Members Present: Margaret E. Winters, Interim Provost, Chair; Louis J. Romano, President, Academic Senate; Joseph Artiss; Ivan Avrutsky; Michael Barnes; Linda Beale; Paul Beavers; Jennifer Beebe-Dimmer; Frances Brockington; David Cinabro; Victoria Dallas; Nabanita Datta; Heather Dillaway; Cheryl Dove; Karen Feathers; Maria Ferreira; Jane Fitzgibbon; Moira Fracassa; Andrew Fribley; Judith Fry-McComish; Nancy George; Ewa Golebiowska; Ellen Holmes; Avril Genevee Holt; Renee hoogland; Michael Horn; Zhengqing Hu; David Kessel; Willane Krell; Kafi Kumasi; Liza Lagman-Sperl; Lawrence Lemke; Rodger MacArthur; Brian Madigan; Kypros Markou; Fayetta Martin; Jason Mateika; Howard Matthew; Boris Mordukhovich; Bryan Morrow; James Moseley; Patrick Mueller; Joshua Neds-Fox; Victoria Pardo; Charles Parrish; Philip Pellett; Alexey Petrov; Jeffrey Potoff; T. R. Reddy; Robert Reynolds; Marsha Richmond; Michele Ronnick; Brad Roth; Linea Rydstedt; Heather Sandlin; Andrea Sankar; Mary Segestock; Naida Simon; William Slater; Richard Smith; Ronald Thomas; Ellen Tisdale; Harley Tse; Ricardo Villarosa; William Volz; Deborah Walker; Jianjun Wang; Jeffrey Withey; James Woodyard; King-Hay Yang

Members Absent with Notice: Donald Degracia; Jeffrey Grynaviski; Maik Huttemann; Stephen Lerner; Thomas Simpson; Beena Sood

Members Absent: Poonam Arya; Randall Commissaris; Richard Marback; Elizabeth Puscheck; Lobelia Samavati; Tamara Watt; Derek Wildman

Others Present: Tyrone Austin, University Advising Center; Geraldine Brown, TRIO; Althanie Gardner, TRIO; Gloria Heppner, Associate Vice President for Research; Barbara Jones, Student Financial Aid; Tahrim Khanom, Academic Senate Office; Ambika Mathur, Interim Dean, Graduate School; M. Roy Wilson, President; Angela Wisniewski, Academic Senate Office

CALL TO ORDER: This first meeting of the 2013-2014 academic year was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Interim Provost Margaret E. Winters. The meeting was held in the Bernath Auditorium in the Undergraduate Library.

I. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Romano welcomed the members and introduced the newly elected member of the faculty and academic staff.

II. ELECTION OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Simon, a member of the Elections Committee, conducted the election. She replaced Mr. Woodyard, the Chair of the Committee, because he is seeking re-election to the Policy Committee. Five members had to be elected: one to a three-year term and four to one-year terms. Nominated prior to the meeting were: Victoria Dallas, Communication, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; David Kessel, Pharmacology, Medicine; William Volz, Accounting, Business Administration; James Woodyard, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering.

Ms. Simon called for additional nominations. Joseph Artiss, Pathology, Medicine, was nominated and accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, it was MOVED and SECONDED to CLOSE NOMINATIONS. PASSED. The candidates identified themselves and stated their reasons for seeking election. The members cast their ballots. With five positions to be filled and five nominees, the members only needed to cast a vote for one person to determine who would fill the three-year position. Mr. Artiss was elected to the three-year term.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

May 8, 2013

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the Proceedings of the Academic Senate meeting of May 8, 2013. PASSED.

IV. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

A. Report and Announcement

Mr. Romano reported that he met with the new President M. Roy Wilson. President Wilson had read the White Paper the Policy Committee prepared. He said that he would discuss it with his executive committee.

The University was awarded a BEST (Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training) Grant from the National Institutes of Health. Only 10 of about 110 institutions with medical schools that applied were funded. With this grant, Wayne State will be able to develop the infrastructure to ensure that graduate students and post-doctoral students have the opportunity to pursue diverse career opportunities. The Senate congratulated Interim Dean of the Graduate School Ambika Mathur for her work in securing the grant.
Michael McIntyre was a unique character. He was an idealist, yet when the world did not live up to his ideals, he was disappointed but not cynical. His idealism was tempered by worldly experience. When the world did not meet his expectations he usually decided to do what he could to make it do better.

As a Peace Corps teacher in rural India he encountered the pieces of a windmill that had been ordered but never built. He examined the situation and catalogued the parts that were there in a warehouse. The parts were there, but the plans to be followed were lost somewhere. He found the name of the windmill maker and wrote to them asking them to send a copy of the plans. They did and he and a couple of his colleagues who were not mechanically inclined struggled for some weeks to put the thing together. It was not their charge as Peace Corps volunteers: they were only asked to teach English. Eventually they did build it; they found someone who for very little drilled a well. They erected the windmill and their village had a source of water that they had never had before. Until the advent of the windmill, the women and girls of the village had to trudge miles each day to bring water.

Mike went on to many accomplishments in his career, but he was as proud of that windmill as he was of any of his academic accomplishments.

Mike was a good friend. An excellent, witty companion; and a wise, prudent and trusted advisor. I got to know him through his work in the Senate and, later, his activities in the Union. He was an excellent Chief Negotiator. He and Li Way Lee, who represented the Administration, worked together so well that it cost Li Way his place in the Provost’s Office. But, he landed in the Chair’s chair in Economics, where he had a long run.

