

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY- ACADEMIC SENATE

Official Proceedings

December 10, 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; Ivan Avrutsky; Sarah Bassett; Veronica Bielat; Tamara Bray; Monica Brockmeyer; Kingsley Browne; Anthony Cacace; David Cinabro; William Crossland; Victoria Dallas; Gina DeBlase; Donald DeGracia; Cheryl Dove; Brian Edwards; Karen Feathers; Judy Field; Patricia Jarosz; Barbara Jones; Loreleigh Keashly; Poco Kernsmith; Thomas Killion; Winston Koo; Jerry Ku; Lisa Maruca; Tej Mattoo; Michael McIntyre; James Moseley; Prahlad Parajuli; Regina Parnell; Charles Parrish; Frederic Pearson; Sean Peters; Elizabeth Puscheck; Daniel Rappolee; T. R. Reddy; Louis Romano; Michele Ronnick; Brad Roth; Linea Rydstedt; Anthony Sacco; Vishwanath Sardesai; Nabil Sarhan; Mary Sengstock; Bo Shen; Naida Simon; Lothar Spang; Renee Van Stavern; Anca Vlasopolos; William Volz; Olivia Washington; Barrett Watten; Judith Whittum-Hudson; Derek Wildman; James Woodyard; Russell Yamazaki; Earnestine Young

Members Absent with Notice: Tyrone Austin; Timothy Butler; Ravi Dhar; Andre Furtado; Doreen Head; Assia Shisheva; Antoinette Somers; Jianjun Wang; Linda Weglicki; Mary Width

Members Absent: Basim Asmar; Christopher Collins; Rick Cummins; Marcus Dickson; Hans Hummer; Gloria Kuhn; Aleksandar Popadic; Susil Putatunda; Harley Tse; Arun Wakade; Antoinette Wozniak

Others Present: Florence Affatato, Office of the Vice President for Research; James Barbret, Associate Vice President, Sponsored Program Administration; Johnnie Blunt, Academic Senate Office; Marcy Cousin, Sponsored Program Administration; Joseph Dunbar, Associate Vice President for Research; Gloria Heppner, Associate Vice President for Research; Alan Jacobson, Office of Budget, Planning and Analysis; Hilary Ratner, Vice President for Research; 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

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the Proceedings of the Academic Senate meeting of November 5, 2008. PASSED.

II. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

A. Report and Announcements

Mr. Wolfson informed the Senate that the Policy Committee met with President Noren on December 8. They discussed several issues, including the budget. The President will meet with the Policy Committee again on January 12.

The Senate Budget Committee and the Policy Committee made suggestions to the administration on how to cut \$8 million from the current year's budget to make up the revenue not realized because of the enrollment decrease in the fall term and the decrease projected for the winter term. President Noren responded to the suggestions in a memorandum dated December 1, 2008, that approximately \$4 million would be cut from the administrative side and \$4 million cut from the academic side of the University. Mr. Wolfson sent the correspondence to all members of the faculty and academic staff.

The Policy Committee had asked that faculty be more involved in decisions at the Cabinet level. In response, President Noren has invited the President of the Senate and the Vice Chair of the Senate to attend one Cabinet meeting a month.

Mr. Wolfson told the Senate that the administration revised the academic calendar for the 2009-2010 academic year so that classes would begin Monday, August 31, the week before Labor Day. If classes began September 8, the day after Labor Day, the last day of final examinations would fall on December 24. Policy Committee was concerned about the effect on students and faculty and asked Mr. Woodyard to look into the issue.

Mr. Woodyard spoke briefly to the Senate and sought initial feedback. In looking at the calendar on the University web site, Mr. Woodyard found that a similar schedule, starting classes on the Monday of the last week in August, was posted for the 2010-2011 academic year as well. In fall 2010 classes are scheduled to begin August 30 and finals would end on December 16. If classes that year were to begin September 7, finals would end on December 23.

Both the Policy Committee and the Elections Committee thought the Senate should find out what schedule was better for students. The Elections Committee will survey students and faculty to get

their opinions about the changes. Mr. Woodyard mentioned concerns that were raised by the Committees and took comments from the floor. Michigan has a law prohibiting public K-12 schools from holding classes before Labor Day. The University's starting classes before Labor Day might be an inconvenience for families. It may be important for students who work in the summer to work that additional week in August.

A Senate member mentioned that the change would mean a shorter break between terms for faculty who teach during the summer. Another member pointed out that the I-Start orientation program was held the last week in August and attendance was good. Another member said that the date when academic year appointments for faculty who have nine-months contracts must be included in the considerations. Along those lines, a member noted that his department has a two-week orientation for graduate students and accommodations would have to be made for such programs.

