

**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY – ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**Official Proceedings**

November 5, 2008

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Members Present: Nancy S. Barrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Char; Seymour J. Wolfson, President, Academic Senate; Joseph Artiss; Basim Asmar; Tyrone Austin; Ivan Avrutsky; Sarah Bassett; Veronica Bielat; Tamara Bray; Monica Brockmeyer; Kingsley Browne; Timothy Butler; Anthony Cacace; David Cinabro; Christopher Collins; Victoria Dallas; Donald DeGracia; Ravi Dhar; Marcus Dickson; Cheryl Dove; Brian Edwards; Karen Feathers; Judy Field; André Furtado; Patricia Jarosz; Barbara Jones; Loreleigh Keashly; Thomas Killion; Winston Koo; Jerry Ku; Gloria Kuhn; Lisa Maruca; James Moseley; Prahlad Parajuli; Charles Parrish; Frederic Pearson; Sean Peters; Aleksandar Popadic; Susil Putatunda; T. R. Reddy; Michele Ronnick; Brad Roth; Anthony Sacco; Vishwanath Sardesai; Mary Sengstock; Bo Shen; Naida Simon; Antoinette Somers; Lothar Spang; Harley Tse; Anca Vlasopolos; William Volz; JianJun Wang; Olivia Washington; Barrett Watten; Linda Weglicki; Judith Whittum-Hudson; Mary Width; Derek Wildman; James Woodyard; Russell Yamazaki; Earnestine Young

Members Absent with Notice: William Crossland; Doreen Head; Hans Hummer; Tej Mattoo; Michael McIntyre; Regina Parnell; Louis Romano; Assia Shisheva; Renee Van Stavern

Members Absent: Terrence Allen; Muhammad Amjad; Rick Cummins; Gina DeBlase; Poco Kernsmith; Elizabeth Puscheck; Daniel Rappolee; Linea Rydstedt; Arun Wakade; Antoinette Wozniak

Others Present: Johnnie Blunt, Academic Senate Office; Patrick Gossman, Deputy Chief Information Officer; Gloria Heppner, Associate Vice President for Research; Daren Hubbard, Computing and Information Technology; Joseph Sawasky, Chief Information Officer; Kelley Skillin, Office of the Provost; Angela Wisniewski, Academic Senate Office

CALL TO ORDER: This regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Provost Barrett at 1:35 p.m. The meeting was held in the Bernath Auditorium in the Undergraduate Library.

I. APPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

October 8, 2008

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the Proceedings of the Academic Senate meeting of October 8, 2008. Two corrections were made to the Proceedings and they were APPROVED as CORRECTED.

II. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

A. Report and Announcements

Mr. Wolfson announced that Timothy Bledsoe, Professor of Political Science, was elected to the State House of Representatives for the 2009-2011 term.

Paul Massaron was re-elected to the WSU Board of Governors and Gary Pollard was elected as a new member of the Board. Both will serve six-year terms beginning in January 2009.

The Policy Committee will meet with President Noren on November 19 to discuss proposals to bring the fiscal year 2009 budget in alignment. A decrease in the actual enrollment over what was predicted has resulted in a budget shortfall. The President and the Policy Committee also will meet on December 8 to discuss general issues facing the University.

B. Proceedings of the Policy Committee

The Academic Senate received the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meetings of September 29, 2008, October 6, 2008, October 13, 2008, and October 20, 2008. They are attached to these Proceedings as Appendix A.

October 6, 2008

Mr. DeGracia asked who initiated the visit of the National Council of University Research Administrators and the purpose of the visit (item #8). Ms. Whittum-Hudson, the liaison from Policy Committee to the Research Committee, mentioned the visit at the Policy Committee meeting and she was asked to respond. She said the Office of the Vice President for Research requested the review. A five-person panel spent 2-1/2 days on campus meeting with personnel in the Research Office, the Office of Sponsored Program Administration, faculty, and department administrators. The visitors will submit their report later in the fall.

III. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE

A. New E-mail Message System, Zimbra

Joseph Sawasky, the Associate Vice President for Computing and Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, explained why C&IT has been

exploring new messaging solutions for the campus. Last academic year C&IT surveyed the campus and learned that faculty, staff, and students were dissatisfied with the current e-mail system, Mirapoint Web Mail Solution. This was the only system mentioned in the survey with which all constituencies were dissatisfied. Many respondents said that Mirapoint did not have the capabilities needed by faculty and staff in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Users needed more disk space and they wanted a calendar feature. C&IT found between 30 and 50 other e-mail solutions operating at the University, which provided challenges for mail transport and other functions. C&IT was asked to investigate if the many e-mail systems might be consolidated and be made more seamless for users. People wanted more mobile connectivity. Survey respondents described the web interface as "clunky." Mirapoint has had financial problems, the University's contract will expire soon, and hardware needs to be replaced. This seemed like a good opportunity to investigate other e-mail packages that might be better for the University.

