

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 1, 2019

Present: L. Beale; P. Beavers; V. Dallas; r. hoogland; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; B. Roth; N. Simon; W. Volz; K. Whitfield

Guests: Stuart Baum, President, Student Senate; Daryl Pierson, Chief Sustainability Officer, Facilities Planning and Management; David Strauss, Dean of Students and Advisor to the Student Senate

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of April 1, 2019.

*1. Recycling: The Student Senate sent to the Academic Senate a resolution supporting increasing the efficiency of recycling on campus. Mr. Baum was invited to discuss the resolution and Mr. Pierson was invited to provide information about the recycling efforts and feasibility plans. Provost Whitfield noted that recycling involves the entire university; faculty and staff should be involved in the effort. The resolution will be presented to the Board of Governors. Mr. Baum said that the Student Senate has promoted recycling for a long time. It endorsed the sustainability strategic plan when it was promulgated. They feel the university has fallen short of its goals and much more could be done. One recommendation is labeling the recycling bins to clearly state what is recyclable. Another is to increase the number of recycling bins. Mr. Pierson said that the office of Facilities Planning and Management is assessing the number of recycling bins in each building, the types needed, and the strategic placement of the bins. They expect the assessment to be completed by December. The bins currently used were purchased in 2008 for a source-recycling program. FP&M will more closely pair recycling bins with the waste receptacles. Research shows that if people see a recycling container near a waste container they are more likely to recycle. Facilities is also considering purchasing additional containers. As part of the university's contract with Detroit Recycling a consultant is assisting in assessing our needs. Mr. Pierson said that Facilities is supportive of the initiative and is in line with the sustainability plan that was developed.

Ms. Beale asked why faculty do not have individual recycling bins for paper in their offices. Mr. Pierson said that it's necessary for the campus community to take their recycling to a central location because Facilities doesn't have enough custodians for a full-scale recycling program. Custodians service classrooms.

Mr. Pierson said that the recycling industry has to make adjustments because China is no longer accepting a lot of recyclables from the U.S. Wayne State has not had that experience. Detroit Disposal continues to send the materials to the manufacturer that processes them, but Facilities is watching the situation in case it changes suddenly. Facilities understands the importance of having recycling containers next to trash containers and having containers in high traffic areas like the Student Center Building and the residence halls. FP&M is in conversation with Corvias to integrate an effective recycling program in the residence halls.

Mr. Baum said that the Student Senate views the resolution as another step in the university's sustainability efforts. The rooms with the recycling containers in the Anthony Wayne

Apartments were not operational until recently. The Residence Hall Association, the student government association for the residences, has purchased single-use recycling bins for the dorms and Ghafari Hall.

Mr. Pierson said that the Sustainability Office is in the process of labeling containers to let people know what can be recycled. They trained the custodial supervisors to inform their staffs how to handle recyclables. Asked about the size of his office, Mr. Pierson said that he has two student assistants. His budget is within FP&M. He works with the various areas within the division to support their overall goals.

It was moved and seconded and passed unanimously that Policy Committee support the Student Senate's resolution. Ms. Beale will officially notify the Student Senate, Provost Whitfield, and Mr. Pierson of the Policy Committee's action.

Mr. Pierson offered to return to the committee in the fall to update them on his office's progress. Mr. Baum thanked the committee for its support. He believes that a recommendation from both the Academic Senate and the Student Senate sends a powerful message.

- *2. Gender-Exclusive Restrooms: Over the past several years the issue of having gender-neutral restrooms on campus has been brought to the attention of the Student Senate. That body approved a resolution asking that the Board of Governors amend section 2.87.02.255 of the statutes. It currently states that it is "unlawful for any person to go into a public restroom unless that person is of the sex designated for admittance." The Student Senate proposed that the phrase "is of the sex designated for admittance" be amended to read "has the gender identity designated for admittance." Mr. Baum that the university values diversity and inclusion and has a population of transgender and non-gender conforming students. The Student Senate's goal is to have one restroom designated as gender-neutral in the buildings that have a lot of traffic.