The Elections Committee will conduct the survey.

B. Proceedings of the Policy Committee

The Academic Senate received the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meetings of October 27, 2008, November 3, 2008, November 10, 2008, November 19, 2008, and November 24, 2008 (Appendix A). A correction was made in the Proceedings of October 27; the Faculty Affairs Committee, in addition to the Student Affairs Committee and the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, was charged with looking into the questions raised about the Center for Academic Excellence.

III. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE

A. Future Research Directions

Vice President for Research Hilary Ratner thanked the Senate for the opportunity to share the good news about the research enterprise. She stated that the overall goals for research are to increase and diversify funding and to increase the University's research ranking. A key role of the Division of Research is to provide support for the faculty's work. The Research Office also looks for and creates opportunities to add to faculty activities.

Vice President Ratner said that Wayne State's National Science Foundation ranking has increased two places after four years of decline, going from 52 to 50, restoring WSU as a top 50 public research university. Rankings increased for Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Medical Sciences,

Physics, and Psychology. Total research expenditures increased about \$15 million, a 6.5% increase.

Vice President Ratner compared the total number of awards and the number of federal awards for the past several years. She also showed the number of awards received by several colleges. The Vice President said that another important indicator of where the University is and where it is going are the number of proposals submitted. There was a 1.7% increase in the total number of proposals in 2008 over 2007. Indirect cost recovery was 4.2% greater in 2008 than in 2007 and Vice President Ratner predicted that 2009 would be comparable to 2008. The administration negotiated a new rate for Facilities and Administrative Costs, which increased from 50.5 to 52%.

The Vice President mentioned initiatives that her office will pursue over the next several years: faculty resources, professional and academic development seminar series, grant writing seminars, pre-submission review of proposals, expanded internal funding programs, and expanded communication, both internally and externally.

The Division of Research creates opportunities through program development, bringing faculty together across the University. It participates in the recruitment, hiring, and retention of faculty. The Division has worked with Facilities, Planning and Management and with Purchasing to more quickly set up laboratories for new faculty.

Another area of initiatives involves improvements to the infrastructure. Representatives from the National Council of University Research Administrators visited campus, and made a number of recommendations. Some are consistent with improvements that already are underway. When the final report is available, Vice President Ratner will provide it in its entirety.

At this point, James Barbret, Associate Vice President, Sponsored Program Administration, demonstrated new software programs, COEUS, an on-line proposal development tool, and Researchers Dashboard, which helps researchers to manage grants.

Vice President Ratner mentioned other infrastructure initiatives on which the Research Office is working. The Office of Sponsored Program Administration is being reorganized to provide a dedicated contract office so faculty would have one-stop shopping. An administrative needs

assessment will be done. There is confusion about the roles and responsibilities for administrative personnel. The Vice President thinks this is due to variability across units.

The Research Office will expand its efforts in program development and translational and urban research, which is consistent with the President's vision for the University. The Office wants to enhance faculty resources and support, continue advocating for faculty recruitment and retention, expand efforts to strengthen expenditure reporting so the University receives credit for the resources it dedicates to research, and further improve the research infrastructure to improve the faculty work environment.

A copy of the Vice President's PowerPoint presentation is attached to these Proceedings as Appendix B. Vice President Ratner took questions from the floor.

Mr. McIntyre did not believe the reports prepared by the Research Office for the Board of Governors gave an accurate picture of research at Wayne State. The reports combined federally funded research with contract research, but the two are very different. The University receives funding for infrastructure with the indirect cost return money from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Contract research does not provide that type of support nor does it enhance the University's reputation as federally-funded research does.

Research at the University is declining and combining the two categories gives the impression that research is increasing. Mr. McIntyre believes that the Academic Senate has the responsibility to point out the differences between the research categories and that the current reporting practices are misleading. Two years ago, the Budget Committee, which he chaired, wrote a detailed report how the Research Office might provide a more informative report by categorizing the types of funded research.

Vice President Ratner disagreed with Mr. McIntyre's view of contract research. Local and state governments and industry fund contract research. The University has an opportunity to increase such research as industries eliminate their own research and development operations. She also disagreed that federally-funded research was declining and stated that the number of federal grants was increasing. She maintained that all types of research enhance the reputation of the University and support faculty activities. Contract

research enhances the University's reputation within the state. In fact, the state is looking to universities to play a role in economic development. The Vice President said that the quarterly grants and contracts reports provide information about the sources of funding.

