

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 24, 2016

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; B. Roth; A. Rothe; N. Simon; W. Volz; K. Whitfield; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: L. Romano

In the absence of Mr. Romano, Ms. Beale, the Vice Chair of the Senate, served in his place.

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of October 24, 2016.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Whitfield attended last week's meeting of the Student Senate. The students discussed campus housing and Aramark food service.
- b. Provost Whitfield noted that our financial aid office is understaffed according to national standards and that he has prepared a proposal to increase the number of student financial aid officers. Policy Committee members mentioned some problems students have experienced related to financial aid and noted the importance of adequate training for staffers so that students are not shunted from one office to another seeking information.
- c. Deepak Bhalla has been appointed Acting Dean of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.
- d. Provost Whitfield met with the Academy of Scholars. He considers the Academy a good source of additional faculty input, including issues such as general education requirements.
- e. The Capital Campaign has raised almost \$600 million towards the goal of \$750 million.
- f. The President's Cabinet has discussed the negative press that the University has received recently on issues such as math competency, the Medical School, and the DMC contract. The Cabinet is focusing on improving its engagement with the University's supporters.
- g. The University is seeking funding to connect innovation and entrepreneurship to support academics.

2. Report from the Vice Chair:

- a. Ms. Beale reported that the Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee is considering holding a competition among the schools and departments for symposia topics during the celebration year. The plan is to provide support for several symposia with nationally-known speakers on cross-disciplinary subjects.
- b. Ms. Beale noted some faculty concern about lack of information regarding Dean search committee makeups. She suggested to Provost Whitfield that it might be helpful, when search committees for Deans and similar Provost Office administrators are formed, if the Provost would provide the Policy Committee the charge to the search committee, the membership of the committee, and the draft

posting of the position. The Policy Committee could disseminate the information to persons who are interested in the position, and ensure that campus faculty are aware of the search committee makeup and able to provide input. Provost Whitfield agreed with the suggestion.

- c. Ms. Beale informed the group that she and Mr. Romano had attended the October 19 meeting of the Graduate Council. The Council had a lengthy discussion about the Huron Consulting Group's draft report on *Assessment of Graduate Assistantship Allocations*. In that context, there was extensive discussion about the proposal of the General Education Reform Committee and its likely effect on the distribution of graduate assistantships. Changes in the general education program will impact funding, particularly for departments where graduate assistants have taught general education courses. The Policy Committee discussed the Huron report at its meeting of August 8, 2016, and concluded that the report is flawed because the reviewers did not distinguish between masters and doctoral students. The Graduate Council also reviewed a report about the Higher Learning Commission accreditation. Donna Dauphinais, [Project Manager for Institutional Accreditation and Compliance](#), suggested that the University does not use assessment in budgetary matters. Ms. Beale and Mr. Romano informed Ms. Dauphinais and the Graduate Council that assessment has been integrated with budgetary decisions through the use of metrics and in the hearings President Wilson holds at which the Deans present their budget requests.
- d. The Policy Committee and the Budget Committee are scheduled to meet on October 27 with the two finalists for the position of Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning.
- e. The Faculty Affairs Committee asked the Policy Committee about the status of a website to list all the awards given to faculty and academic staff members. The Committee had urged that the website be designed to showcase faculty to the internal and external constituencies, with links to bios and other information supporting the awards. Provost Whitfield indicated that the project to create a website with active links to current and archival faculty award information is underway.
- f. Ms. Beale noted that the Policy Committee had responded to Provost Whitfield's draft amendment to the charge to the General Education Reform Committee (GERC). In a memo dated October 21, the Policy Committee suggested the appropriate procedure to be followed in revising the general education program and listed a broad series of questions that need to be answered prior to the implementation of a new program. At today's meeting, a member mentioned that the purpose of general education is to teach students to think critically and to approach problems analytically. Another member mentioned that what makes Wayne State distinctive is the fact that undergraduates are taught by faculty who are active researchers, not by people who only convey information. There is considerable concern that the GERC is moving too rapidly with a framework borrowed from Oshkosh, Wisconsin that is ill-suited to an urban research university. Provost Whitfield indicated that he would respond to Policy's memo as soon as possible.

