different aspects of individuals' careers. Provost Whitfield and the Policy Committee asked for additional information about the NCFDD, including the average number of people in the different categories at the member institutions who participate in the program. Provost Whitfield stressed that such a membership would be only a complement to what Wayne State needs to develop in house. Mr. Romano noted that the Deans and Department Chairs have to buy into developing mentoring programs in their units.

[Ms. Brumley left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:
  - a. The University of Michigan has purchased the Rackham Building from the Rackham Foundation. Wayne State's Psychology Clinic and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders are housed in the building. We have 20 months to vacate the building.
  - b. Provost Whitfield will form a planning committee to study space needs for the STEM Innovation Learning Center, which will be located in the building that used to house the Science and Engineering Library. When the charge to the planning committee is completed, the Provost will ask the Policy Committee to name faculty to serve on the committee.

[Mr. Ellis, Ms. Kay, Mr. Kruschinska, and Ms. Matthews-Jackson joined the meeting.]

3. Credit Taken by Exam: The administration is recommending that University Statutes be revised to eliminate the limit on the number of credits students can earn by Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, College Level Examination Program, and Credit by Special Examination. The Statute limits the number of credits that can be counted towards a degree to 32. Most public universities in Michigan do not have a limit. More students are taking AP courses and high schools are increasing their offerings of AP courses. Students still will have to meet the residency requirement. Mr. Romano noted some statements in the Statute that ought to be clarified. Mr. Ellis will review the current Statute and give the Policy Committee a draft of the re-write.
  
4. Elimination of the Drop Period with 0% Tuition Cancellation: Students who drop a class in the first two weeks of a 15-week semester, receive a 100% refund of tuition and do not receive a grade or mark on their academic record. Students who drop a class in the third or fourth weeks do not receive a tuition refund and there is no indication on the academic record that the course was taken. Federal financial aid regulations require the University to monitor students' academic progress. The administration is recommending that the policy be changed so that the official withdrawal period begins at the start of the third week of classes. Students who withdraw after the second week would receive a grade or mark on their academic records and would not receive a tuition refund.

[Ms. Kay, Mr. Kruschinska, and Ms. Matthews-Jackson left the meeting.]

- \*5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of June 19, 2017, were approved as submitted.
  
6. Follow-up: Mr. Romano inquired about three issues that were discussed at earlier meetings.
  - a. The Provost has submitted to the President a draft policy that would prohibit faculty from concurrently having an appointment at WSU and at another university.
  - b. The Policy Committee has recommended that the procedure for nominating faculty for the status of emeritus be revised to include nominations from faculty or that emeritus status be granted to all faculty upon retirement.
  - c. Policy Committee had asked for the number of students who have graduated without completing the general education mathematics competency requirement. Mr. Ellis is compiling the information and will send it to Mr. Romano.
  
7. General Education Reform: The Provost submitted a proposal dated July 12, 2017, to reform the general education program. Policy Committee discussed the proposal at today's meeting. Members of the Policy Committee commented on the process that was used to develop the proposal and the process by which to move toward approval. Members found the proposal to be inadequate; it did not include a rationale for the requirements or the goals of the program. It was not clear what types of courses would fulfill the three requirements: the competencies, the inquiries, and the Wayne experience. A member stated his dissatisfaction with the consultation process that has been followed with respect both to substance and to

form. The proposal included a time-line that did not include review by the Senate's committees. General education courses and undergraduate and graduate education are connected, but that was not considered in the process. At all stages of the process, broad faculty input was not sought. Faculty input appears to have been filtered through people with a particular agenda. Different opinions were not sought widely, and the consequences were not deliberated thoroughly. The general education program will have enormous consequences at all levels of the University for many years. Another member commented that the process that was followed did not respect the academic governance process.

Provost Whitfield stated that the purpose of the proposal before the Policy Committee was to seek input on the procedure going forward. He said that a decision on how to proceed had not been made. Mr. Romano pointed out that at the June 23 meeting of the Board of Governors, President Wilson and members of the Board made the point that the Policy Committee should be able to carry out the Senate's work over the summer. Provost Whitfield stated that the memo he sent to the Committee was asking for input about the process they would like to see going forward.

Policy Committee members asked that a document be provided that describes the courses that will fulfill the general education requirements. The General Education Reform Committee, Mr. Ellis said, has not submitted its final document. A question that will have to be considered is how all constituencies will view the proposal.

Mr. Ellis will provide the information that the Policy Committee requested and the Policy Committee will outline the process that the Senate will follow. Several members recommended that the proposed program be submitted to the schools and colleges for their comment.

[Mr. Ellis left the meeting.]

8. Proposal to Charter the Institute for Leadership and Diversity (ILEAD): Policy Committee received the proposal to charter this Institute as a college institute within the Mike Ilitch School of Business. Last year it had been granted a one-year provisional charter. Mr. Romano asked the Provost for additional information: a letter of support from the faculty in the School and a budget that included expected expenditures.
9. Strategic Investment Group: Mr. Romano distributed the report of the SIG for the Wayne State University Foundation for the months of May and June 2017. The rate of return on investments for the fiscal year to date is 7.5%.
10. September 13 Senate Meeting: Mr. Romano informed the Committee that President Wilson will address the Senate at 3:30 p.m. Depending upon the final agenda, the starting time of the meeting would be changed.

[Provost Whitfield left the meeting.]

11. Committee Assignments for the 2017-2018 Academic Year: The staff in the Senate Office solicited Senate members' preferences for their committee assignments. Policy Committee reviewed the first draft of the assignments. They made some changes to the lists and began the process of selecting the Chairs of the committees.
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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of August 14, 2017