

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

July 28, 2014

Present: J. Artiss; L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; M. Winters;  
A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: W. Volz

Guests: Akosua Barthwell Evans, CEO of the Barthwell Group; Emma Bauer of the  
Barthwell Group; and Stephen Lanier, Vice President for Research

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of July 28, 2014.

1. Smoke-Free Campus Task Force Report and Recommendation: The Student Senate raised with President Wilson concerns about smoking on campus. President Wilson formed a task force to study the efficacy of moving to a total ban on smoking. A campus-wide survey showed that the campus community wants the campus to be smoke-free but with designated smoking areas. The report was submitted to the Policy Committee for comment.

The consensus was that we might not need a new policy if the current policy were enforced by Public Safety, but it cannot be enforced. The question arose how a total ban on smoking could be enforced, but some members thought it would be easier to enforce a total ban than the current policy. Policy Committee recognized that both sides, the people who don't want additional restrictions on smoking and those who want a smoke-free campus, have legitimate arguments. One member was concerned that when a survey regarding smoking on campus was conducted a few years ago, one-half of the students who smoke said that they would leave the University if the campus were smoke-free. The Committee discussed the possible need for a policy regarding e-cigarettes.

2. Committee Preferences: The Senate Office staff solicited the members' preferences for service on the standing committees for the 2014-2015 academic year. Policy Committee reviewed the first draft of the assignments. They made some changes to the list and selected the Chairs of the committees. Mr. Romano will contact those selected to chair the committees to get their agreement to serve.
3. Report from the Chair:
  - a. Provost Winters attended the tenth anniversary celebration of the Wayne in Abruzzo, Italy Study Abroad Program. Because there are many Italian-Americans in the Detroit area, the Italians consider this relationship to be very important. She also visited the Polytechnic University in Turin, Italy, which is interested in automotive engineering. Her visit marked the first discussion regarding an association with Wayne State. Now members of the faculty who know the field will follow up. The Provost also gave a presentation at a conference on the history of English.

- b. Enrollment for the fall term is a little lower than last year at this time. Undergraduate enrollment is down 3.5% with most of the drop being in continuing students. Graduate enrollment is up 2%. Overall enrollment is down 1.96%.

[Vice President Lanier joined the meeting.]

4. Research Information Technology Advisory Group: Vice President Lanier and Chief Information Officer Joseph Sawasky are forming a working group to address cyber infrastructure needs, operations, and opportunities within the research community at Wayne State and to articulate a vision to address them. They asked that the Academic Senate appoint two faculty to serve as members of the committee. Policy Committee appointed Joseph Artiss (Pathology, Medicine) and David Cinabro (Physics and Astronomy, Liberal Arts and Sciences), and they agreed to serve.
5. Meetings with the President's Cabinet: The Policy Committee will meet with the President's Cabinet on October 23, 2014, and on February 19, 2015.

[Ms. Barthwell Evans and Ms. Bauer joined the meeting.]

- \*6. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of June 23, 2014, were approved as modified.
7. Strategic Planning: Ms. Barthwell and Ms. Bauer, Ms. Barthwell's assistant, joined the meeting. The Barthwell Group is facilitating meetings and assisting the University in the process of developing a strategic plan. Provost Winters emphasized that the results of the strategic planning process would be available for comment by the University community. Vice President Lanier participated in the discussion.

In preparation for the next strategic planning meeting, Ms. Barthwell has been meeting with various people to get feedback on specific goals they think are critically important in the six strategic focus areas that have been developed, which are (1) ensure student success, (2) increase strategic and collaborative research, (3) achieve academic and teaching excellence, (4) leverage diversity as a competitive advantage, (5) drive innovation and entrepreneurship, and (6) enhance community engagement. Policy Committee provided their ideas to meet these goals.

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Approved as modified at the Policy Committee meeting of August 18, 2014