

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 30, 2017

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; r. hoogland; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; N. Simon;
W. Volz; K. Whitfield

Absent with notice: B. Roth

Guest: Hengguang Li, Chair, Department of Mathematics

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of October 30, 2017.

1. Committee to Review Mathematics Competency and the Quantitative Experience:
Provost Whitfield is forming a committee to recommend how to create a dynamic mathematics competency particularly for students who will take the quantitative experience courses. Policy Committee had invited two faculty in the Mathematics Department to serve on the committee, but they declined. Mr. Li was invited to the meeting to discuss the situation. He stated that the faculty want to participate but, when faculty are needed for committees, it would be better to contact him so he could inform the entire Department.

Mr. Romano explained that the committee being formed is to address the long-standing problems with the math competency test and the courses that qualify for the math competency. The problems have contributed to our low graduation rate. Other departments will develop courses to satisfy the quantitative reasoning (QR) requirement. Faculty knowledgeable in math are needed to determine which proposed courses satisfy the QR. Math faculty also are needed to help develop the co-requisite course. We need math professionals to determine the content of the courses and how best to teach the courses. Mr. Romano noted that the Policy Committee is happy to consult with Mr. Li and faculty in in the Department when faculty are needed for committee service but the selection of faculty representatives for committees is the prerogative of the Policy Committee. Policy Committee's initial choices were based on recommendations from faculty in Math Education. Associate Provost for Academic Programs Darin Ellis is working with Mr. Li to identify faculty to serve on the committee.

[Mr. Li left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:
 - a. Provost Whitfield updated the Policy Committee on the searches for the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Dean of Social Work.
 - b. Three surveys, including the campus climate survey, will be sent to members of the campus during the fall term.
- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Policy Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of October 23 as amended.

4. Search Committee for the Associate Vice President for Human Resources: Vice President for Finance and Business Services William Decatur asked Policy Committee for three potential faculty who might serve on the search committee. Mr. Romano will contact the nominees.

5. Lecturer Renewal Process: A lecturer asked the Policy Committee to look into the process the University uses where lecturers are “fired” at the end of an academic year and then wait months to find out if they will be rehired to teach the next year. This is done for budgetary reasons. The notifications are sent from the Deans’ offices. Policy Committee suggested to Provost Whitfield that if Deans know that lecturers in their college will be rehired they should not automatically send the notice of non-renewal to the lecturers. If the University had two-year budgets some of the uncertainty about hiring would be reduced.

6. Board of Governors Statute on General Education: The current Board Statute lists all of the general education requirements. The Provost’s Office is suggesting that the Statute be revised to give only a broad outline of the general education program and refer the reader to the University Bulletin for the details. Mr. Romano said that even with the protection of Board Statute, the outgoing Provost was able, without the knowledge of the Board and apparently without the knowledge of the President, to remove a core requirement of the general education program. If the requirements are not in the Statute, changes to the program could be made without the knowledge of the academic side of the University. Mr. Romano believes that the specifics of the program are in the Statute as an acknowledgement of the importance of the program and the effort that was expended in its development. The details in the Statute inform the Board members of the program. Changes will be made in the program; they should be made with consideration and transparency. The Policy Committee drafted a revised Statute that it believes would protect the academic side of the University and the Board’s oversight of this important part of the educational process. The Policy Committee recommends that a senior member of the academic staff who advises students be added to the General Education Oversight Committee with vote.

7. Topics for Committees: Ms. Simon distributed a list of topics that the Student Affairs Committee might address this year. Policy Committee members suggested some issues for the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee and for the Research Committee to address this year.

8. November 1 Academic Senate Meeting: Some Senate members have approached Ms. Simon, who is the Chair of the Elections Committee, about voting by secret ballot. According to the Senate’s By-laws, **if** a member requests a secret ballot and that request is seconded, the vote has to be by secret ballot.