WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

August 22, 2011

Present: R. Brown; D. Kessel; L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: V. Dallas; R. MacArthur

Absent without notice: C. Parrish

Guests: Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President, Educational Outreach and International Programs; Joseph Kieleszewski; Director of Business Affairs, Liberal Arts and Sciences; James Mazoue, Director, Online Programs; Kristi Verbeke, Assistant Director, Offce for Teaching and Learning

Louis Romano assumed the Presidency of the Academic Senate on August 18, 2011.

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of August 22, 2011.

1. Online Courses: Mr. Ezzeddine, Mr. Mazoue, and Ms. Verbeke were invited to the meeting to discuss the status of the University's online course offerings and programs. Mr. Ezzeddine reported that the University continues to increase its online offerings and programs. A revenue-sharing program was implemented last year. All departments and colleges that offered online courses received revenue through the program. Thirty-five percent of the revenue is given to the Dean and 15% is given to the department. A Policy Committee member asked for a list of the departments that have received the incentive. Mr. Mazoue noted that students are very interested in having more courses and degree programs online especially at the graduate level.

   A member asked if there is data about the effectiveness of learning in online courses versus the classroom. Mr. Mazoue said that the U.S. Department of Education, in several studies, showed there was no significant difference, but did give an edge to online courses, in particular to blended courses. Online courses, he said, make education accessible to people who otherwise would not have access and provide flexibility to students taking courses on campus. The next phase of innovation is qualitative enhancement to learning. Carnegie Mellon University is developing courses based on the model of the open-learning initiative. They have studies that show students learn more in their online statistics course than in their face-to-face course. Innovation will occur in quality, not in access. Web-based courses will provide opportunities for students to learn more effectively than they would in a classroom. A member asked that the Policy Committee receive a bibliography of the studies. Another member asked if retention data was available for students who take online classes versus those taking face-to-face courses. Mr. Mazoue noted that in the fall 2010 term 4.2% of the students who took web classes dropped or withdrew and 9.10% of the students taking non-web classes dropped or

withdrew. Wayne State's growth in the number of students taking courses online is higher than the national average. A member noted that the comparison of the drop/withdrawal rates for online and on-campus classses did not take into account the demographics of the students or their grade distribution.

Ms. Verbeke noted that the literature has shown that it is from good teaching that students learn, whether that is online or in the classroom.

Mr. Mazoue explained the Summer Institute, a program to teach faculty how to develop online courses. New online degree programs are being developed in Social Work and Engineering, and they plan to create new online general education courses. In response to a question, Mr. Mazoue explained how some universities are handling the teaching of laboratory classes online. Mr. Ezzeddine believed institutions were moving to a hybrid model, providing students with a variety of ways to access learning. He did not think that online classes would be appropriate for every program. However, some disciplines must offer online programs to stay competitive with other universities.

A member asked if there was data showing if students come to campus the semester after taking a web-based class versus an on-campus class. Mr. Ezzeddine did not know if such information was available. He also noted that the quality of online classes varies. Some are very good; others are of poorer quality.

As the time was running late, Mr. Romano suggested that members send additional questions to him for forwarding to Mr. Ezzeddine and Mr. Mazoue.

[Mr. Ezzeddine, Mr. Mazoue, and Ms. Verbeke left the meeting. Mr. Kieleszewski joined the meeting.]

2. Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics: The Policy Committee invited Mr. Kieleszewski to provided information about the budget for the Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics (CEEM). He reviewed the general fund of the Center for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, which includes the Emerging Scholars Program/Pre-emerging Scholars Program, the Math Corps, and the In-School Programs. The total recurring cost for the CEEM for FY 2010-2011 was $935,407. The budget for FY 2011-2012 reflects the 10% budget cut imposed by the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Four research assistants who teach in the in-school programs and are paid from contracts with school systems were listed under the general fund to provide bridge money if the contract money is delayed. Provost Brown asked that the general fund money no longer be used for this purpose. The CEEM has received about $9 million in grants and contracts over the past ten years with most of that money supporting the Math Corps. There are no indirect costs received from the contracts. The Provost's Office had provided one-time funding for the instructors teaching MATH 0993, Beginning Algebra.