Mr. Sawasky charged a team to investigate different packaged e-mail solutions. He asked them to find an e-mail solution with good scheduling and calendar features that the whole campus could use and one that supported the University's Strategic Plan. With its Strategic Plan, C&IT tries to create an efficient utility-like infrastructure for the organization where doing so makes sense and to explore, evaluate, and implement the latest innovative technology. Mr. Sawasky asked the team to find the best solution for Wayne State.

Initially the team looked at Mirapoint to make sure that the observations about the application and the company were correct. They looked at the Microsoft Exchange platform, which is used by many corporations and some universities. They looked at Zimbra, which is their recommendation for the campus.

Some people asked why C&IT did not consider gmail or Microsoft E-mail Hosting, which are free e-mail solutions. Mr. Sawasky believes it is important to not put faculty and students at risk, particularly international faculty and students. There are risks associated with the free e-mail from Google and Microsoft, particularly in the area of privacy. In his research, Mr. Sawasky was amazed at how many times Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft had turned over evidence about the use of their host applications to foreign governments who asked to see the data.

An RFP process was initiated; the team explored solutions, and recommended Zimbra. Mr. Sawasky asked Daren Hubbard, Director of the Academic and Core Applications Group, to provide the Senate with an overview of the three products the team considered.

Mr. Hubbard said that, in its work, the team used the resources in C&IT and throughout the campus as much as possible. The team had assistance from the School of Medicine, the Information Systems Management Committee, the Academic Technology Advisory Committee, the Technology Leaders Council, the Tech Support Partners, the Administrative Conference, members of the Academic Senate and the Senate's Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee, and the Executive Information Technology Steering Committee. The people who provided assistance tested the servers and gave feedback on the products C&IT was analyzing.

Mr. Hubbard mentioned the benefits and deficiencies of the Mirapoint and Microsoft Exchange solutions. Zimbra was selected because it has an impressive set of features. The entire feature set is available from the Zimbra web browser interface or from the Microsoft Outlook client. The company realized that if it went into large organizations Microsoft Outlook would be present on many desktop computers so they molded their features to be compatible with that infrastructure. Zimbra works with a large variety of e-mail products. It has attractive features for managing multiple calendars. There is seamless integration with the University's current directory service. Zimbra has connectivity for the widest array of mobile devices that the team could find. At its core the facility allows individuals supporting the service to develop new and innovative feature sets to augment and supplement the feature sets inherent in the product. C&IT has worked on three applications that are unique to Wayne State.

C&IT recommended that the University partner with the MERIT Network in Michigan to provide the Zimbra solution. Wayne State gets its network connectivity from MERIT.

The major benefits of Zimbra: it matches Microsoft Outlook features and maintains Outlook client support. Many units on campus use Outlook and it will be easy for them to migrate to the new service. Everyone will be visible in the same directory and collaboration can occur between departments. Zimbra leverages our current infrastructure and our current staff resources. It moves WSU in an advanced web 2.0/3.0 service delivery. It

leverages our unique relationship with MERIT. WSU, along with Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, was a founder of MERT. It is the best organization with which the University could form a partnership. It is a great value for the powerful features it provides. Many universities are launching Zimbra services.

In summary, Mr. Hubbard said, all faculty, staff and students are supported. There are 10 gigabytes of storage for all faculty, staff, and students. Everyone will be able to use the calendar and mobile features. Disaster recovery is included in the agreement with MERIT. Disaster recovery provides an alternate location from which the University's mail will be activated should a problem arise with the connectivity with MERIT and the University's ability to provide mail service locally. WSU has updated its contract to provide detailed and strong ownership for all the data within the service. People can feel safe that their communications are protected. We will be able to support everyone on campus initially and then provide an easy way for other mail systems on campus to migrate into Zimbra. Through this system, the University has been able to acquire the IronPort spam filtering appliance, one of the highest rated devices in the marketplace. The infrastructure provided by MERIT will be hosted at WSU's data center. Initially, the agreement will be for three years with years four and five optional.

The contract was finalized in early October. Equipment installation and configuration is scheduled to begin by the end of November. Communications and training have begun. Pilot migration will begin in early 2009 with C&IT being the first unit to use the new system so it can deal with problems should any arise. The complete migration from Mirapoint to Zimbra is expected by July 2009.

In response to a question, Mr. Hubbard said that Zimbra is compatible with Macintosh products. Mr. Artiss asked if C&IT planned to consolidate all e-mail services across the University. Mr. Hubbard said C&IT would not require the independent message servers to migrate into Zimbra but they believe that Zimbra's features, the large storage capacity, the backup, and disaster recovery will be so attractive that everyone will move to the one mail and calendar service. C&IT has worked closely with the information technology personnel at the Medical School to include in Zimbra the features on their current server as well as new features. He does not foresee personnel at the Medical School having to change their current e-mail addresses.

