

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY – ACADEMIC SENATE

Official Proceedings

October 8, 2008

Members Present: Nancy S. Barrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Chair; Seymour J. Wolfson, President, Academic Senate; Terrence Allen; Muhammad Amjad; Joseph Artiss; Sarah Bassett; Veronica Bielat; Tamara Bray; Monica Brockmeyer; Kingsley Browne; Timothy Butler; Anthony Cacace; David Cinabro; Rick Cummins; William Crossland; Victoria Dallas; Gina DeBlase; Donald DeGracia; Brian Edwards; Karen Feathers; Judy Field; Andre Furtado; Patricia Jarosz; Loreleigh Keashley; Poco Kernsmith; Thomas Killion; Winston Koo; Gloria Kuhn; Lisa Maruca; James Moseley; Regina Parnell; Charles Parrish; Frederic Pearson; Sean Peters; Aleksandar Popadic; Elizabeth Puscheck; Daniel Rappolee; Louis Romano; Brad Roth; Anthony Sacco; Vishwanath Sardesai; Mary Sengstock; Bo Shen; Assia Shisheva; Naida Simon; Lothar Spang; Harley Tse; Anca Vlasopolos; William Volz; JianJun Wang; Olivia Washington; Barrett Watten; Linda Weglicki; Mary Width; James Woodyard; Earnestine Young

Members Absent with Notice: Tyrone Austin; Ivan Avrutsky; Christopher Collins; Ravi Dhar; Cheryl Dove; Hans Hummer; Michael McIntyre; Prahlad Parajuli; Michele Ronnick; Linea Rydstedt; Antoinette Somers; Renee Van Stavern; Judith Whittum-Hudson; Derek Wildman; Russell Yamazaki

Members Absent: Basim Asmar; Marcus Dickson; Doreen Head; Jerry Ku; Tej Mattoo; Susil Putatunda; T.R. Reddy; Arun Wakade; Antoinette Wozniak

Others Present: Robert Berman, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Johnnie Blunt, Academic Senate Office; Richard Dunbar, New Media and Information Technology, University Library System; Linda Falkiewicz, Registrar; Rodney Fiori, New Media and Information Technology, University Library System; Gloria Heppner, Associate Vice President for Research; Alan Jacobson, Office of Budget, Planning and Analysis; Nardina Mein, New Media and Information Technology, University Library System; Gayle Reynolds, Associate Registrar; Angela Wisniewski, Academic Senate Office; Sandra Yee, Dean, University Library System

CALL TO ORDER: This regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Provost Barrett at 1:37 p.m. The meeting was held in the Bernath Auditorium in the Undergraduate Library.

I. CONFIRMATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Bylaws of the Academic Senate gives to the Policy Committee the responsibility of electing the Parliamentarian and submitting the choice to the full Senate for confirmation. Policy Committee elected Mary Sengstock. It was MOVED and SECONDED to CONFIRM Ms. Sengstock as the Parliamentarian for the 2008-2009 academic year. PASSED.

II. CONFIRMATION OF THE VICE CHAIR

The Bylaws gives to the Policy Committee the responsibility of electing the Vice Chair of the Senate and submitting the choice to the full Senate for confirmation. The Vice Chair presides over the Policy Committee and the Senate in the absence of the Chair and performs the duties of the Senate President when he or she is unable to serve. The Policy Committee elected William Volz to serve as the Vice Chair. It was MOVED and SECONDED to CONFIRM Mr. Volz as the Vice Chair for the 2008-2009 academic year. PASSED.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the Proceedings of the Academic Senate meeting of September 10, 2008. PASSED.

IV. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

A. Report and Announcements

Mr. Wolfson told the Senate that the Policy Committee met twice with President Noren. The first meeting was in August when they discussed the list of issues that the Policy Committee had sent to the President shortly before he assumed the presidency. The second meeting, which included the Chairs of the Senate committees, was on September 19. The report of that meeting is included in Appendix A. Mr. Wolfson mentioned that, at the September 19 meeting, the President was asked to increase the number of faculty who participate in various University committees to provide a greater sense of the academic side of the institution.

Mr. Wolfson said that the decrease in enrollment in the fall term could lead to budget cuts. The Senate Budget Committee is forming a subcommittee to consider options for handling the shortfall and to prepare a proposal to the Board of Governors on handling potential cuts.