- \*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Policy Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of October 17, 2016, as submitted.
- 4. APEX Data: At its meeting of October 17, the Policy Committee reviewed data about the graduation rates of our African American students. PC had asked for additional data for the students who participate in the APEX (Academic Pathways for Excellence Scholars Program) Summer Bridge Program. At the October 24 meeting, PC reviewed the additional data. It was noted that there is no direct control group with which to compare APEX students. The data for the APEX students was compared with a group with slightly higher SAT and GPA statistics. PC discussed the need to continue support of the students through their entire time at the University because their academic performance appears to drop after they leave the program. The Provost's Office is compiling a list of the programs that the University provides to students who need additional academic support. Policy Committee also asked for the per-student cost of the programs such as APEX.
- 5. Fall 2016 Deadline for SET: The Faculty Affairs Committee also called to the Policy Committee's attention concerns about the change in the deadline for the submission of the fall 2016 student evaluation of teaching (SET) forms. Faculty are concerned the forms are due before the term ends. If they are submitted after the due date, the data will not be counted in the aggregate mean that many units focus on to evaluate teaching (even though taking an aggregate mean of the three core questions is statistically invalid). Faculty also are concerned that the SET already is being administered online, even though the Office of Testing and Assessment had agreed that it would not be administered online until there had been further discussion among Academic Senate committees and the SET Committee. Research shows that students evaluate teaching more negatively when it is done online. The Policy Committee discussed the problems that result from having the deadline for submission occur before the end of the course.
- 6. December 2016 Commencement: Mr. Roth, Mr. Volz, and Ms. Beale volunteered to represent the Academic Senate at the commencement ceremonies on December 10.
- 7. Childcare: Re-distributed to the Policy Committee was the report to the Provost on Daycare from the 3N Committee on Daycare dated May 25, 2016, and copies of the slides "Daycare Update" from the Childcare 3N and the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committees, Winter 2016. A new committee, the Daycare Implementation Committee, has been formed. It will continue working to bring daycare services to campus. Members again commended FSST for its work on the issue and expressed hope that the University will find a way to begin to implement the recommendations.
- 8. Wait Listing Courses: The University does not have a system that allows students to be waitlisted in a course and automatically moved into the class when another student drops the course. As a result, students not on a waitlist can jump ahead of waitlisted students, and faculty cannot reasonably advise waitlisted students about the opportunity to move into the class. This problem was brought up at the October 5 Senate meeting. Ms. Beale, who is a member of the Information Systems

Management Committee, consulted with Associate Provost Darin Ellis and Chief Information Officer Daren Hubbard, who told her that they hoped to create an automated waitlist system for the spring/summer term. Provost Whitfield also indicated that this is a high priority and he will push for implementation for the winter 2017 term, if possible.

9. Agenda for the Academic Senate Meeting: Policy Committee approved the agenda for the Senate meeting of November 2, 2016.
10. Report from Liaisons:
  - a. Student Affairs Committee: Mr. Roth reported that the Student Affairs Committee met with Laura Bismack from the HIGH (Helping Individuals Go Higher) Program. The Program provides financial assistance to homeless students and teaches them how to manage their finances. Ms. Bismack sought assistance from the Committee to publicize the Program. Any student with a Wayne State GPA of 2.5 is eligible for assistance. The students must be enrolled in the semester for which they are seeking help. The average grant is \$1500. The Provost said that the administration planned to create a series of videos to inform students about best practices.
  - b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee (CIC): Ms. Dallas said that Thomas Fischer, the co-chair of the GERC, met with the CIC. The GERC is already forming subcommittees on each of the current proposal's components, by seeking volunteers. Each subcommittee will focus on one part of the GERC's proposal. Ms. Beale suggested that the administration needs to have a logistics subcommittee and that faculty outside of the GERC, especially faculty with experience in graduate education, need to be part of each of the subcommittees, especially in dealing with faculty workloads and impact on graduate education and departments that currently teach general education courses.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of November 7, 2016