Ms. Kuhn asked about the amount of storage, and Mr. Hubbard said Zimbra's storage capacity of 10 gigabytes was large enough so that users should not have to archive e-mail messages. In response to another question, he said the IronPort spam virus protection and filtering appliance allows individuals to inspect the messages that have been blocked and indicate if they want to receive them. With Zimbra the University has the ability to host subdomains. By googling Zimbra people can research what the system provides and the new features the company is developing.

Mr. Woodyard asked how the cost of Zimbra compared with that of Mirapoint. Mr. Sawasky said the price of both company's basic e-mail service is about equal at \$170,000 per year. C&IT has one full-time equivalent employee who manages the e-mail environment. The University is paying separately for the IronPort spam and virus filtering appliance because it is very important for the campus.

In response to a question about the extent of the use of Zimbra, Mr. Hubbard said that the system is used at Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, and Michigan Technological University. C&IT is working with the Campus Technology Leadership Council, which is comprised of the IT directors for the schools, colleges, and divisions, to plan dedicated migrations of faculty and staff to the new system. C&IT is developing a web site about the Zimbra web interface and the features available. People who now use Outlook will find no change in the way they use the e-mail system. For people who are not familiar with Outlook, plans are being made for training in coordination with the IT staff in the units.

Provost Barrett asked Mr. Sawasky to comment on the incident last week when the University received a bomb threat. A message was broadcast on the emergency broadcast system, but the system did not work as well as expected. Mr. Sawasky said that one hour elapsed from the time the bomb threat was received until the text message was developed. Another delay occurred when the Chief of Police sent the message. WSU's emergency message system integrates with a message aggregation company in Texas. That company notified the University that Verizon was experiencing trouble delivering text messages on a nation-wide basis. As a result of this experience, the University's crisis management team is trying to streamline the warning process and the timeliness of sending such messages.

## B. Budget Committee Update

Mr. Volz, the Chair of the Budget Committee, told the Senate that the Committee forwarded to the Policy Committee a list of priorities and targets to initiate a discussion on budget cuts during fiscal year 2009. Policy Committee approved the list and forwarded it to the Board of Governors and President Noren. The list was developed because of the shortfall in enrollments this fall. When preparing the Budget, the administration had estimated \$272 million in tuition and fee revenue this fiscal year. Tuition and fees are major sources of income for the University. The state allocation has remained essentially flat for a number of years and so provides a smaller portion of the revenues on which the University depends. Mr. Volz expects the state appropriation to remain flat at best and he thinks the state will cut the appropriation for this fiscal year. Tuition revenue will continue to be important in maintaining a fiscally-healthy university. Indirect cost recovery (ICR) funds are a smaller source of revenue but a place where growth may be possible.

The gist of the Budget Committee's communication to the Board was the importance of preserving the academic core of the University and the resources needed to provide the quality instructional and research programs that bring in the revenues.

The Budget Committee, Mr. Volz said, will push for ways to increase revenues at the University. If the University can find new revenues, it will have to make fewer cuts. Wayne State has aspirations of being a national research university; its general fund budget of \$535 million places it at the bottom of the national research university category. All areas of WSU are strapped for resources. The key in tough times is to insure that the right values are implemented.

The Budget and Policy Committees are opposed to across-the-board cuts. They believe the central value to keep in mind when considering budget cuts is that of not hurting the academic core of the University.

Wayne State's general fund budget is \$535 million. Of that \$272 million is from tuition and fees. The shortfall for the fiscal year is projected to be between \$7 and \$9 million, and, Mr. Volz emphasized, Governor Granholm soon may issue an executive order to cut the state appropriation.

In response to a question, Mr. Volz said the number of full-time undergraduate students has increased making up a larger percentage of the undergraduate

population. It appears that the drop in enrollment is among part-time students; they seem to be more sensitive to economic pressures. There is a group, he said, working to increase enrollment in the winter semester.

## IV. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Barrett followed with comments about the special joint meeting of the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee and Budget and Finance Committee on October 29. At that meeting representing the faculty and academic staff were Mr. Volz and Mr. Parrish, the faculty representative and faculty alternate representative respectively to the Board Budget and Finance Committee, and Ms. Vlasopolos, the faculty alternate representative to the Board Academic Affairs Committee.

The Provost explained that the enrollment shortfall is the decline from the enrollment figure that was predicted when the budget for fiscal year 2009 was approved in July. Enrollment for fall term 2008 was predicted to be slightly higher than the fall 2007 enrollment.