B. Proceedings of the Policy Committee

The Academic Senate received the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meetings of August 18, 2008, September 8, 2008, September 15, 2008, September 19, 2008, and September 22, 2008. They are attached to these Proceedings as Appendix A.

September 15, 2008

Mr. DeGracia asked how the renewal of the contract for telephone services or how a change in the contract might be handled (item 3 of the Proceedings for September 15). Mr. Wolfson said that at a meeting with consultants hired by the Division of Computing and information Technology, he and Mr. Woodyard recommended that the University change to a cell phone system for faculty and administrators. The consulting firm is to submit its report in November.

Mr. Wolfson mentioned what had been learned at the September 15 Policy Committee, i.e., if the University purchased cell phones for employees, the Internal Revenue Service requires onerous record keeping where users have to identify which are business calls and which are personal calls. Senate members questioned the policy, noting that employees use desk phones for personal calls but no such accounting is required.

September 19, 2008

Referring to the discussion about the recruitment of faculty at the September 19 meeting, Mr. DeGracia suggested that, in addition to a new biomedical research building, better core facilities would attract research faculty. Provost Barrett said that the discussion had focused on the improvement of infrastructure to support research activity and to attract and retain faculty.

Mr. Wolfson expressed disappointment that President Noren has not responded to the concerns put forth by the Policy Committee or to the discussions that they and the committee Chairs had with him.

Provost Barrett noted that the President was getting input from many constituencies. He is committed to working with the Academic Senate and has made himself available to the Policy Committee and to the committee Chairs. It was the Provost's understanding that the President wanted to get a good understanding of the many needs facing the University. The President, she said, is also meeting with the faculty in the schools and colleges. Those discussions are within the context of the individual units.

Mr. Wolfson said the Policy Committee's next meeting with President Noren is in December. The Committee is developing a list of topics to discuss with the President. If there are issues that Senate members would like Policy

Committee to discuss with the President, please send them to Mr. Wolfson.

September 22, 2008

Mr. Furtado referred to item #2 in the Proceedings of September 22, where a member questioned whether students with low ACT scores could be expected to graduate. Mr. Furtado said one had to compare Wayne State's graduation rate with universities that admit students who have ACT scores in the same quartile. He said that Wayne State's graduation rate for African-American students is 12%, with African-American males having a graduation rate of 5%. Many other universities have better graduation rates for African-American students.

The Provost said that Associate Vice President Howard Shapiro would make a report about retention to the Board of Governors in December.

Other members commented. Ms. Vlasopolos repeated what she has said many times in the past. If the University admits students who need a great deal of support, it must provide the money needed to support them. Ms. Simon said that 93% of students admitted to Wayne State this fall who entered college for the first time had ACT scores that ranged from 8 or 9 to 35. However, WSU does not always receive the ACT scores of transfer students.

Mr. Woodyard noted that the Policy Committee recently looked at data used by *U.S. News and World Report* to predict the graduation rates of institutions. That publication ranks Wayne State in the lowest tier based on its graduation rate. Using information in the Education Trust database, Mr. Woodyard calculated the six-year graduation rate. Wayne State's graduation rate is 33%, but *U.S. News and World Report* predicts it should be 48%. One-third of Wayne's students do not take the ACT, and, according to the retention report, one-third of our students do not meet the admission requirements. Mr. Woodyard believes that the University must survey students and use scholarly methods to learn about them. The Policy Committee, he said, will look at the most recent survey of students who have not re-enrolled and from that develop a research-based survey.

Moving to another issue, Mr. Roth raised concerns about the academic integrity of the program offered through the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) (item #3). Congress funded the CAE for the purpose of recruiting minority

students into intelligence agencies. Most of the other institutions that have received a grant from the CAE do not have Wayne State's standing as a research university. Mr. Roth said that most of the faculty engaged in scholarship and teaching in the areas pertinent to national security studies do not want to be associated with the program. The Center's web site mentions competitions and skill sets, but does not list the courses needed. Students are told that a course outline will be provided after they are admitted to the program. With no list of courses, Mr. Roth said, faculty do not know if courses they teach are part of the program. If, however, the courses taught by the faculty who objected are not in the program, what kind of an academic program is it? To Mr. Roth's knowledge, no faculty body determined if the CAE was an academic program. It is housed in the College of Engineering, but the courses have little or nothing to do with Engineering. If the program had been brought to the Faculty Council of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, there would have been considerable debate. Mr. Roth asked that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the Student Affairs Committee take up the issue.

V. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE

A. New Media Carts for Classrooms

Sandra Yee, Dean of the Library System, thanked the Senate for inviting her to demonstrate the new carts. She thanked the Provost for the funding to purchase the carts.

Nardina Mein, Director of New Media and Information Technology in the Library System, explained that her office consulted with faculty, including the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee of the Academic Senate, about the features for the new carts. Forty-four of the new carts will be installed in classrooms in State Hall and eight will be installed in Manoogian Hall. Richard Dunbar, Manager of New Media and Information Technology, showed a prototype of the new carts. He explained the improved infrastructure in the buildings and security features. He and Ms. Mein responded to questions from Senate members. Ms. Mein said that the help desk for Instructional Media now has 24/7 coverage on the days when classes are in session. More IT staff are available and the people who answer the phones have had additional training. Ms. Mein said that her office is renewing efforts to keep the overhead

projectors in classrooms in good operating condition.

B. Degree Audit

Linda Falkiewicz, the University Registrar, said that most universities installed degree audit systems in the 1980s and 1990s. Wayne State did not because it did not have electronic course records. WSU has had electronic course records since 1998. The Banner system has the capability to handle degree audits. All current students' records are now in electronic format. In 2006 a task force was formed to look at how degree audit systems aid student retention. Ms. Falkiewicz believes the degree audit system has a role in retaining students. It is harder to achieve a goal if you cannot see the steps to the goal. The degree audit system shows the students the steps to complete their degrees. The degree audit tells students what requirements they have taken, the courses in which they are currently enrolled, and the requirements they must satisfy to complete the Bachelor's degree.

Gayle Reynolds, the Associate Registrar, demonstrated how students would access and use the degree audit system. One of the features allows students to check any academic program at Wayne State to find out what the requirements would be if they were to change majors. All Undergraduate Bulletins back to 2003 are in the system. The Degree Audit was opened to students in May and, without publicity, there is heavy usage.

Work continues on the system. Ms. Reynolds said the Registrar's Office will promote the Degree Audit in *The South End* and they will meet with the Student Council. The Registrar's Office is now working on substitutions and waiver requests, where advisors inform the Registrar that they want to use a particular course to fulfill a requirement that is not included in the audit. Ms. Reynolds will make a presentation to any department that requests one.

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Barrett reminded the Senate that the Homecoming football game is Saturday and she urged faculty and staff to attend. This year there will be a tailgate contest.

One hundred new faculty joined the University this fall. The Provost thanked the faculty for the time they spend on recruitment committees to bring in new colleagues.

The search for the Dean of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is progressing. The search committee is chaired by Dean of Nursing Barbara Redmond. The search for a permanent dean of the Graduate School is beginning.

Mr. Edwards mentioned that some departments have equipment they no longer use and that was purchased with general fund money. They may be able to sell it at a depreciated price. But if they do, the money is deposited in a central University account; the department receives none of the money. Departments will not take the initiative to sell such equipment because there is no incentive. Mr. Edwards asked if it was possible to change the policy. The Provost said that she would look into it.

Ms. Keashly asked about the freezing of faculty positions that were authorized last year. Provost Barrett explained that last year the University received more tuition revenue than it had budgeted. With that extra revenue, the administration authorized searches for twenty-five faculty. Some were for research clusters and some were for general education. The fall 2008 enrollment is lower than predicted and tuition revenue is \$4 million lower than expected. If this trend continues into the winter 2009 term, tuition revenue for the year could be down \$7 million or \$8 million.

The administration has to develop a plan to offset the revenue shortfall. Instead of asking units to cut positions and lay off people, the administration has

put a freeze on the positions that remain open. Most of the twenty-five positions were not filled and are now frozen. Some graduate assistant positions are frozen also and some new initiatives are on hold. The administration must develop a strategy to minimize the impact of the shortfall.

Ms. Field warned that there are likely to be other budgetary problems. The drop in the stock market will affect investments and many products are more expensive to purchase.

Provost Barrett said that there is limited capacity to cut expenditures in the Division of Academic Affairs because most of the budget is in faculty and academic personnel. Earlier in the meeting, Mr. DeGracia had asked how to increase research funding. The Provost said that one way was through the hiring of faculty. The University will continue to hire new faculty and to replace faculty who have retired or who have left the institution. The new faculty will bring in new ideas.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Seymour J. Wolfson
President, Academic Senate