WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 26, 2015

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

Guest: Joseph Rankin, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 26.

*1. <u>Graduation with Distinction</u>: Associate Provost Rankin presented a proposal to change Board of Governors Statute 2.43.61 *Graduation with Distinction*. The criteria for graduation with distinction include a minimum of 60 credits in residence. Students are allowed to transfer 64 credits from community colleges. They could complete their degree by taking 56 credits at Wayne State, but cannot graduate with distinction unless they request and are granted a waiver of the rule of 60 credits. The Associate Provost can waive the 60-hour credit, but some advisors do not know that is possible so students do not submit a request. One PC member wanted to know how many students qualified for a waiver in the previous three years and how many were granted. She believes that more credits from WSU should be required than are transferred because the degree is from Wayne State. Other members thought it unfair to permit students to transfer 60 credits but not count all of them toward their degree. It was also mentioned that most of the 56 credits are taken in the student's major. Mr. Rankin proposed that the Statute be changed to allow 56 credits in residence. A vote was taken and it passed.

 2. <u>New Course Scheduling Matrix</u>: A committee that Provost Winters established has been working to revise the course scheduling matrix to clarify and simply when classes should be held. Currently, some classes overlap so that students are unable to attend a class or they may miss some portion of a class to attend another class. The times when classes begin vary and that can be confusing. The committee sought and received feedback about the proposed matrix from Deans and Chairs.

Mr. Rankin has formed an implementation committee composed mainly of staff in the Registrar's Office and in the Division of Computing and Information Technology. They will make the detailed changes in the WISE scheduling system and in Banner. Workshops will be held to explain the changes to Department Chairs and to the staff members who schedule classes in the units.

One issue that needs to be resolved is how to include classes that are taught for only part of a semester. Another is converting the colleges that schedule classes in Banner to the WISE system. The WISE system does not allow units to schedule classes that do not follow the matrix.

Provost Winters' purpose in changing the matrix is for departments to schedule courses so students are able to take them in sequence so they are able to complete

their degrees in four years. She does not want the way classes are scheduled to be a barrier to students' completing their degrees in four years.

A member expressed concern about potentially blocking courses that follow a different schedule. For example, a distinguished faculty member might be able to teach only for a certain period of time. The Provost said that there would be some form of override.

Another problem with scheduling classes will be discussed with the Chairs, i.e., spreading courses throughout the days and the week so we don't run out of classroom space and enough parking spaces are available. Mr. Roth thinks we need to consider when students are available to attend class and when classes have been well enrolled and when they have not been well enrolled. Provost Winters noted students might have become used to going to classes at certain times because that is when they have been scheduled. The students and faculty may have to adjust their schedules. The changes will be monitored. The implementation date has not been decided.

[Mr. Rankin left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Chair:
    a. The program reviews of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies will take place in the 2016-2017 academic year. The Centers are functioning under one-year temporary charters because their reporting lines were transferred from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the Provost's Office. The Provost asked Policy Committee if it would agree to delay the review of the new charters for one year so the review for the permanent charters and the program reviews would be done at the same time. There was some disagreement about what Statute 2.23.01 *Centers and Institutes; Policy on Creation, Review, and Discontinuance* required. This issue will be returned to the Policy Committee for its next meeting.
    b. Stephanie Brzuzy, the liaison from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to Wayne State, will visit campus later this week. She will meet with our Steering Committee on Re-accreditation, the Council of Deans, and the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors. The HLC accreditors will visit the University in March 2017. The self-study is due several months before the accreditors visit campus. It will be posted on line. The Provost will provide a list of the members of the Steering Committee to the Policy Committee.

4. Report from the Senate President: The Capital Outlays Committee is completing its report. It is due October 30. Mr. Romano and Mr. Artiss served on the committee that helped to prepare the request.

*5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: Policy Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of October 19, 2015, as submitted.

6. Retention and Graduation Rates: At the October 19 Policy Committee meeting, the Provost had suggested that the credentials of the freshmen who entered in 2009 had

not increased over those for freshmen who entered in fall 2005 and thus would not have affected the increase in the graduation rate. Mr. Romano checked the average GPAs and ACT scores for those years and found that there was a slight increase. The GPA went from 3.09 to 3.2 and the ACT score from 20.38 to 21.09. He believes the increase in the credentials might partially account for the increase in the graduation rate. The other important factor was that advisors worked with students who were close to graduation to complete their degrees.

7. Agenda for the Academic Senate Meeting: Policy Committee approved the drafted agenda for the November 4 Senate meeting.

8. Reports from Liaisons:
   a. Ms. Dallas, the liaison from the Policy Committee to the Student Affairs Committee, reported that, at the meeting of October 21, Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis, and Lyke Thompson, Director of the Center for Urban Studies, talked about the most recent student survey. The Committee was interested in knowing who gets the data from the survey and whether anyone follows up to see if the areas of concern are being addressed. The students are most dissatisfied with parking, food services, and housing. Ms. Simon mentioned that every year the University conducts a survey of students who were admitted and enrolled and a survey of those who were admitted and did not enroll. Mr. Romano asked the Provost for a copy of those surveys.
   b. Mr. Kessel, the liaison to the Research Committee, reported that, at the meeting of October 14, Peter Hoffman, Associate Dean for Research in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, told the Committee that research support in the College was not too bad despite the budget of the National Institutes of Health being flat for the past few years. The College needs an upgrade of its laboratories.
   c. The Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee met on October 21. Mr. Artiss, who chairs the Committee, reported that Daren Hubbard, the Interim Vice President for Computing and Information Technology, updated FSST on major C&IT projects. Degree audit is working. C&IT received a grant to increase storage capacity for researchers. There are 119M daily attempts to breach the University's firewall. The majority are from China. The School of Medicine is moving to a digital application process. The Graduate School has developed a database for graduate students to track milestones. The early warning software being developed by C&IT is in beta-testing in the College of Engineering. It is hoped that it will be available campus wide by fall 2017. Voice over IP should be completed by November except for the Medical School, which is expected to be onboard in the new year.

9. Med-Direct: Provost Winters reported that the Med-Direct Program is a reworking of the Med Start Program. This program accepts undergraduate students from low socio-economic backgrounds. They are provided free tuition through the end of Medical School.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of November 9, 2015