

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 21, 2014

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

Guest: Michele Grimm, Interim Director of the Transfer Student Success Center

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of April 21, 2014.

1. Transfer Student Success Center: The Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC) is part of the Office of Educational Outreach. Officially the Center began October 1, 2013, the beginning of the 2013-2014 fiscal year, but did not start functioning until January 2014. Its purpose is to increase the number of transfer students and to assist them to graduate. The mission of the TSSC is to look at everything the University is doing to support transfer students, which comprise about 50% of our student body. The majority transfer from community colleges. Under federal guidelines that count only FTIACS, transfer students do not count in the graduation rate. President Wilson urged the Michigan legislature to include transfer students in the Michigan funding metric graduation rate.

We have signed a reverse transfer agreement with Wayne County Community College. If a student transfers from WC3 to Wayne State without finishing their degree at the community college, WC3 will award them an associate of arts degree.

One of Ms. Grimm's goals is to develop programs so students who begin their studies at community colleges and think they will transfer will have a plan that shows which courses to take at the community college, which courses they can take concurrently, and which courses they will take at Wayne State.

Students who are transferring are invited to attend admitted student day activities designed for the transfer student. A new scholarship, the Pathway Scholarship, has been added for students who have between 24 and 36 credits and a GPA of 3.0 or higher when they apply to WSU.

The TSSC is looking to update the transfer student orientation. The current University Advising Center will focus on pre-professional advising and will handle some transfer specific advising. The TSSC wants to have advisors at the community colleges so students who are considering transferring are able to develop a program that will transfer. It will not do academic advising. They want the student to connect with a departmental advisor.

The Center wants to participate in some of the recruiting events that the community colleges conduct to not only give students information about the programs offered at the extension centers but to let them know what they need to do to transition to Wayne State for their bachelor's degree.

The Center will ensure that all of the articulation agreements are understandable. The Policy Committee discussed with Ms. Grimm cooperation between the University and the community colleges.

Asked what metrics would be used to determine the success of the Center, Ms. Grimm said that it would take longer than one year to measure its success. The goals include increasing the transfer students for fall 2014 by 10% over fall 2013. They will look at the yield rates. They will look at year-to-year retention rates and at the graduation rates. The graduation rate for transfer students is not as easily defined as it is for FTIACS. They will look at the number of partnerships in which they will be working to get students to the main campus. Policy Committee asked for a report next fall. A member suggested that transfer students get priority in student housing.

[Ms. Grimm left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair: Provost Winters reported that the unit budget hearings have begun. The Deans and Vice Presidents were told to prepare what their divisions were doing, their successes, their challenges, and where they would make cuts.
3. Graduate Council Meeting: Ms. Beale represented the Academic Senate at the April 16 meeting of the Council. Discussed were the individual development plans for graduate students. She told the Council that the Senate is working on the mentoring of faculty. The Council is interested in hearing what the Senate will recommend in that regard.
- *4. Approval of the Proceedings: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of April 14, 2014, were approved as submitted.
- *5. Academic Staff Tenure and Promotion Committee: A member of this year's Committee needed to be replaced for the portion of the work where the Committee serves as the second level salary committee for the units that do not have enough academic staff members with the necessary credentials to serve on the salary committee. The Provost and the Policy Committee jointly selected Darrell Brockway, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Liberal Arts and Sciences, to serve.
6. Faculty Mentoring: The Faculty Affairs Committee is looking into the mentoring of junior faculty. A survey was done a few years ago and they want to know what has been accomplished. Policy Committee has talked about the possibility of surveying faculty who are going through the tenure process, those who received tenure and those who were denied tenure, to find out if they were mentored and if the mentoring was helpful. In addition to junior faculty, it was suggested that mentoring be available for faculty who have been associate professors for a long time.
7. Agenda for the May Senate Meeting: The drafted agenda for the meeting of May 7 was revised.

8. Reports from Liaisons:

- a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Ms. Dallas, the liaison to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee (CIC), reported that the Committee discussed the student evaluation of teaching (SET). The return rate for online courses is very low. To learn why students do not complete the SET it was suggested that a question be included in the student survey asking what would entice them to complete the SET. Another suggestion was the need to educate students about the use of the data. CIC will meet with Laura Woodward, Director of the Office for Testing, Evaluation & Research Services, to discuss how to improve the return rate. The Student Senate has sought the release of the SET results. A special committee worked on that question. It was decided that the SET scores would be made public except for the questions referred to as the “key questions,” which evaluate the faculty and the course.
- b. Research Committee: Members of the Research Committee met with Dean of the Graduate School Ambika Mathur to discuss the BEST Grant and the change in focus at the Graduate School to get doctoral students involved in internships and job training not related to their coursework.

9. Peer Evaluations: Mr. Romano asked about the status of the committee that is developing guidelines to use in the peer review of faculty. Provost Winters said that the committee has been formed and she will provide the names of the committee members to the Policy Committee. The Provost and the AAUP-AFT would like to have the guidelines ready by the fall term.

Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of April 28, 2014