

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

January 12, 2009

Present: N. Barrett; V. Dallas; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz;
J. Whittum-Hudson; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard; R. Yamazaki

Guest: J. Noren

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of January 12, 2009.

President Noren is meeting periodically with the Policy Committee to discuss issues facing the University

1. Non-smoking Campus: Policy Committee discussed with the President whether pursuing the idea of making the entire campus smoke-free was feasible. The Medical campus is totally non-smoking. A member noted that the present policy prohibiting smoking within 20 feet of doorways and in buildings was not enforced. Another member wondered if having a non-smoking campus would negatively affect enrollment and retention of faculty. Two suggestions surfaced during the discussion. One, that a survey of faculty, students, and staff be carried out. Second, that the Senate find out the rate of enforcement of the current policy.
2. Budget: The President and the Committee talked about the state budget and how a reduction in the state appropriation might affect the University. President Noren mentioned plans to deal with cuts should the state reduce its allocation to the University.
3. CTSA: Members asked questions about the status of Wayne State's application for a Clinical and Translational Science Award. The University will re-apply in the next round of submissions, which will not be until Fall 2009.
4. Enrollment: The enrollment figures for the winter 2009 term are not available yet. The administration expects enrollment to be down 4% compared to winter 2008 because the fall enrollment was down 4%. In response to a question, Provost Barrett said that Michael Wright, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications, and Associate Vice President Howard Shapiro are looking at ways to enhance community college relations and market the University to the broader geographic region.

A member thought that in addition to marketing, the culture of the University had to change. When prospective students encounter bureaucratic problems, employees need to assist them in solving the problem. There were suggestions to deal more effectively with students, including getting information to them about the things they need to do.

There was discussion whether incentives should be provided to deans and chairs to increase enrollment.

A member suggested that the University set up a web site where anyone who has a problem could send an e-mail message. The person monitoring the messages would direct the inquiry to the office

responsible for resolving the problem. There would have to be follow-up to ensure that the problem was corrected. The University community would be informed about the web site via posters. Another member thought the idea was good but that it would be difficult to administer.

[President Noren left the meeting.]

2. Strategic Planning Process: Mr. Volz and the Provost attended a meeting last week about the strategic plan. Several goals have been identified and a task force was established for each goal. Provost Barrett heads the task force on teaching and learning. At her request, Policy Committee nominated faculty to serve on the task force.
- *3. Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee: One of the faculty selected for the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee is unable to serve. The Provost and the Policy Committee jointly selected a replacement.
- *4. University Research Grant Committee: One of the faculty selected to serve on the University Research Grant Committee is unable to serve. The Provost and the Policy Committee jointly selected a replacement.

[Provost Barrett left the meeting.]

5. February Academic Senate Meeting: Policy Committee considered issues it would like to bring to the attention of the Senate at the February 4 meeting.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of January 26, 2009