Mr. Parrish supported Mr. McIntyre's comments. He believed the most prestigious funding should be identified. For a long time, he said, the reports made to the Board of Governors have combined the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and contract research. The academic reputation of a university depends upon funding from NIH and NSF, not from contract research for local entities. Contract work is good service, but it does not build the academic enterprise.

While Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Parrish maintained that the reports given to the Board of Governors did not separate the research into categories, the Vice President and Mr. Barbaret stated that they did. Mr. Barbaret said there are two dimensions to the reports. One is a functional dimension identifying research, instructional, and clinical trial activities. The other is by primary source, such as federal, state, and local governments and colleges and universities. The annual report breaks down the research by funding agency. Mr. Barbaret said that he would send the report to the Senate President.

Mr. Yamazaki pointed out that according to NIH reports, which summarize the total research grants by institution, i.e., the RO1 grants and training grants, Wayne State had 234 grants in 2005, 215 in 2006, and 199 in 2007. However, Mr. Barbaret said that NIH would no longer report the figures because of inaccuracies in the reporting.

Vice President Ratner said that the NSF ranking, which is the primary ranking, includes five sources: federal, state and local, industry, institutional, and other, which are primarily gifts. With respect to the University's ranking and reputation, all sources are important.

She thanked the Senate for the opportunity to discuss the research enterprise. In order to continue to raise the University's research ranking, collaboration and good partnerships are necessary.

B. Research Compliance

Florence Affatato, Export Control Officer in the Division of Research, said that since September 11, 2001, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of

State have been looking closely at exports. The Department of Commerce restricts dual-use items, i.e., items that are made for commercial use but also have a military application. The Department of State restricts items designed for military applications, and the Department of the Treasury affects how people travel and to what countries they can travel. The Departments become involved when a researcher introduces a foreign national into research work, when a student works in a laboratory, and when a researcher collaborates with a foreign national or travels to certain countries. Ms. Affatato's goal is to assist researchers in their work. There are laws that have to be followed when exporting products or information and when traveling. Questions arise about the kinds of access international students have when working in laboratories with certain items. Ms. Affatato assists the researcher so the foreign national can contribute to the project without violating the law and without demeaning or insulting the student.

There are several ways to export information. Products may be shipped in containers, the researcher may talk with someone in another country, and information may be sent over the Internet. Ms. Affatato urged faculty to notify her or Mr. Barbret if they are doing research that involves controlled material so they can be of assistance in complying with the law. There is a licensing process if a researcher has to share information with a foreign national.

Ms. Affatato pointed out that fundamental research is excluded from the laws governing export of materials, and information in the public domain is not covered by the law.

The Department of the Treasury prohibits U.S. citizens from traveling to certain countries. The U.S. observes and respects U.N. sanctions and the U.S. will not deal with countries cited for human rights violations and those that support terrorism. Ms. Affatato warned faculty to take a "clean" computer when they travel overseas. U.S. Customs and border patrol agents have the right to search everything, including laptop computers.

Ms. Affatato holds workshops on the export of information in the Professional and Academic Development Seminar Series run by the Division of Research and she is available to offer workshops at other times also.

IV. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Barrett announced that in December the Board of Governors approved the establishment of the School of Library and Information Sciences. The

program has 650 students enrolled and graduates about 250 students each year.

The Provost updated the Senate on the search for the Dean of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

She complimented Mr. Wolfson on his handling of the negotiations to reduce the current year's budget. Changes were made as a result of the suggestions of the Policy Committee and the Senate.

Mr. DeGracia asked the Provost to comment on the recent bomb threats. The Provost said that WSU's Department of Public Safety, the Detroit Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been involved in the investigation of the threats. The FBI and the police recommend that buildings be closed down when such threats are received. Provost Barrett believes it is better to err on the side of caution. Classes have been moved to other buildings. The instructor and the students are notified of the change through the e-mail system, signs are posted, and personnel re-direct people to the new location. Although a Senate member expressed concern about what would happen with large classes if a bomb threat was received during final examinations, the Provost was confident that alternative space would be available. Ms. Bielat suggested that the University publicize the fact that classes are not canceled when bomb threats are received and that students are responsible for the course work when it is due.

Ms. Van Stavern asked for an update about the negotiations between the University and the Detroit Medical Center. The Provost said that a committee is working on the issue of salary reimbursement for WSU physicians who provide service for indigent care at the DMC hospitals. The DMC had claimed that the WSU physicians' reimbursement was above market value. A consultant concluded that they were being paid less than the market rate. Both parties have agreed upon a list of expert consultants to advise on how to handle the residency programs.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Seymour J. Wolfson
President, Academic Senate