Policy Committee members did not think the change went far enough and thought the statute should be deleted in its entirety. The Student Senate thought a simple amendment would be more successful than repeal of the statute. Policy Committee supports the goal of the Student Senate in spirit but believes that it is appropriate that the Board of Governors eliminate the statute entirely. Mr. Baum said that the Student Senate would revisit their resolution based on the discussion with the Policy Committee and Mr. Pierson. Policy Committee sent a memo to the Student Senate and copies to the President and the Provost notifying them of their action. [After the meeting, Mr. Baum found an earlier action by the Board of Governors to delete the statute that had not been acted upon by the Board Secretary. The Student Senate therefore sent a revised resolution calling for the statute's removal from the records, supported by the Policy support for repeal of the statute.]

[Mr. Pierson left the meeting.]

3. Funding for the Psychology Clinic: The Student Senate adopted a proposal allocating funding from the Student Senate's allocation of funds to the Psychology Clinic for a one-year pilot program that would pay the cost of students who use the services of the clinic. Mr. Baum explained the reasons for the proposal. In the last two years, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) increased its staff and partnered with the Department of Psychology and the College of Education Counseling and Testing Center to reduce the wait list of students seeking

counseling services from eight weeks to two weeks. The Psychology Clinic provides services to students who have more severe mental health issues. The clinic staff members assess and diagnose students. Services at CAPS and the COE are free to students but the Psychology Clinic charges a fee that is already much lower than typical costs for such services. The Student Senate proposed funding a pilot program for the 2019-2020 to provide \$5,500 to the Clinic to offset its services. The students wanted to show that additional funding for counseling services is needed. The proposal called for an assessment of the program once during the 2019-2020 academic year and at the end of the academic year. Policy Committee discussed whether the amount would be sufficient and the likelihood that demand for services at the clinic would increase when they are free. If the \$5,500 is not sufficient, the Student Senate would contribute more money. Mr. Roth suggested that donors might be interested in supporting such counseling services.

Policy Committee commended the Student Senate for their work on behalf of the student body. Mr. Baum expressed his appreciation to the Policy Committee for its support and the desire of the Student Senate to continue to work with the Academic Senate on issues affecting students.

[Dean Strauss and Mr. Baum left the meeting.]

4. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Whitfield distributed the job description for the new position of Executive Director of the Office of Business Innovation. He asked the committee to review it and to nominate people to serve on the search committee. Discussion will take place at the next meeting.
- b. The Provost distributed the draft posting announcing the search for the Dean of the Graduate School. He asked the Committee to provide comments and nominees as a representative of the Senate to serve on the search committee. This will be on the agenda of the next PC meeting. The Provost noted that the Graduate School is somewhat of an anomaly, but that he would approach the Graduate Council for school representatives to the committee.

5. Report from the Senate President:

- a. Policy Committee reviewed the enrollment data for the spring/summer term comparing this year's numbers through April 1 with those for the same period for 2018.
- b. Several members of the Policy Committee will represent the faculty and academic staff at the May commencement ceremonies. Those names will be provided to the commencement coordinator.
- c. The Faculty Survey of Student Engagement was sent to faculty who taught two courses in the fall term. Ms. Beale will encourage Senate members to participate and to ask their students to participate in the student survey.
- d. Ms. Beale has been approached by some faculty concerned with news that the Higher Learning Commission (WSU's accrediting body) has asked the university to provide evidence of all faculty member's qualifications to teach courses (presumably requiring new official transcripts). The Provost indicated that this is not a new general request for information but rather a typical request for additional information about particular faculty that arises when members of the Commission see something that strikes them as perhaps indicating lack of expertise in the field area of the course. The Provost's Office handles these queries with an expanded resume or other information.
- e. Ms. Beale noted the continuing concerns over developments at the Medical School involving University Pediatricians (UP, the clinicians' practice group). PC members commented on

media reports that UP has charged the administration with skimming millions of dollars of Medicaid payments. It is not clear whether an actual misuse of funds has occurred or simply a misunderstanding about the proper accounting for the funds. Members noted that it is important for the administration to be more transparent in responding to the pediatricians concerns in order to resolve the ongoing tensions.

