

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 22, 2012

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

Absent with notice: R. Brown; R. MacArthur

Guest: Ambika Mathur, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

In the absence of Provost Brown and Mr. MacArthur, Mr. Romano chaired the meeting.

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 22, 2012.

1. The Graduate School: Interim Dean of the Graduate School Ambika Mathur was invited to the meeting to discuss her plans for the School. The University has between 200 and 250 graduate programs. About 7,500 students are enrolled in the Graduate School, most of them are in Masters' programs. About 1,800 are in doctoral programs. The Graduate School supports recruitment, is responsible for setting the standards for academic rigor, serves as the conduit for some funding, and provides input for new programs. The Graduate School has 13.5 FTE. The staff handling graduate admissions was reduced by about one-half in the past year due to the use of an automated system. The Graduate School's operating budget is about \$1 million. Ms. Mathur reviewed the organizational structure of the School and the duties of some of the employees.

She would like to increase the number of graduate students as will involve the Graduate School more with the scholarship and research of graduate students and strengthen academic rigor. She would like to provide orientation for graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) who begin their assignments in the winter term and would like to partner with the Office for Teaching and Learning to have on-line modules to provide information to GTAs. Ms. Mathur would like to get external funding, such as fellowships, to support graduate students.

Ms. Mathur noted that a recent National Institutes of Health (NIH) task force on biomedical research recommended that graduate students should be subsidized with training grants. The students should not only be working in a laboratory, but should have research training, curriculum development, and career development opportunities. The University, Ms. Mathur said, needs to move toward this source of funding. She expects the NIH to require this type of research in the future. NIH also recommends that data collection be centralized in institutions.

The Graduate School's only involvement in the hiring of GTAs is to mail the letters of offer; it does not make decisions about hiring. A member of the Policy Committee noted that the awarding of GTAs is historical. General fund money is used to pay GTAs and is under the control of the Provost. There are 598 GTAs in the University.

The Provost has appointed a committee chaired by Dean of Engineering Farshad Fotouhi to look at the distribution of GTAs.

Ms. Mathur has made changes in the post doctoral program, including initiating a uniform appointment process, setting a minimum salary level, annual reviews, and individual development plans. A Policy Committee member spoke to the need of increasing the number of post doctoral students.

In response to a question, Ms. Mathur explained what positions she would like to add to the Graduate School to perform the needed functions.

Policy Committee members discussed with Ms. Mathur the need to increase the number of graduate students.

[Ms. Mathur left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Romano met with Phyllis Vroom, who, in her role as Deputy President, will focus on academics. Provost Brown, Vice President for Research Hilary Ratner, and Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs Ahmad Ezzeddine will report to her.

[Mr. Volz left the meeting.]

- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of October 8, 2012, were approved as revised.
4. Student Code of Conduct Hearing Committee Panel: Policy Committee was asked to appoint faculty and academic staff to the Hearing Panel for Non-Academic Misbehavior. Mr. Romano will seek clarification from Rick Earnest, the Judicial Officer, about the formation of the Panel.
5. Type I Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee: The terms of two faculty who are members of the CIAC-I have expired. According to the Statute governing centers and institutes, the Provost and the Policy Committee each appoint half of the Committee. Policy Committee selected a member. Mr. Romano will ascertain if he is willing to serve. The Provost and the Policy Committee will meet to select the members of the Committee.
- *6. Renovation of the Student Center Building: It has come to Mr. Romano's attention that the administration is in the process of redesigning the Student Center Building without consulting with the Policy Committee or with students. Policy Committee charged the Student Affairs Committee with reviewing the situation.
7. November 7 Academic Senate Meeting: Policy Committee members suggested topics that might be of interest to Senate members. The agenda will be finalized at the next Policy Committee meeting.

8. Reports from Liaisons:

- a. Mr. Kessel, the liaison to the Research Committee, reported that Joan Dunbar, Interim Associate Vice President for Technology Commercialization, updated the Committee on technology transfer. Her office is responsible for patents and encouraging faculty to start companies.
- b. Mr. Woodyard, the liaison to the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee identified the issues on which it would like to focus this year: on-line education; the student survey that will be released this week; the revised grade change policy; the renovation of the Student Center Building; and the distribution of the omnibus fee. The Committee will invite the heads of student services units to meet with them. People have expressed concern about the increase in parking fees and the fact that part-time graduate students are charged the employee parking rate.