

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 13, 2014

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; R. N. Frank; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Sankar;
W. Volz; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: J. Artiss

Guest: Joseph Rankin, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 13, 2014.

1. Course Scheduling Matrix: Mr. Rankin chairs the Course Scheduling Matrix Committee that is charged with making a recommendation to simplify and clarify the course scheduling matrix to reduce the number of overlapping course schedules. The full committee met once to identify the problems with the current matrix and the issues that should be covered to find solutions. Mr. Rankin is seeking feedback from the Policy Committee, the Council of Deans, and the Student Senate. Many departments do not follow the current matrix creating inefficient room utilization and making it difficult for students to plan their schedules because of overlapping courses. One issue being addressed is changing the credit hour from 55 minutes to 50 minutes and starting classes on the hour or half hour. Members of the Policy Committee asked that the Scheduling Committee also focus on designing a matrix that allows students to take required courses in a timely fashion.

A Policy Committee member asked that colleges that want to take an innovative approach to schedule classes, such as reducing the number of weeks to compress instruction into a shorter period of time, be allowed to do so. Members raised questions about the possibility of hiring a consultant to develop a university-wide matrix because of the extreme complexity of scheduling classes in all departments so that students are able to take all required courses in a timely fashion. It was thought wise for the committee to meet with the individuals in departments who schedule classes to learn what problems they face so they could be addressed.

2. Student Due Process Hearing Panel: Mr. Romano asked Mr. Rankin to resolve problems associated with the appointment of faculty and academic staff to the University-wide Student Due Process Hearing Panel for non-academic misbehavior. Two years ago, the Policy Committee had arranged with the then Student Conduct Officer in the Dean of Students Office to appoint nine faculty and academic staff to the Hearing Panel, staggering the terms so that every year three people would be appointed. There are several problems with the current list that must be resolved before new members are appointed. Mr. Rankin was asked to address them.
3. Report from the Chair:
 - a. The Committee on Implementing Peer Review of Teaching has submitted its report. Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and

Learning Mathew Ouellett will present the recommendations to the Policy Committee.

- b. The public phase of the Capital Campaign was launched last week. Fifty percent or \$382 million of the goal of \$750 million has been reached. Provost Winters and members of the Policy Committee were enthusiastic about the videos of students and faculty talking about what Wayne State means to them. The videos will be used in the marketing campaign.
 - c. Provost Winters has asked the faculty and staff in the School of Medicine for their opinions on the appointment of an Interim Dean.
4. Report from the Senate President:
- a. The administration presented the draft Capital Outlay Budget Request to the Board of Governors on October 10. Vice President Nork mentioned the renovation of the second floor in Manoogian Hall. Jane Fitzgibbon, who serves as the faculty alternate representative to the Board's Academic Affairs Committee, spoke about the positive effect the changes have had on student learning. At the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee, Mr. Romano, who is the faculty alternate representative to that Committee, pointed out that capital projects which could contribute to student success are low on the list of priorities. Classrooms need to be upgraded and new classroom facilities are needed.
 - b. Mr. Romano has been asked to serve on the search committee for the Vice President for Finance and Business Operations and on the Summer Tuition Committee.
 - c. Mr. Romano will attend a meeting at which the retirement incentive will be presented. He will report back to the Policy Committee.
- *5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of October 6, 2014, were approved as amended.
6. Composite Fringe Benefits: The administration revised the composite fringe benefit rates. Faculty are concerned about the large increase for full-time faculty who teach in the spring/summer term, for faculty on research grants, and for graduate assistants. The new rates result in double charges for health insurance for the people who are paid from research grants. Nine-month faculty and the University pay the health care premiums for 12 months during the 9-month academic year. Charging faculty during the summer means that they are paying twice for health insurance with the second payment coming from research grants. The change has already affected grant applications. A committee has been formed to find funds to pay the difference for current grants.
7. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: Policy Committee is meeting with the President's Cabinet on October 23. In past years, the Committee had suggested issues it would like to discuss with the Cabinet. Policy's focus for the upcoming meeting is enrollment and retention.
8. Academic Freedom: As part of his research, a faculty member filed a Freedom of Information Act request using Wayne State letterhead. The administration questioned whether the request was for personal use. The faculty member

contacted the AAUP-AFT. Although several months have passed, the question was not resolved. Mr. Parrish brought the question to the Policy Committee because there was concern about the curtailment of academic freedom. Mr. Parrish continues to pursue a resolution.

9. Report from the Liaison to the Research Committee: Mr. Kessel reported that Associate Vice President for Research Gloria Heppner told the Committee that funding would be flat or that there would be a small increase. It is difficult for the University to get funding for training grants because it doesn't have a record of such funding. Changes will be made in the distribution of indirect cost recovery funds. Mr. Romano has suggested to Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier that he meet with the Research and Faculty Affairs Committees to inform them of the changes.

Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of October 20, 2014