Contrary to some people's beliefs, she said, the University has been strategic about enrollment management. Increasing the number of full-time students and the number of students who live on campus as well as increasing the number of well-prepared students are part of that strategy. This year, 40 National Merit Scholars are attending Wayne State. The Honors College has grown. The Wayne Scholars program was created. About 70% of the students who attend the Wayne Scholars program come to WSU. Some scholarship money that had gone to support transfer students from community colleges and upper division undergraduate students, without their needing to meet specific criteria, was diverted to support the new programs. The responsibility for awarding scholarship money was moved from the Office of Student Financial Aid to a committee with representation from Deans and faculty. This year the two freshmen residence halls are full. Seventy percent of the students are full-time.

Two thirds of the drop in enrollment was among part-time students. They are more susceptible to economic fluctuations. The number of part-time Masters students has dropped also. The number of doctoral students has increased over the last five years.

During registration, enrollments are tracked weekly. Until the middle of August, enrollments were on target, but dropped off at that point.

During fiscal year 2008, the administration underestimated tuition revenues and the University took in about \$4 million more than was anticipated. The Senate Budget Committee recommended that the extra money be spent on new faculty lines, and 26 new lines were created. None of them have been filled. Because revenue is down this year, those lines have to be frozen.

The Provost continued. The number of students attending college for the first time this fall is about the same as the number in fall 2006. Enrollment in fall 2007 was an anomaly.

The tuition income from the enrollment increase in fall 2007 should not have been budgeted permanently. Fluctuations in tuition are to be expected. There is a perception that smaller less-distinguished universities in the state are out competing Wayne State. They are offering programs in the metropolitan Detroit area with catchy contemporary titles that seem trendy. Wayne State needs to do a better job of marketing its programs. To counter the drop in enrollment, the University is increasing its recruiting of community college students. Two hundred students at Wayne County Community College are enrolled in the WayneDirect program. Thirty-one WCCC students in the program transferred to WSU in fall 2007 and 32 transferred this fall.

The drop in enrollments for the fall term and the projected drop in the winter term create an \$8 million budget gap. If the state were to cut its appropriation by 2% that would amount to another \$4 million. Given the possibility of cuts from the state, it was stated at the Board meeting that the cuts to the University budget should be permanent. The administration is looking at items that might be cut.

The Policy Committee sent to the Board a list of targets to cut the budget by \$9 million. President Noren will meet with the Policy Committee about the administration's list of cuts. No one, the Provost said, wants across-the-board cuts and everyone acknowledged it would be best not to take money from academics. However, the academic side of the University is 85% of the budget and it is hard to make budget cuts without including academics. The new faculty positions funded last year have been frozen.

Mr. Furtado believes that a key component in recruiting is relationships. He suggested that people who recruit students maintain connections with high school and community college counselors.

The Provost said that summer programs for middle and high school students have made them aware of the opportunities at Wayne State. She also mentioned

that President Noren is interested in making investments that relate to the city environment in research, outreach, and curriculum development. He is interested in working more closely with K-12 schools. He believes Wayne State should be more involved in the community and be part of the solutions for the city.

Asked about the use of the Rainy Day Fund, the Provost said that some of that money may be used if the state reduces this year's appropriation and the University is unable to find enough money through cuts.

Some members looked for signs that WSU might gain an advantage in hard economic times. One member suggested that students who attend other universities may no longer be able to live away home and would then attend WSU. The University might initiate a campaign to attract those students.

It was Mr. Wolfson's understanding that many students are attending community colleges because the tuition is not as expensive as Wayne State's tuition. This reduces the enrollment for one or two years, but they might come to Wayne State when they want to complete their Bachelor's degrees.

Ms. Field said that the University does a poor job of promoting itself. Information about the Honors College and the National Merit Scholars is not widely known on campus much less in the public media. Wayne State has reshaped itself and that information should be publicized.

Mr. Parrish predicted that Wayne State would face hard times in the future. He is pleased that President Noren is meeting with the Policy Committee on November 19. However, it did not appear to him that the seriousness of the situation was recognized at the level of the President's Cabinet. A significant amount of money has been set aside for new presidential initiatives. Mr. Parrish is in favor of new initiatives but he also believes cuts need to be made that show a commitment to dealing with the fiscal problems.

The Provost said that the President feels strongly that the University must continue to invest in priority programs in order to continue growing and to maintain morale.

Ms. Sengstock reported a problem students are experiencing when registering for the winter term. Although registration just began, students are receiving messages that the class is closed or there is a restriction on registration and they need permission from the department. Looking at the class lists, Ms. Sengstock sees that there are only five students

registered for a class with a limit of 40. Mr. Pearson reported a similar problem. The Provost asked that such problems be forwarded to her so she can see that they are corrected.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Seymour J. Wolfson  
President, Academic Senate