

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 3, 2014

Present: J. Artiss; V. Dallas; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano; W. Volz; M. Winters;  
A. Wisniewski; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: L. Beale; D. Kessel

Guest: Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and  
International Programs

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of February 3, 2014.

1. Extension Centers: The Policy Committee had asked Mr. Ezzeddine for data about the decline in enrollment at the extension centers. He provided information that the Committee discussed at its December 9 meeting, but many questions remained. Mr. Ezzeddine was invited back to provide more information. Policy Committee would like the data so the Senate could advocate for hiring more faculty to teach the courses at the extension centers.

Fall enrollment at the Oakland Center declined by more the 1200 students over the past seven years, and winter enrollment over that same period dropped by 1400 students. Mr. Ezzeddine noted that the entire University has experienced a drop in enrollment. Mr. Ezzeddine was reminded that this corresponds to about a 35% decline, much greater than the rest of the University experienced. He believes the primary reason for the decline at the extension centers is due to departments offering courses and not complete programs. A department that had lost enrollment in 2010 now has increased enrollment because it offers a complete program.

Ms. Dallas said that departments and the managers of the extension centers ought to coordinate the courses and programs. The directors of the extension centers could inform departments of the types of programs they believe would attract students. A proposed schedule from the Outreach Office could guide the departments in scheduling courses.

Mr. Ezzeddine explained the advertising and programs his office uses to attract students to the extension centers.

Mr. Woodyard stated that strategic planning and metrics are needed to make decisions. A survey was done in 2007 to determine the programs that were needed in Macomb County. He would like information to show how the University is meeting those needs. He would like to see a strategic plan for the extension programs, evaluations of the programs, and a comparison with national trends. Mr. Ezzeddine said that the expansion of the facilities and courses at the Macomb Center is following the consultant's plan.

Mr. Ezzeddine's office surveys the students who attend classes at the extension centers. Mr. Artiss asked that the Policy Committee see those survey results.

Another member noted that it would be difficult to obtain that information in a rapidly changing market. The Provost added that, for political reasons, it has taken the seven years since the plan was developed for the University to get situated in Macomb County. She said that the enrollment data is kept in the units, which gives the department and the faculty more autonomy.

Mr. Romano wondered if budget cuts to the departments contributed to the course declines at the extension centers.

Policy Committee discussed the uses of the building at the Macomb Center, the courses that will be offered there in the fall, and the location of classrooms and laboratories. The laboratories are teaching labs. Both tenure track and part-time faculty will teach at the center. The goal is to have classes offered more than once a day. Included in the plan for the MCC was locating ten tenure track faculty at the center. They would be from the Departments of Engineering Technology and Mechanical Engineering. The University and MCC have a National Science Foundation grant. There may be opportunities to perform applied research with General Motors or the Ford Motor Company.

Mr. Romano questioned how faculty could conduct research at the facility. The Department of Energy has donated \$5 million for a joint education/research program with a community college. Mr. Romano pointed out that there is a big difference between educating students and incorporating that into a laboratory setting where faculty conduct research. Faculty need a lot of resources and need to interact with their colleagues to do research.

The Policy Committee learned that the Outreach Office pays the salaries for the part-time faculty. The academic departments pay the salaries for full-time faculty if the class is within load. If it is overload, the Outreach Office pays the salary.

[Mr. Ezzeddine left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Winters reported that undergraduate enrollment for the winter term is down 3.6% from the winter 2013 term. Graduate enrollment is down just under 1% and enrollment in the professional schools is down 1.2%. Overall, enrollment for winter 2014 is down 2.7% compared with winter 2013.
- b. The Student Senate is interested in having a totally smoke-free campus. President Wilson asked Julie Miller to set up a task force to look at the issue. The Provost asked the Policy Committee to name people who are interested in the question. Mr. Woodyard mentioned that a survey was done several years ago, and some students said they would not come to WSU if there were a total ban on smoking. He will forward the results of the survey to the Provost.

3. Report from the Senate President: The first round of interviews of candidates for the position of Vice President for Research was conducted over the weekend. Some of them will be invited to campus for interviews.
- \*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of January 27, 2014, were approved as modified.
5. Policy Guidelines on Courses and Credit Hours: John Vander Weg, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel, and Kelley Skillin, Director of Professional and Academic Development in the Office of the Provost, attended the January 13 Policy Committee meeting. They discussed the draft Policy Guidelines on Courses and Credit Hours. A policy is needed to satisfy the requirements of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and federal regulations. Ms. Skillin had said that it was necessary to have consistency across the University for the number of credits allotted for each hour in class. Policy Committee read the federal guidelines as allowing for more flexibility. Mr. Romano had asked for a copy of the guidelines from any accreditation body that requires absolute consistency in this regard. That information was not provided.

The draft Policy Guidelines on Courses and Credit Hours were distributed to the units. They are to adjust their courses, if needed, to comply with the Guidelines. Discussion continued at today's meeting. Policy Committee was concerned about the assignment of credit hours for discussion sections and the need for strict consistency. Mr. Romano contends that the faculty should have input into these decisions since they know the courses and curriculum whereas the administrators pushing this policy do not.

6. Board of Governors Budget and Finance Committee Meeting: The Board of Governors will meet February 7. On the agenda is a discussion about the State of Michigan Higher Education Performance Funding, which includes the metrics used to fund higher education. The metrics used for the current year's budget hurt Wayne State. The Senate's Budget Committee was told that President Wilson is lobbying the state legislators to include Pell Grants in their calculations. Last year this was proposed by Governor Snyder but was removed by the legislature. The President wants the state to change the group of universities with which Wayne State is compared from the Big 10 universities to the Urban 13 universities. Provost Winters added that President Wilson also is trying to get the state to include improvement in retention and graduation rates in the metrics.
7. Huron Research Advisory Committee: This Committee, which is chaired by David Cinabro, has submitted a draft report to Vice President for Research Hilary Ratner. The Policy Committee asked to see the report.
8. Clinical and Translational Science Committee: Recently, new members were added to this Committee. Mr. Romano asked the Provost for the names of the members.

[Mr. Romano left the meeting.]

9. Reports from Liaisons

- a. Research Committee: The Committee will meet on February 4 at which time they will discuss the decline in research revenue.
- b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: This Committee met on January 14. They discussed with Mr. Ezzeddine the programs and the facilities at the Macomb Center.
- c. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: The Committee met on January 14 when James Sears, the Associate Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Management, made a report.
- d. Budget Committee: Part of the discussion at the February 3 Budget Committee meeting dealt with the raising of money to repay the bonds issued for building projects. Part of the money was to be raised by the Development Office. If the money is not raised through Development, repayment will come from the general fund.

10. Extension Centers: The Committee returned to discussing ways to increase enrollment at the centers.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of February 17, 2014