I was fortunate to have had Mike as a good friend. He had a diverse set of friends. He had no ideological litmus test for friendship. He and I shared most political values, but another close friend was his colleague, Kingsley Browne, a strong conservative. They car pooled from Ann Arbor. Kingsley spoke to the attendees at Mike’s memorial Mass with the warmth of a true friend, as did the others who spoke. He has gotten tributes from all quarters. Gene DiRker, a Board member whom Mike had crossed swords with many times, stated that “No one knew more about the Wayne State budget than Mike.”

The last Sunday afternoon, I was lucky enough to visit Mike and his family. We spent several hours laughing and talking. He was in very good spirits despite being very weak. Among the many topics we dealt with were socks. He bragged about the Tommy Bahama socks he was wearing and what a good deal he had gotten at Cosco in buying them. He sent his son Devin up stairs to get a pair to give to me. He insisted that I take off my shoes and put them on to see what good socks they were. Naturally, I did. I am wearing them today, as is Lou Romano, another friend.

On Monday I called and Devin told me that his father had had a bad night. The Hospice nurse had been called in the middle of the night. She came and gave him antibiotics and oxygen. He said that he would tell Mike that I called. Tuesday morning, May Ping called to tell me that Mike had died during the night.

It was the end of a long fight, seven years since the first diagnosis. He deeply admired his doctor, a member of our faculty at Karmanos, Dr. Elizabeth Heath, for her tireless and effective role as the field general in that fight. Metastatic prostate cancer is aggressive and rapacious, but she and he fought it hard. Few patients with this disease get as much time as she gave to him and to us. Only a week before he had worked with Lou Romano on a budget issue.

Mike left his world, whether it was a village in India, the Law School, the Senate, the Union, his friends, his family, in a better place. You can ask no more of any person. He is missed.

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE Mr. Parrish’s tribute and to send it to Mike’s family. PASSED.

B. Proceedings of the Policy Committee

The Academic Senate received the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meetings of April 29, May 6, May 20, June 3, June 17, June 24, July 8, and July 29. The Policy Committee Proceedings are attached to these Senate Proceedings as Appendix A.

V. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE

A. Proposed Amendment to Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws

Mr. Romano introduced the amendment. At times, he said, the Elections Committee has had difficulty
VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Interim Provost Winters welcomed the Senate members as the new academic year began. She thanked the Senate for the attention it gives to the running of the University.

She reported that enrollment is down for the fall semester. The University had budgeted a drop in the head count of 2.5%; head count is down about 4%. The number of credit hours has increased but the expected revenue from tuition is still lower than what was budgeted.

Dr. Winters has initiated four searches for Deans: Nursing, Law, Business Administration, and the Graduate School. External searches will be conducted for Nursing, Law, and Business Administration. An internal search will be conducted for the Graduate School. Nancy Artinian was appointed Acting Dean of Nursing. Dr. Winters is consulting with the faculty in the College about the appointment of an Interim Dean.

Dr. Winters expressed the hope that the faculty and academic staff would have a good academic year that is fulfilling in many ways. She wished a Happy New Year to those who are celebrating the New Year. She looks forwarding to working with the Senate members.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

President Wilson mentioned that he had received the White Paper from the Policy Committee. He asked the Deans for their views on the paper. The President agrees with the general tenure of the White Paper in terms of the importance of academics vis-à-vis the administration and how academics should drive the discussion.

The President is concerned about the process used to develop the budget. He will meet with the group that was involved when the Huron Consulting Group developed its recommendation to change the budget process and why the decision was made to continue with the current process. The President will ensure that faculty are involved in the decision whether that decision is to change the process or to continue with the current process.

President Wilson met with members of Michigan’s Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. He addressed several issues with the senators and representatives. First was the importance of research and the impact that the sequestration has on the University. The sequestration affects financial aid for the students who need it the most. The second issue was President Obama’s College Affordability Plan that ties financial aid to performance measures of universities. The performance measures will determine which institutions provide the best value. Universities like Wayne State have to be part of the discussion when the measures are being developed. If the measures do not take into consideration the challenges institutions like Wayne State have, we will be adversely affected.

The third issue President Wilson discussed with the legislators was the importance of public safety. Recently The Chronicle of Higher Education had a positive article about Wayne State’s investment in public safety. It showed how the University is investing in Detroit by ensuring that the Midtown area is safe largely because of WSU’s Public Safety officers.
President Wilson thinks the federal government will help Detroit, not with a direct bailout, but indirectly with federal funds.

President Wilson thinks the University has to be more student centered. Institutional culture can change. The President wants the University to make decisions that really help students with difficulties. Every student, he said, that drops out is a failure on the University’s part. It is a shared responsibility and we have to make sure that every student has a reasonable chance to graduate.

President Wilson’s vision is that Wayne State be the preeminent public university in the United States. A reporter at Crain’s Detroit asked the President about the University’s position among the three research universities in Michigan. Wayne State, the President told the reporter, does not aspire to be the University of Michigan that only admits students who have ACT scores of 30 and above. Wayne State has a proud and rich history of being inclusive, teaching people of all socio-economic backgrounds. Wayne State can be outstanding in research and at the same time serve students well.

This ended President Wilson’s remarks.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis J. Romano
President, Academic Senate