

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

August 30, 2010

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

Absent with notice: M. Sengstock

Guests: Stephen Bajjaly, Director, School of Library and Information Science; Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President, Budget, Planning and Analysis; Rick McCreedy, Senior Director, Computing and Network Services, Computing and Information Technology; Joseph Sawasky, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer, C&IT; Jill Zeller, Director of Communications, C&IT

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of August 30, 2010.

1. President's Cabinet Budget Work Group: Provost Brown, Vice President Ratner, Vice President Davis, and Mr. Kohrman comprise the Budget Work Group, a sub-group of the President's Cabinet. They attend Policy Committee meetings to discuss the preparation of the budget for fiscal year 2011. Mr. Kohrman attended today's meeting.

Mr. Kohrman reported that two RFPs would be released to the University community. One, which was mainly developed by Michael McIntyre, covers the allocation of the 2% of tuition revenue for 22 faculty positions with a focus on undergraduate programs that have had a large increase of students in general education courses. The other RFP directed to Deans and department chairs is for the academic enhancement positions, i.e., for 23 faculty lines, 10 graduate assistants, and 5 academic program enhancements. Three million dollars has been allocated from strategic initiative funds for the faculty lines and the graduate assistantships. One million five hundred thousand dollars has been allocated for the program enhancements.

The Deans will be able to apply for graduate teaching assistants or for graduate research assistants. A Policy Committee member objected to using the funds for research assistantships. Teaching assistants, he noted make money for the University because they teach. Research assistants cost the University money. Mr. Kohrman said that the Deans wanted the flexibility of applying for either position. A member noted that a GRA may assist in research for a faculty member who is teaching a large class. Provost Brown suggested that the RFP might state that preference will be given to applications for GTAs.

The discussion turned to the changes that the Dean of the Graduate School made in the financial support available for the recruitment and continuing support of graduate students. Provost Brown suggested that the Policy Committee invite Dean Wardell to a meeting to discuss how the changes have worked this year.

Mr. Kohrman offered to send the RFPs, when they are finalized, to the Policy Committee for its information.

[Mr. Kohrman left the meeting. Mr. Bajjaly, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. Sawasky, and Ms. Zeller joined the meeting.]

2. Temporary Telephone Service: Mr. Bajjaly, Mr. Sawasky, Mr. McCreedy, and Ms. Zeller were invited to the meeting to inform the Policy Committee about the telephone system that is being used by many faculty in the School of Library and Information Science. Mr. Bajjaly explained why the SLIS adopted the system. He and the people from C&IT explained the advantages and disadvantages of the system. The system is temporary. The University has to change its voicemail system. Mr. Sawasky explained the types of services that will be available with the new system.

A Policy Committee member noted that an improved telephone system would benefit faculty and staff, but he pressed for improved services for students. He specifically noted technology that would inform students where parking is available on campus. Mr. Sawasky said that C&IT has the ability to provide such service, however the Parking System cannot support the technology. Mr. Sawasky noted that C&IT has placed a strong emphasis on implementing technology to benefit students.

[Mr. Bajjaly, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. Sawasky, and Ms. Zeller left the meeting.]

3. Student Retention: Provost Brown raised the issue of student retention. He believes the University has adequate information and many good recommendations from earlier reports on retention. The University must implement some of the recommendations. He cited areas where services to students need to be improved. He wants to move forward with improving systems for faculty. He plans to bring consultants to campus to assist in expanding the services offered by the Office for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Vroom established a committee to work on retention issues. Provost Brown asked Policy Committee for suggestions of faculty who might serve on the committee.

Mr. Woodyard distributed to the Committee data for the four- and six-year graduation rates by ACT score and race. The data were collected to explore the role of low ACT scores on graduation rates for black and white students. White students with low ACT scores have higher graduation rates than black students with low ACT scores.

- *4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of August 23, 2010, were approved as submitted.
- *5. Annual Report of the Research Committee: The Policy Committee received the Annual Report of the Research Committee and forwarded it to the full Senate for information.

6. Agenda for the Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed the revised agenda for the Senate meeting of September 8, 2010.

Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of September 13, 2010