Policy Committee members asked for information about the graduation rate of students who participate in Math Corps. Members also asked about the members of the Center's Advisory Board.

[Mr. Kieleszewski left the meeting.]

3. <u>Report from the Chair</u>: Provost Brown updated the Policy Committee on the searches for the Dean of Social Work, the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Coleman A. Young Chair.   Margaret Williams has been appointed the Interim Dean of Business Administration for two years. The search for an enrollment manager is proceeding. The search for the Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning has begun. The search for an Associate Provost for Student Services is on hold.

4. <u>Report from the Senate President</u>:
   a. As Senate President, Mr. Romano will address the new faculty at the New Faculty Orientation and the new students at the New Student Convocation.
   b. Associate Vice President Howard Shapiro has asked Mr. Romano to serve on the search committee for the Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning, and he has agreed.

*5. <u>Proceedings of the Policy Committee</u>: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of August 8, 2011, were approved as submitted.

6. <u>Reduction in Force</u>: Policy Committee had requested the list of all positions, both filled and unfilled, that were eliminated in the reduction in force that occurred at the end of July. The Committee received the list of the filled positions that were eliminated, and Mr. Romano has asked for the list of the unfilled positions that were eliminated. Members of the Policy Committee questioned the accuracy of the information. Looking at the units where positions were eliminated, Mr. Romano counted 57 positions were eliminated in the schools and colleges, and 18 were eliminated in the administrative units.

7. <u>eReserves</u>: A member pointed out that funding for eResearves in the Library has been eliminated. Policy Committee will invite Dean Yee of the Library System to a meeting to discuss the situation.

8. <u>Budget Concerns</u>: Provost Brown asked Policy Committee what areas could withstand a budget cut other than those where cuts were made. In order to provide such information members of the Committee believe they need to see the report of the Huron Consulting Group, which has studied the business functions and is now making changes.

   Several members offered suggestions for cuts and for increased revenue. One noted that the purpose of offering more on-line courses was to attract new students, thereby increasing revenue, but that does not appear to have occurred. Another member suggested that the difference between resident and non-resident tuition be eliminated or greatly reduced. Wayne State does not attract many non-resident undergraduate students. A change in the non-resident tuition rate might increase the number of out-of-state students. Another suggestion was that the tuition for a class be tied to the employment opportunities and salaries that the graduates will

receive upon employment in the various fields. Another member suggested that the quality of programs be considered when deciding what areas to cut.

9. Enrollment Report: The Policy Committee asked that it receive the Enrollment Reports.

10. Huron Consulting Group: Policy Committee requested the entire report of the Huron Consulting Group. The Provost said that the report consisted of slides, but no text. Policy Committee repeated an earlier request that faculty participate in the group overseeing implementation of the recommendations of the HCG. Mr. Romano will write to President Gilmour.

*11. Parking: A motion was made and seconded to write to Vice President Nork about the lack of consultation on the recommendations in the 2011 Parking Operations: 5-Year Business Plan. Mr. Woodyard explained the reason for his motion. An RFID system is being installed in parking structures. A hanging tag opens the gates for entry and for exit, allowing anyone who might steal a car easy egress. Mr. Woodyard prepared a report that showed that some months more cars were stolen from parking structures than from the streets near campus. Technology that took that possibility into account was presented to the Parking Technology Subcommittee. Policy Committee agreed to send a memorandum to Vice President Nork with copies to President Gilmour and Provost Brown.

*12. Replacement of the Vice Chair: When Mr. Romano assumed the Senate Presidency, the position of Vice Chair became vacant. Policy Committee appointed Mr. Wolfson to serve as Vice Chair until a new Policy Committee is elected.

*13. Agenda for the Academic Senate Meeting: The Policy Committee approved the drafted agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of September 7, 2011.

*14. Elections Committee: Policy Committee completed the selection of the members of the Elections Committee.

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Approved as corrected at the Policy Committee meeting of September 12, 2011