

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

January 14, 2013

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano;  
A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz; P. Vroom; A. Wisniewski; J. Woodyard

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of January 14, 2013.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Deputy President Phyllis Vroom chaired the meeting. She told the Policy Committee that she is contacting the newly-hired Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning Matthew Ouellett and the newly-hired Director of the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies Howard Lipovitch to let them know that, although there has been a change in the Provost's Office, their positions are secure. The Deputy President discussed with Mr. Ouellett the evaluation of online courses and invited him to meet with the Policy Committee when he joins the University.
- b. Deputy President Vroom has urged continuing the search for the Dean of the School of Business Administration. She will discuss the status of the search with the search firm.
- c. Deputy President Vroom believes that when guests address the Academic Senate civility should be extended to them despite members being upset with the University administration. She specifically mentioned the conversations between members during the presentation and the manner in which questions were asked. She initially referred to the questions asked of the presenters at the January 9 Senate meeting as challenging. Members of the Policy Committee pointed out the need to ask challenging questions in a university. Dr. Vroom noted that there was a difference between questions or comments that are challenging and those that are rude. In addition, a professional presentation should receive a professional response. She noted that rather than challenging, the questions at the meeting were confrontational. Another member noted that the presenter was not aware of the values of the faculty. Chatter among members occurs when they are forming questions to ask a speaker. Also, chatter often occurs at Senate meetings unless a discussion or presentation is riveting.

2. Report from the Senate President:

- a. Mr. Romano asked Michele Ronnick to serve as chair of the Student Affairs Committee while Naida Simon is on sick leave.
- b. Robert Sokol, the Chair of the Department of Clinical and Translational Science, told Mr. Romano that he essentially has accepted all of the Policy Committee's suggestions for revisions to his second submission of the Department's Bylaws. The Department was established with its reporting line directly to the Provost with the hope that that type of structure would help the University secure funding from the National Institutes of Health for a clinical and translational program. The University did not receive funding. A Policy Committee member said that

the Dean of Medicine's Budget Committee would discuss the reporting line of the Department at its next meeting. Deputy President Vroom is looking into the issue as well.

- c. Mr. Romano asked the Chemistry Department ASO, Erin Bachart, to determine the drop out rate for Chemistry students who chose Biochemistry as a major (Biochemistry is a relatively new major, one of two majors that the Chemistry Department offers). It takes an average of 4.6 years to get a degree. It was determined that there currently are 148 biochemistry majors and that over the past 5 years, 64 students had selected biochemistry but dropped out and 33 had changed to another major. Mr. Romano speculated that one reason for this retention rate for Biochemistry is that the students were either confused when choosing a major during orientation or were being improperly advised and were choosing majors for which they were not prepared. Mr. Romano suggested that the administration develop better advising procedures to prevent this problem. Another member spoke of the need for advisors to talk with students to learn their interests and goals and to direct them to career counseling for self-assessment and career assessment to guide them in choosing majors.
3. Academic Advisors: The University is hiring additional advisors in departments to advise students in the general education requirements after they have declared their majors. When students move from advising at the University Advising Center to the departments they sometimes do not have the pre-requisites for the major and cannot complete their degree on time.
4. Enrollment Management Report: As of January 14, 2013, the number of undergraduate students enrolled in the winter term is down about 300 and for graduate students about 345. The final census for the winter term will be known on January 18.
- \*5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of December 17, 2012, were approved as submitted.
6. Freshmen Scholarships: When Corinne Webb, the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, met with the Policy Committee on November 19, 2012, the Committee asked for information comparing WSU's competitive scholarships and fellowships with the universities with which it competes. Wayne State's award levels are comparable to other Michigan universities.

A member believes the University is missing an opportunity to attract students with higher credentials by focusing on the high school grade point average as opposed to targeting higher test scores. A high ACT score is a good predictor of success in college and the University needs to provide scholarships to those students. When the high ACT scores of a university's students are published other high-scoring individuals want to attend the school. Including the Honors College, 6.6% of the students who entered in fall 2011 have an ACT score of 30 or above. The ACT score mean at Wayne State is 22. Wayne State's more generous scholarships require a reasonable ACT score as well as a high GPA. The University's goal, the

Deputy President said, is to double the percentage of students with ACT scores of 30 or above.

7. Article XXX Committees: The Policy Committee and the President or his designee select the members of the university-wide committees. These committees are referred to as Article XXX committees because the selection process is governed by Article XXX of the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT. Mr. Romano called to Dr. Vroom's attention that the Senate Office has not yet received the nominations.
- \*8. Discussion of the Qualifications of an Interim Provost: Policy Committee discussed the need for an Interim Provost who is knowledgeable about undergraduate and graduate education, curriculum, students, faculty, online courses, and research. The Interim Provost should be attuned to the faculty because the Provost serves as a conduit between the administration and the faculty. He or she should have the respect of the faculty. A member suggested that the current Senate President, Lou Romano, has the academic credentials and prior administrative experience to fill this position and the other members of the Policy Committee unanimously agreed. The Committee passed a motion to nominate Mr. Romano to serve as Interim Provost. They will submit their resolution to the President.

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Approved as corrected at the Policy Committee meeting of January 28, 2013