

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

September 21, 2015

Present: J. Artiss; L. Beale; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; B. Roth; N. Simon;  
W. Volz; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: V. Dallas

Guests: Monica Brockmeyer, Associate Provost for Student Success; Daniel Frohardt,  
Chair, Department of Mathematics

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

1. Mathematics Competency: In April 2015, Policy Committee met with Mr. Frohardt and Ms. Brockmeyer about the mathematics competency that is part of the general education requirements. They provided the information Policy Committee had requested and attended today's meeting to discuss the data. It had not been clear that the ACT serves as a competency exam. Many students meet the requirement with the ACT. The language on the Testing Office's website was clarified and the information was communicated to the advisors. Ms. Brockmeyer and Mr. Frohardt agreed that the expiration date for testing for the Math 1000 pathway could be relaxed.

A member of the Policy Committee thinks the math requirement should be based on the student's major. That, Ms. Brockmeyer said, is an issue under consideration by the General Education Reform Committee. It is not a decision that should be made by the Math Department. Other PC members want graduates of Wayne State to demonstrate some proficiency in mathematics. Another member was concerned that students wait until they are about to graduate to fulfill the requirement, delaying their graduating. Ms. Brockmeyer said that the number of students who achieve the competency through coursework has tripled over the last several years. The multiple pathways and improved advising have resulted in more students completing the competency than in the past.

Policy Committee had many questions about the data and was concerned that they did not support the success that was claimed. Some members questioned why the Math Department was contracting with a third party to provide a test. Ms. Brockmeyer said that many universities use external tests because there is the opportunity for a broader national validation of the test and the feedback.

Policy Committee believes that the problems need to be resolved soon. Ms. Brockmeyer said that she and Mr. Frohardt would return very soon with the data the Policy Committee requested and, that within the next six weeks they would have a recommendation for an improved exam.

[Mr. Frohardt and Ms. Brockmeyer left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Winters reported the enrollment figures for the fall term. We have 2562 FTIACS, an increase over previous years. The average ACT score is up almost a full point from 20. The numbers of transfer students and continuing students have decreased. Some of the decrease in transfers is attributed to fewer students attending community colleges. However, a Policy Committee member thought the reasons could extend beyond that fact because the students who would drop out of a community college are not the ones who would matriculate to the University. In response to questions, the Provost said that a large number of students graduated last year, but the six-year graduation rate is essentially flat. Mr. Artiss asked if it was possible to find out why there is a decrease in continuing students and how many credits those who drop out need. Mr. Romano said that exit surveys show that the reasons students drop out are complicated. One of them is financial. There was difficulty meeting the requests for campus housing this fall, and the Provost will inquire whether we were able to accommodate all students who wanted to live on campus. Graduate enrollment is up; tuition revenue will be higher than was projected. The first year retention rate is 77%, up 2 points over last year. The yield of new students went from about 22% to 32% this year.
- b. There is interest on the part of Brazilian universities to have a more permanent relationship with WSU. Last year Brazil sent 15,000 STEM undergraduates to study abroad. Wayne State had 270 of those students. This year they sent 5,000 students abroad. We have almost 200.
- c. The Office for Teaching and Learning held the first workshop for teaching for part-time faculty. Seventy part-time faculty attended.
- d. The Senate's Budget Committee will look at how the student service fee is distributed. Provost Winters asked to be involved in the issue. Ms. Simon mentioned that last year's Student Affairs Committee met with Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis Robert Kohrman who talked about the allocation of the money.

3. Report from the Senate President:

- a. The Search Committee for the Provost held its first meeting last week. In addition to Mr. Artiss and Mr. Romano, Michael Barnes (Associate Professor, Theatre, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts); Ewa Golebiowska (Professor, Political Science, Liberal Arts and Sciences) and Gail Stanford (Extension Program Coordinator III, Educational Outreach) serve on the Committee. The members of the Committee stated the characteristics they would like in a provost.
- b. The capital expenditure committee will meet this week. Its purpose is to recommend the projects for the University to submit to Lansing for funding. James Sears, the Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management, distributed to the committee the memo that Policy Committee had sent with its recommendations for the request.

- \*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee Meeting of August 31: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of August 31, 2015, were approved as submitted.

- \*5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee Meeting of September 14: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of September 14, 2015, were approved as amended.
- \*6. General Education Oversight Committee: The faculty member who represented the School of Social Work on the General Education Oversight Committee has left the University. The Provost and the Policy Committee jointly selected Angelique Day (Assistant Professor, Social Work) to serve on the GEOC.
7. Request from the Student Senate: The Student Senate submitted a request to the Provost for representation on the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee opposed the request. They believe that a student's presence would change the nature of their discussions with the administration. If there is a specific topic where participation of a student would be helpful to the Student Senate or the Policy Committee, Policy would welcome the student. A Policy Committee member mentioned that increased participation of students on the Student Affairs Committee would be beneficial.
8. Board of Governors Meeting: The Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee as well as the full Board will meet September 25. The Senate's Budget Committee discussed the issues that are on the Budget and Finance Committee's agenda. Mr. Volz, the liaison from the Policy Committee to our Budget Committee, reported on the discussions. On the agenda are: (1) Re-Purposing of Series 2013 Bond Proceeds and Allocation of Series 2015 bonds; (2) Student Center Building Fifth and Seventh Floor Renovation; Elliman Research Building Renovation; Improvements to Parking Lot 12, which is across from the IBio Building; and Administrative Fees for the Division of Development and Alumni Affairs.
9. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the materials for the Graduate Council meeting of September 23, 2015.
10. Integrative Systems Management Committee: Mr. Artiss and Ms. Beale serve on this Committee. One issue raised at the recent ISMC meeting was the lack of faculty involvement; that will be addressed. Another issue was the development of a data retention policy. Third was the development of a policy about access of former employees, faculty, students, and alumni to the University's email system and to administrative systems.

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Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of September 28, 2015  
Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of October 12, 2015