

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 19, 2015

Present: J. Artiss; L. Beale; V. Dallas; C. Parrish; L. Romano; B. Roth; N. Simon;
W. Volz; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: D. Kessel

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of October 19.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Recently Provost Winters and Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs, visited three institutions of higher learning in China. The Provost signed memoranda of agreement with the institutions.
- b. The Provost hosted a luncheon to thank faculty and assistant and associate deans who contributed to moving forward on student assessment. More work needs to be done.
- c. The IBio Building was officially opened October 14. Mayor Michael Duggan spoke at the ceremony.
- d. John Vander Weg, the Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, has begun soliciting nominations for the university-wide committees that are formed according to the provisions of Article XXX in the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT. He would like to bring the nominations for the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee to the Policy Committee when all are received rather than wait for the nominations for all the committees. Policy Committee agreed.
- e. As announced last week, the School of Medicine is no longer on probation, but is on warning. It will continue to address the deficiencies that the LCME requires.

2. Report from the Senate President:

- a. The Capital Outlays Committee is meeting weekly to prepare the capital budget request to the state. It appears the first item will be funding to renovate the Science and Engineering Library building to a laboratory classroom building. The University will ask the state to fund \$22 million and the University would bond \$7 million. Mr. Romano thinks the funding for the project is probably insufficient.
- b. Ms. Beale, Mr. Roth, and Mr. Volz volunteered to represent the faculty and to address the graduates at the fall commencement ceremony on December 12.

- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of October 12, 2015, were approved as submitted.
- 4. Committee to Consider Budget Models: Vice President for Finance and Business Operations William Decatur, Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis Robert Kohrman, and the Provost are forming a committee to look at budget models for the University and to recommend a change if warranted. There are not many budget models for higher education. We now use a historically based incremental budget model that is based on the previous year's budget with money being added or subtracted each year. For several years, the administration has talked about moving to some type of responsibility centered budget model. A third model is zero-based budgeting. Every year or every two or three years, the Deans would appeal to the Provost and the Vice Presidents would appeal to the President arguing for their budget as if they were starting at zero. As the Provost requested, the Policy Committee nominated two faculty to serve on the committee; the administration will select one of them to serve. The administration also will appoint another faculty member to the committee.
- 5. Retention and Graduate Rates: Policy Committee proposed changes in policies to improve our retention and graduation rates. Over an eight-year period the rates have not improved: our six-year graduation rate is essentially the same as it was eight years ago. Following a four-year decline, the graduation rate has increased several percent in the last few years. The Provost and Mr. Romano disagreed about the reasons for the increase. Mr. Romano believes that a good portion of the increase can be tied to an increase in the credentials of the incoming classes. The following items were discussed.
 - a. Reducing the credit requirements for the general education curriculum
Although the charge to the General Education Reform Committee (GERC) was written in November 2013, the Committee did not begin working until January 2015 and their recommendations are not expected until December 2016. Mr. Romano noted that the charge to the Committee did not address simplifying the Program or reducing the number of credits. The Provost pointed out that the Committee is working to make those changes. Committee members pointed out that in some colleges students are required to take half of their credits to fulfill the general education requirements. There was disagreement among the PC members whether the current requirements delayed students' graduating. Another member noted that after the GERC submits its proposal it would have to be given to the schools and colleges and to the Senate.
 - b. The Mathematics Competency Requirement
The initial discussions about revising the options for students' to fulfill the mathematics competency occurred in the 2015 winter term. The Math Department has not submitted proposals for changes. Provost Winters said that the GERC also has the competency on its agenda. She will check with the Math Department about their progress.

- c. Identifying at-risk students and targeting them for intensive advising
Two years ago the administration began looking for a way to use data to identify at-risk students so they could receive intensive advising. The commercial packages, the Provost said, did not meet our needs and were too expensive. The Division of Computing and Information Technology is developing a program. Currently faculty who teach first and second year courses are sent multiple messages telling them the procedures to help students who need intervention.
 - d. Targeting additional need-based financial aid to students nearing graduation
This policy has been successful. It is recommended that additional money be directed to these programs. The Provost will check how much money is spent on the programs. A member suggested that the colleges should be providing money for this purpose, as well.
 - e. Requiring all first-year students to meet with an advisor and to choose a major
Policy Committee members believe first-year students should meet with an advisor. Some support students' selecting a major in their first year to connect with the department and so they can meet with a departmental advisor who is able to direct them to the courses they need to graduate. Other members thought their choosing a major in the second year was adequate. The Provost has literature that supports their selecting a major in the second year. She will send it to Mr. Romano.
 - f. Ensuring that departments offer the courses required for graduation
The Provost frequently discusses this issue with the Deans. The Registrar will hold workshops for Department Chairs and for the academic staff members who schedule classes.
 - g. Improving the APEX (Academic Pathways for Excellence Scholars) Program
So far the costly APEX program has not succeeded in improving the GPAs of students in the program compared with a comparable group. Dr. Mark Jackson assumed the position of Director of the APEX Program a year ago and he has instituted changes. The Provost mentioned that the students take classes as a cohort and meet only with an APEX advisor. The supervised study hours and tutoring have been increased. The Policy Committee will continue to request data about the program to monitor its success.
 - h. Instituting a student-fee based model for undergraduate parking
For a long time, the Policy Committee has advocated changing the way students pay for parking. A special committee is examining if this could be done. The Provost indicated she supports this initiative but is taking a back seat until the committee makes a recommendation.
6. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the agenda and supporting documents for the Graduate Council meeting of October 21, 2015.
 7. November 4 Academic Senate Meeting: The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the meeting. It will be finalized at the next PC meeting.

8. Reports from Liaisons: The liaisons from the Policy Committee to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the Student Affairs Committee reported that the Committees met and developed their agendas for the year.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of October 26, 2015