

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 25, 2010

Present: R. Brown; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; W. Volz;
A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 25, 2010.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Issues related to Purchasing: Over the past several weeks, the Policy Committee members have been discussing with the Provost some of the difficulties they and their colleagues have had in purchasing and in managing grant accounts. Provost Brown will meet with Joan Gossman, the Director of Purchasing, to solve some of the problems. Provost Brown talked about the need for more support at the college level for business operations to support faculty.
- b. Retention Committee: Ms. Dallas, who serves on the retention committee headed by Provost Brown, reported on the issues that the committee has covered in its deliberations. Provost Brown noted that although the implementation of the recommendations would cost money, the University must improve student retention and graduation rates. A member of the Policy Committee believed there was a need to address retention at the college level. Another member urged the administration to have an evaluation system in place to monitor the effectiveness of the programs that are implemented. The Provost said that the program would be vetted widely across campus. In response to a question about increasing the number of students who are better prepared for college, Provost Brown replied that he would like to expand the Honors College.
- c. Enrollment Management: Provost Brown is seeking to hire an enrollment manager to supervise admissions and financial aid. He asked the Policy Committee to provide him with the names of six faculty members from which he will select the person to serve on the committee. Mr. Wolfson requested the job description.
- d. Transparency: Provost Brown has impressed upon the Deans the need for transparency with their various constituencies.
- e. Faculty Salaries: Provost Brown asked the Deans to benchmark the salaries of their faculty against the salaries of faculty at comparable universities to determine if WSU's salaries are lower than salaries at peer institutions. The Deans have submitted the information and the Provost is reviewing it.
- f. Faculty Hiring: Among the requirements that the Provost has asked the Deans to provide when they make an offer to hire a faculty member is a statement how the new hire would help with teaching and research.
- g. Medical School Practice Plan: Provost Brown informed the Policy Committee that the Board of Governors would like the Medical School Practice Plan to be more transparent about its operation.

- h. Policy Committee Meetings: The Provost's schedule has resulted in his missing some meetings. He regretted missing the meetings, but other University business has necessitated it. He values the feedback he gets from the Policy Committee.
- 2. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Wolfson reported that Provost Brown had asked President Gilmour to Chair the Academic Senate meeting on November 3, and the President agreed to do so. The Senate's Bylaws state that the President of the University serves as the Chair of the body or may designate the chief academic officer to serve as the Chair. Since Provost Brown cannot attend the November 3 meeting, President Gilmour will chair the meeting.
- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of October 18, 2010, were approved as amended.

[Provost Brown left the meeting.]

- 4. Loss of Books on Reserve: A Senate member had been concerned about students' taking books from the Libraries that are on reserve. Mr. Wolfson wrote to Dean Yee about the problem. In a memorandum dated October 19, the Dean explained the steps the Libraries use to prevent students from removing the materials and the steps they take to retrieve them if they are removed. A Policy Committee member suggested that Mr. Wolfson send the memo to the Student Affairs Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee and ask if they have other suggestions to prevent the loss of library materials.
- *5. Agenda for the Academic Senate Meeting: The agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of November 3, 2010, was approved.
- 6. The Time of Policy Committee Meetings: Policy Committee discussed how it might accommodate the Provost's schedule regarding the time of Policy Committee meetings. The secretary was asked to check with his assistant to try to reschedule some meetings that the Provost will miss.
- 7. Reports from Liaisons:
 - a. Joint meeting of the Research, Faculty Affairs, and Curriculum and Instruction Committees: Mr. Kessel, the liaison to the Faculty Affairs Committee, said that the committees met with members of the administration to discuss the issues raised when a graduate student published her thesis without the knowledge of her advisor. Dean of the Graduate School Mark Wardell will charge a committee with writing guidelines for the publication of theses. It was also suggested that another solution might be to modify the WSU policies such that WSU owns the copyright of student publications, but WSU could assign the rights to the student with certain conditions.
 - b. Ms. Dallas, the liaison to the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee, reported that the Committee met with James Sears, Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management, Nabelah Ghareeb, Associate Vice President for Business and Auxiliary Operations, and Professors Tappan

Datta and Timothy Gates of the Civil Engineering Department and the Transportation Research Group in the College of Engineering. The FSST Committee was told that the changes to Anthony Wayne Drive would increase pedestrian safety. They were also told that the changes would not impede the traffic flow or result in delays in entering or exiting the parking structures. Some members thought that was an absurd conclusion since the Lodge service drive cannot possibly handle the volume of traffic that will result especially at peak entering and leaving times.

- c. Mr. Woodyard, the liaison to the Student Affairs Committee, said the Committee met with Steven Schoeberlein, Interim Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, and Mary White, nurse manager of the Campus Health Center. The overall message was that they need to double their resources in order to provide the services students need. Mr. Woodyard believes that the Budget Committee needs to review the budget reports of the Campus Health Center.
- d. Mr. Woodyard serves on the Parking Task Force. There is a technology subcommittee looking at the application of technology to improve customer service and increase efficiency. A business subcommittee is looking at business practices. The goal is to have a draft report by December to bring to the Senate. Mr. Wolfson noted that the task force was formed because the Academic Senate did not approve the parking business plan.

- 8. Focus on Research: Policy Committee discussed the status of research at the University. It was noted that focus must continue to be maintained on both teaching and research.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of November 1, 2010