- *7. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of March 25, 2019, as submitted.
- 8. Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program: On March 4, the Policy Committee discussed with Senior Associate Provost for Student Success Monica Brockmeyer changes she proposed for the UROP. Policy Committee had many concerns and requested more detailed information. Ms. Brockmeyer provided a working document entitled Graduate Research Updates shortly before today's meeting. The document will be given to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee for comment. Ms. Brockmeyer will meet with Policy Committee late in April. [Ms. Brockmeyer has now indicated that she cannot make the scheduled date so it will need to be rescheduled.]
- *9. Resolution regarding Internal Audit Procedures: Policy Committee reviewed a revised draft of a short resolution regarding the procedures followed by the Office of Internal Audit when it receives an anonymous charge against university employees. The committee approved the resolution. [The resolution was given to Senate members at the April 3 meeting and was emailed to all members after that meeting.] The Senate will be asked to vote on the resolution at its May 8 meeting.
- 10. Issues regarding the Posting of Photos of Employees: The Enrollment Management Office has informed employees that they must provide a photo for posting on the website along with their contact information. This concern was raised by employees who felt that it was improper for such a request to be made mandatory. Ms. Beale noted that employees may not want their photos posted for fear of harassment or of stalking or for any number of other personal reasons, and individuals are treated as having a constitutional privacy right in such photos. If administrators want to post photos, they should note the value to the website but make clear that employees are free to decline. Provost Whitfield agreed that employees cannot be mandated to comply and must understand that they may refuse. He will work with the Office to ensure that this situation is handled appropriately.
- 11. Reports from Liaisons:
 - a. Student Success Steering Committee: Ms. Simon reported that the Steering Committee met April 1. The 6-year graduation rate for the fall 2016 cohort is trending toward 47.2%. Senior Associate Provost Monica Brockmeyer reported on the changes to the UROP and that she would talk with the faculty who supervised students under the former program. Ms. Brockmeyer acknowledged that the changes to the program were poorly communicated. Ms. Simon suggested that Henry Robinson, Director of Federal TRIO who wrote the McNair Scholars grant, visit the Policy Committee. A video will be made based on David Yaeger's visit on belonging. Ms. Simon suggested that when the video is close to being finished it be shared with Policy for comment. Ms. Brockmeyer talked about the gateway course initiative with the Gardner Center. They looked at the failure, withdrawal, and incomplete marks in entry-level mathematics and English courses. English has a good pass rate but there are

disparities among African-American students, Hispanic students, first generation and Pell-eligible students. The Mathematics Department will improve professional development of the graduate teaching assistants who teach the entry-level courses. They will look at other gateway departments, especially those with large classes, to determine what courses present barriers and attempt to eliminate them. Many students who take the introductory English course and the introductory mathematics course in the same term fail both courses. Policy Committee talked about which courses and the combinations of courses that may be barriers. Policy asked to see the data on which the decisions are based. Ms. Simon mentioned the learning communities that will be formed to address the issues. The Trump administration's budget would cut federal support for higher education. Ms. Beale asked about the Warrior Vision and Impact Program (VIP) that is under the Academic Success Center. The program is in its second year. It provides early support workshops that address typical challenges students face during their transition to college. To participate students must be African-American, Hispanic, first-generation, or Pell eligible. The students take a special English Composition 1010 course and a special First Year Seminar course.

- b. Budget Committee: Ms. Dallas reported on the presentations and discussion at the annual meeting the Budget Committee holds for the members of the unit Budget Advisory Committees. Governor Whitmer's proposed budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is not based on metrics. The Governor proposed a 3 % across-the-board appropriation for state universities and set the tuition cap for undergraduate students at 3.2%. The state legislature may amend the Governor's proposal. We may not know our final budget until late in the summer. The university administration is projecting that fall enrollment will be flat. Our budget deficit is projected to be about \$11 million. Rebecca Cooke, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration for Health Affairs and School of Medicine Vice Dean for Fiscal Affairs, updated the attendees on issues in the Medical School. With its new curriculum the School needs faculty who complement the curriculum. Scott Hall is in poor condition. The School desperately needs a new clinical partner that funds research. Ms. Cooke also mentioned that the University Physician Group's bankruptcy allows it to get out from some very costly leases. She spoke about the crisis involving the University Pediatricians. Pediatrics and pediatric residencies are essential to university accreditation. The RCM model was discussed, including the cost allocation drivers (basis for 'taxes') for student services, space, and research. One change that is likely compared to the first model discussed is allocation of the state appropriation based on cost of the program, such as the cost of instruction and level of the course, rather than credit hours. This is a more nuanced approach because it considers market factors and the differences in costs of graduate/professional and undergraduate education. The attendees had a presentation on the campus master plan.
- c. Student Affairs Committee: Ms. Dallas reported that the Student Affairs Committee members toured the new Anthony Wayne Apartments. Corvias manages the housing on campus.