

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

May 3, 2021

Present: L. Beale; P. Beavers; L. Lauzon Clabo; J. Fitzgibbon; R. Hoogland; C. Parrish;
N. Rossi; B. Roth; N. Simon; R. Villarosa; Rohan E.V. Kumar; Amanda Powe

1. Approval of April 26, 2021 Proceedings.

Proceedings were approved by the committee.

2. Report from the Chair

- a. Academic Recognition Week. Provost Clabo thanked all academic faculty and academic staff for their hard work during this challenging year. She informed the committee that daily emails would be going out from the Office of Teaching and Learning. These emails will serve as an invitation to activities and will recognize academic staff, faculty, and graduate students. Clabo encouraged all members to participate in the activities mentioned.
- b. Campus Virus and Vaccine Status. The positivity rate on campus is now less than 2% and total number of cases on campus last week were four. The positivity rate in the City of Detroit has plateaued at 15.5%. The recorded 7-day average is 15.3%. The limitation of on-campus activities will continue until the average is below 15%.

Professor Parrish inquired about the outcome if there is a continued positivity rate of 15% or higher in the fall. Clabo responded believes we are on track to see a decreased positivity rate and is more worried about not reaching a safe level of herd immunity by fall. Indoor activity and cold weather will become more prominent, which will cause higher positivity rates. Vaccination will help to reverse this. Now there is enough supply, but not enough demand. There are 5000 doses of Pfizer in storage, and we are doing well with supply.

Clabo mentioned that there will be a voluntary, anonymous survey from the Center for Urban Studies regarding vaccination status. This will give a one-time snapshot of campus status. There will also be a request for members of the campus community to upload vaccination data if they were not vaccinated on campus. Aggregate data will be pulled to get more information about who is vaccinated on campus. Thirty-eight hundred students have been vaccinated through the Campus Health Center to date. This survey will assist with data for those not vaccinated on campus.

If faculty or staff are required to take a PCR COVID test to attend meetings on campus, the university will provide 2 PCR testing options. The first option will be the World-Wide Lab testing, which takes about 24 hours for results. The second will be the Cepheid test, which takes 45 minutes.

- c. Strategic Planning Steering Committee. The first meeting took place and members' views of essentials for a successful plan were discussed, showing different themes. Responses to the survey sent to the campus community were also available. Only raw data has been

provided at this time. The committee will continue to meet and develop a new plan over the course of the summer.

3. Report from the Senate President:

- a. Bartleby Email. The corporation sent an email to students using emails from a former effort. The email used Wayne State's name as if the university supported the effort. The corporation stopped the communication and apologized. Beale asked Timothy Michael, Associate VP for Student Auxiliary Services and Chief Housing Officer, if there could be an additional communication to students explaining that this email was not from Wayne State. Michael suggested that students are currently distracted with end-of-the-semester tasks and an email might have the unwanted effect of encouraging them to use Bartleby. Paul Beavers noted that this is an issue for other schools as well. Beale suggested that there should at some point be a carefully worded email to students from the corporation regarding plagiarism and cheating. Clabo agreed to discuss this matter with Michael during their upcoming one-on-one meeting.
- b. School of Medicine Tuition Increase. The tuition rate increases were approved at the Board of Governors meeting. It is not clear if there is again an internal commitment to allocate the entire revenues raised from the increase to the medical school.
- c. Shirley Stancato and Terri Lynn Land. Neither invitation to attend the May 5th plenary session was accepted due to scheduling conflicts. Arrangements will be made to meet with them at a later date, likely with additional board members present. Beale would still like to have at least two members of the Board speak briefly at every other plenary session in order to give the Senate an opportunity to get to know the Governors and allow the Governors to have a better sense of Senate members.
- d. Enrollment Report. This is the first week that FTIAC numbers are down. The graduate numbers have improved since last week but it is too early in the admissions cycle to predict where the numbers will land. Overall, undergraduate numbers are down 2.19% and this is a concern.
- e. New Graduate Assistant. Prasad Nangre will start May 10th.

4. Communications and Required Actions.

- a. Dean Mark Seeger. Seeger will be leaving deanship of CFPCA when a replacement is found. Clabo would like to have the search committee underway soon, with a goal of appointing a new dean for fall or no later than mid-year. The Senate will have one of the provost's four slots to appoint. The committee agreed on two well qualified candidates. Beale will reach out to one and if not successful, will contact the second candidate.
- b. Student Code of Conduct Subcommittee Resolution. Roth drafted a resolution to put before the Senate based on the report approved at the last Policy meeting. Beale asked for any comments or edits to the resolution. Beavers suggested an area in need of an edit, and the committee agreed on the final wording. Policy supported putting the resolution to the Senate for approval.
- c. AS Plenary Session Agenda May 5, 2021. Times were added to the agenda to allow topics to be covered precisely. The committee discussed and agreed upon times for each of the items.

- d. New Faculty Orientation. The event for all new faculty has been tentatively scheduled for August 18th and 19th. In the past there was one Zoom session to introduce the Academic Senate. Beale suggested that Policy may want to consider creating a video or other innovative presentation. She noted that she would plan to attend the planning meeting but suggested that it would be helpful to have another faculty as well. Rossi volunteered, noting the importance of engaging the medical school faculty more broadly in the work of the Senate. Beale will inform Jake Wilson and send Rossi the scheduling doodle poll.
5. Reports from Liaisons.
 - a. Faculty Affairs Committee. Hoogland's report will be submitted after the meeting.
6. New Business: Social Justice Action Committee. Parrish raised a complaint about the President's Social Justice Action Committee report and his plan to have mostly administrators serve on the DEI Council. Academic governance and the central role of faculty and academic staff in these matters seem to be overlooked. He suggested that this issue be added to the Senate agenda. Roth reminded Parrish that the Senate had already passed, at its March plenary meeting, a resolution raising our concern about the DEI Council makeup and the requirement that any DEI Council recommendations come to the Senate for review. The resolution was sent to the President and Chair of the Board of Governors, but neither has responded. Hoogland thanked Parrish for bringing this up, since it reminded us all that the Senate had determined to create an ad hoc Senate DEI Committee to operate over the summer, with the goal of updating the Senate bylaws so that a permanent standing committee could be put in place no later than the end of the fall semester. Beale will work on this with any committee members that volunteer.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of May 17, 2021