

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

September 12, 2011

Present: L. Beale; R. Brown; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; J. Woodyard

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of September 12, 2011.

1. Report from the Chair: The administration is organizing a task force on civility, which will be chaired by Loreleigh Keashly, the Interim Chair of the Department of Communication, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. The Provost asked the Policy Committee to appoint a representative to the committee.

A discussion about civility ensued. The Provost noted that in academia faculty are freer to speak and to raise questions than are people who work in corporations. Some correspondence from faculty, particularly e-mails, has attacked individual's character.

Policy Committee members pointed out the need to separate an individual's comments or those from the AAUP-AFT from those of the Academic Senate. The Provost said that correspondence from the Senate has been professional and was not of concern.

Policy Committee members discussed with the Provost the need for consultation with the Senate as the representative body of the faculty and academic staff. One member noted that strong factual statements may not be liked but they are not necessarily uncivil.

2. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Romano is meeting with the Chairs of the Senate committees. He is suggesting issues on which the committees might work this year, and asked Policy Committee members to send him their suggestions.
3. Online Programs: Mr. Mazoue, the Director of Online Programs, sent the information that Policy Committee had requested, i.e., the incentive funds allocated to the schools/colleges and departments for their 2010 online offerings and references to research on web-based cognitive courseware.

A Policy Committee member suggested that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee be charged with investigating whether online teaching is more effective than in-class teaching. Provost Brown was asked if he could provide a summary of the status of the online program. Mr. Romano also would like the C&I Committee to develop a set of principles of how an online course should be run and how it should be reviewed. The Provost would like Chief Information Officer Joseph Sawasky, Dean of the Libraries Sandra Yee, and Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach Ahmad Ezzeddine to serve on the C&I Committee for such a review because of their knowledge about online courses.

Another member reminded the Policy Committee that the State of Michigan defines what constitutes an online course because students who take online courses pay resident tuition.

4. Report of the Huron Consulting Group: The Policy Committee has asked for the report of the Huron Consulting Group. In a memo dated September 9, 2011, President Gilmour informed the Policy Committee that a commentary was not written; the report consisted of a number of slides. He suggested that the lead consultants of the Huron Group meet with the Policy Committee to present the slides and to comment on them. Provost Brown noted that the recommendations address many of the issues raised by the Policy Committee and the Task Force for Streamlining Processes or the Dysfunctional Rules Committee. Some of the recommendations are being implemented. The Policy Committee accepted the offer.
  
5. Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics: On September 19, Policy Committee will meet with Steven Kahn, the Director of the Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics. Mr. Romamo asked members of the Policy Committee to submit to him the issues/questions they want to discuss with Mr. Kahn. Policy Committee received from Joseph Kieszewski, the Director of Business Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, information about the grants and contracts the Center has received. Provost Brown reported that general fund support for the Math Corps would be eliminated as of fiscal year 2013. General fund money will be used for the education of Wayne State students who participate in the Center's Programs, but not for high school or middle school students.
  
6. Parking: The Policy Committee sent a memorandum to Vice President Rick Nork recommending that the Parking Advisory Committee (PAC) be reconstituted to serve as a consultative body on parking issues. In the past, the faculty member on the PAC was responsible for insisting that the University hire a consultant to inspect the parking structures resulting in an urgent recommendation from the consultants to initiative needed repairs of several structures and to carry out routine maintenance to prevent the deterioration that led to costly repairs. The Policy Committee believes decisions regarding parking operations that affect students, faculty, and staff require consultation with a committee that has faculty membership appointed in consultation with the Academic Senate. Mr. Nork has not responded to the request.

A member of the Policy Committee noted that, at the March 7, 2011, meeting of the Senate Budget Committee, Provost Brown had asked Mr. Nork to prepare a document indicating which of the recommendations of the Parking Task Force he favored and which he did not. It was this member's belief that Mr. Nork had not done so, and Policy Committee will write to him requesting the information. [When Mr. Nork was contacted, he informed the Committee that the report was completed in April.]

- \*7. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of August 22, 2011, were approved as corrected.

- \*8. Business Process Improvement Steering Committee: Policy Committee had asked that a faculty representative be appointed to the Business Process Improvement Steering Committee, the Committee overseeing implementation of the recommendations of the Huron Consulting Group, and Vice President Nork agreed. However, Mr. Nork asked for 3 to 5 nominees. There was disagreement among Policy Committee members about how many names to submit. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to nominate two faculty. Mr. Nork will select one of the two to serve on the Committee.
- \*9. Election of the Vice Chair: The Policy Committee selected Rodger MacArthur to serve as the Vice Chair of the Academic Senate for the 2011-2012 academic year. This action will be submitted to the full Senate for confirmation at the October Senate meeting.
- \*10. Election of the Parliamentarian: The Policy Committee selected Mary Sengstock to serve as the Parliamentarian of the Academic Senate for the 2011-2012 academic year. This action will be submitted to the full Senate for confirmation at the October Senate meeting.
- \*11. Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee – I: The Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee that reviews Type I University Centers needs to be re-established. Half of the membership of the Committee is selected by the Policy Committee and half is selected by the administration. Stephen Calkins, Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel, asked the Policy Committee to nominate three faculty. Mr. Romano will ascertain if the nominees are able to serve.

[Provost Brown left the meeting.]

- 12. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet with the President's Cabinet on September 22. It developed a list of topics to discuss with the Cabinet.
- 13. Liaisons from the Policy Committee: Policy Committee members selected their liaison assignments to the standing committees.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of September 19, 2011.