

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

August 2, 2010

Present: R. Brown; C. Parrish; L. Romano; M. Sengstock; H. Tse; W. Volz;
J. Whittum-Hudson; A. Wisniewski; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: A. Vlasopoulos; S. Wolfson

Guests: K. Feathers; M. McIntyre; R. Sokol; P. Vroom

In Mr. Wolfson's absence, Mr. Romano, the Vice Chair of the Academic Senate, assumed the duties of the Senate President.

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of August 2, 2010.

1. Report from the Chair: Provost Brown spoke of his interest in working collaboratively to move the University forward. He asked that if misunderstandings or problems develop that the representatives of the Policy Committee meet with him to resolve them. He is committed to academic renewal and to the need for the University to invest in its academic future, i.e., the faculty. He also mentioned that he had met with the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors and that they are very supportive of the academic mission of the University.
2. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Romano informed the Provost of the procedures followed at Policy Committee meetings.
3. Budget Committee Meeting of July 29, 2010: Mr. McIntyre had been invited to the meeting to participate in the discussions about the FY 2011 Budget and the proposal to establish a Department of Clinical and Translational Research.

Mr. Romano opened the discussion by reporting on the issues that were covered in the Academic Senate Budget Committee meeting of July 29 at which the FY 2011 Budget was discussed. Acting Provost Vroom and Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis Robert Kohrman attended the July 29 meeting. Mr. Romano characterized the meeting as productive. Two major issues were addressed.

The first issue with which the Budget Committee dealt was the Parking Operations Business Plan presented to the Board of Governors as a draft. It calls for a 20% increase in parking fees in the coming year and a total increase of 60% over the next five years. This Business Plan was developed at the request of the Academic Senate which had asked for the rationale for the increase and had raised the need for routine maintenance. Mr. Romano understood that a joint faculty-administration committee would be formed to address concerns that the Business Plan raised and to focus on maintenance. Mr. McIntyre noted that, at the urging of Mr. Woodyard, who served as the faculty representative on the University Parking Advisory

Committee, the University hired a consulting firm to evaluate the parking structures. Based on that consulting firm's report, work is being done on parking structure #1. The Budget Committee would like the administration to delay increasing the parking fee until January 2011 so the joint committee might have input into the plans for maintenance.

The second issue, the use of tuition revenue for the hiring of full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty, was discussed. Mr. Romano summarized the issue. At the June 23 meeting of the Board of Governors Budget and Finance Committee it was agreed that all of the tuition increase above 3.4% would be used to hire new faculty. Searches for those positions would be conducted during the 2010-2011 academic year. There was general agreement that the University needed to hire faculty who would enhance the undergraduate education program. It appears that this year a plan will be developed to do so. A joint committee of Deans and faculty is to be formed to discuss how this plan could be carried out.

Mr. McIntyre explained the issues that have been raised around the proposal to hire the faculty. The faculty would go through the tenure process and would have as one of their duties the teaching of some general education courses. Having full-time faculty teaching undergraduate courses is expected to improve the University's retention and graduation rates.

[Ms. Feathers, who chairs the Academic Senate Curriculum and Instruction Committee and is the faculty representative to the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee, arrived during the discussion of item 3. Mr. Sokol and Ms. Vroom joined the meeting.]

4. Proposal to Establish a Department of Clinical and Translational Research: A proposal to establish this department is on the agenda for the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee meeting of August 4, 2010. If the Committee approves the proposal, it will be submitted to the full Board for approval. Mr. Sokol explained why the proposal was developed. Wayne State is submitting an application for the Clinical and Translational Science Award. It has applied twice previously but was not successful. It is believed that having a department will improve the University's chances of receiving a grant. Policy Committee discussed the pros and cons of establishing a department that reports directly to the President and Provost as opposed to a college or a center. Timelines were tight and the department needed to be formed prior to the submission of the grant application. Policy Committee supported the formation of the department but expressed concerns about the department's governance, organization, curriculum, and budget. It was suggested that the Provost appoint a committee of faculty and administrators to address those issues as well as others that may arise as the program is implemented. Policy Committee endorsed the proposal if there was a commitment from the Board of Governors to support the Provost in the organization of the committee.

[Provost Brown left the meeting during the discussion of item #4. Mr. McIntyre and Ms. Feathers left the meeting when the discussion ended.]

5. Board of Governors Meeting: The Policy Committee received some of the documents on the agendas of the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee meeting, Budget and Finance Committee meeting, and the full Board meeting of August 4, 2010: the proposal to increase the honor point average for graduate admission; the recommendations for the FY 2011 General Fund Budget and the FY 2011 Auxilliary Activity Budgets; the Development and Alumni Affairs Donation Report for May 2010; and the Capital Campaign Report for the period 1/1/2009 to 5/31/2010.
 6. Selection of Faculty and Academic Staff Representatives to the Board of Governors Committee: Policy Committee selected the faculty and academic staff representatives and alternate representatives to the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Student Affairs Committee for the 2010-2011 academic year. Those selected will be contacted to find out if they are able to serve.
- *7. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of July 26, 2010, were approved as submitted.
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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of August 23, 2010