

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

September 21, 2009

Present: N. Barrett; C. Parrish; L. Romano; M. Sengstock; H. Tse; A. Vlasopolos;
W. Volz; J. Whittum-Hudson; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Guests: Stephen Calkins, Associate Provost for Faculty Relations; Mark Wardell, Dean of the Graduate School; Thomas Wilhelm, Director, Testing, Evaluation and Research

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of September 21, 2009.

1. The Graduate School: The Policy Committee invited Dean Wardell to the meeting to hear his plans for the Graduate School. One area of focus is enrollment. Enrollments and applications have decreased over the past several years. The Dean wants to increase the number of applicants and improve the application process. The application process, except for transcripts, will be entirely on line. The various programs will be able to customize the application. Dean Wardell is concerned about the amount of the stipends awarded to graduate students; Wayne State is not competitive with other universities. He wants to increase the number of doctoral and masters students and decrease the number of graduate students who do not complete their degrees. A member suggested that one way to improve the graduate program was to provide more teaching assistantships and to regularize the procedures for awarding stipends. Another member believes that departments need help in administering their graduate programs.

Dean Wardell will appoint an advisory board of alumni for the Graduate School.

A member asked Dean Wardell if departments would still have the flexibility to admit students into the Ph.D. program who did not meet the strict standards for admission. He said that exceptions to the rules are possible.

In response to a question, Dean Wardell said he has asked the Graduate Council to investigate the criteria for graduate faculty and to either recommend keeping them as they are or to recommend changes. He will enforce the rules that are established.

[Dean Wardell left the meeting. Mr. Calkins and Mr. Wilhelm joined the meeting.]

2. SET Scores on STARS: Mr. Calkins and Mr. Wilhelm came to the meeting to present a plan to make SET scores available on STARS and to get the reaction of the Policy Committee. Faculty would be able to see their SET scores as well as the scores for the department, the college, or the University. Policy Committee did not object to the plan.

[Mr. Calkins and Mr. Wilhelm left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Chair: The Provost distributed the enrollment figures for new and continuing students for the fall semester 2009 and the credit hours for the period from fall 2000 through fall 2009. Head count is up 2.5% over fall 2008 and credit hours are up 3.5% over fall 2008.

4. Budget: Policy Committee discussed budgetary issues including enrollment projections, tuition increases, differential tuition, the state appropriation, and the need for tenure and tenure-track faculty.
- *5. Cancellation of Policy Committee Meeting: Policy Committee cancelled its meeting of September 28, 2009, because it will not have a quorum.
- *6. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of September 14, 2009, were approved as revised.
7. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Romano, the Vice Chair of the Senate, will meet with the President's Cabinet on September 24, 2009. Policy Committee members suggested issues they might mention at that meeting.
8. Agenda for the October Academic Senate Meeting: The drafted agenda for the October 7, 2009, Academic Senate meeting was revised.

[Provost Barrett left the meeting.]

9. Recapture of Department Funds: Policy Committee members discussed their understanding of the recapturing of money from departments in the Medical School. It is now the understanding that the Dean's Office in Medicine recaptured money from the departments' general fund accounts. The amount of money varied by departments, but it equals the amount in the departments' indirect cost recovery accounts. The Policy Committee will try to get more information. It was reported to the Policy Committee that the Budget Committee is also gathering information.
10. Research Ranking: Mr. Tse, who served as the Chair of the Research Committee during the 2008-2009 academic year, distributed to Policy Committee the report Wayne State University National Research Ranking. The report was presented to the Academic Senate in April 2009. Mr. Wolfson asked the Policy Committee to review the report. They will consider how the information should be disseminated at their next meeting.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of October 5, 2009