

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

September 20, 2010

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

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of September 20, 2010.

- *1. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of September 13, 2010, were approved as submitted.

[Provost Brown joined the meeting.]

2. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Wolfson sent the names of the ten nominees for the Presidential Search Advisory Committee selected by the Policy Committee to Governor Paul Massaron, the Chair of the Search Committee. Mr. Wolfson will send the names of all the persons nominated by Senate members and the names of those that the Policy Committee submitted to the full Senate.

3. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Brown informed the Policy Committee that the administration is proposing an amendment to Statute that would permit students transferring from community colleges into certain programs at WSU to transfer more than 64 credits to apply toward their Baccalaureate degree. Currently no more than 64 credits transferred from a two-year institution may be applied toward graduation. The proposal would permit the President or his/her designee to allow more credits to be transferred in some cases. In discussing the proposal, Policy Committee suggested revisions to some of the wording and suggested that the proposals for the programs that would accept more than 64 credits for the degree be reviewed by the Policy Committee.
- b. Provost Brown has asked the Deans to benchmark the salaries of their faculty against the salaries at comparable universities to determine if the salaries at Wayne State are lower than at peer institutions. Deans have advocated for higher salaries.
- c. The new-hire faculty start-up funds of \$6 million will be located in the Provost's Office. Provost Brown and Vice President for Research Hilary Ratner will review and decide the merits of the applications. Policy Committee members suggested that the start-up funds for individual faculty be put in a separate account in the name of the faculty member rather than being held in a department account, as is done now. Oversight over the spending of the money would be maintained.
- d. It was brought to the Provost's attention that some nine-month faculty would like their salary paid over twelve months. He has charged the responsible parties with developing a system to accommodate the request. Each faculty could select the payroll payment process they desire.

[Mr. Kessel left the meeting.]

4. Closure of Parking Structure Entrances: Ms. Charbonneau, the Chair of the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee, forwarded to the Policy Committee a message that she had received about the long lines of cars waiting to enter parking structures as a result of the closure of the entrances off Anthony Wayne Drive. Although the FSST Committee will look into the issue, Policy Committee instructed Mr. Wolfson to forward the concern to Vice President John Davis. The Academic Senate representatives who serve on the Parking Task Force also will ask about alleviating the congestion when the Task Force meets this week.
5. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: The Policy Committee had submitted agenda items for its meeting with the President's Cabinet. They reviewed the list and eliminated some of the items. Some of the items remaining on the list were: update on the Perinatal Research Branch, update on the application for the CTSA, improving telephone response to callers, Pro Card limitations, restrictions on vendors from which purchases can be made, special payment authorization reimbursement limitations,
6. Help@Wayne.edu: Mr. Woodyard has advocated for a web page where members of the University community could report problems. Over the summer the administration expressed interest in pursuing the idea. Mr. Wolfson will get a report about the progress for the next Policy Committee meeting.
7. Retention: Provost Brown has a committee looking at initiatives the University can implement to improve retention. He expects the committee to complete its work before Thanksgiving.

[Provost Brown and Mr. Volz left the meeting.]

8. Graduate Student Publication Rights: Policy Committee received correspondence about a student's publishing her master's thesis in book form as the sole author, without approval of her advisor to use the data, and not giving credit to her advisor. Policy Committee instructed Mr. Wolfson to charge the Research, Curriculum and Instruction, and Faculty Affairs Committees with developing a policy to cover the student's use of research information.
9. Report from the Liaison to the Student Affairs Committee: Mr. Woodyard reported that the Student Affairs Committee held its first meeting of the academic year last week. It plans to invite the directors of the various student services units to meet with the Committee. The Committee would not change the recommendation it had made last year about smoking on campus, i.e., that the University enforce the current policy or go smoke free. The Committee will discuss what it can do to help students succeed. The Student Senate is developing a "broken" website where the University community can report what needs repair.