

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 6, 2014

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

Absent with notice: A. Sankar

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 6, 2014.

1. Report from the Chair:
  - a. Provost Winters updated the Committee on the searches for the Dean of Nursing and for the Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion.
  - b. The University is sending a request for proposals to hire search firms to assist in the search for the Dean of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the search for the Dean of Medicine. Dean of Medicine Valerie Parisi is stepping down as Dean in late November at which time an Interim Dean will take over. Dr. Parisi is leaving the University at the end of the academic year.
  - c. The opening celebration of the Advanced Technology Education Center at Macomb Community College was held October 2. Governor Rick Snyder, Congressman Sander Levin, and Congressman John Dingell were among the attendees. The Provost said that the facility is impressive, and the administrators of Macomb Community County are enthusiastic about the Center. Provost Winters will provide information on student enrollment at the Center.
  - d. The capital campaign will be launched October 9 with many activities throughout campus.
2. Report from the Chair:
  - a. The members of the Policy Committee and the faculty and academic staff representatives and alternates to the Board of Governors committees were invited to a reception with the members of the Board.
  - b. The Policy Committee will meet with the President's Cabinet on October 23. They mentioned issues they might want to discuss with the Cabinet.
- \*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of September 22, 2014, were approved as submitted.
4. Student Due Process Hearing Panel: The Board of Governors Statute charges the Academic Senate with appointing members of the faculty and academic staff to form the panel that processes cases of non-academic misbehavior involving individual students or student organizations. A problem arose with the membership of the Panel and Provost Winters was asked to help resolve the situation.
5. Board of Governors Meeting: A draft of the proposed "5-year Capital Outlay Plan Update and Capital Outlay Project Request" is on the agenda for the Board of Governors Budget and Finance Committee meeting. The Request is sent to the legislature for funding. The top priority is the renovation of the Science and Engineering Library building for use as a STEM Laboratory Classroom Building. Policy Committee discussed the funding of capital projects with bonds and their repayment.

6. Update on the Strategic Planning Process: Mr. Romano is a member of the steering committee. He reported the work that has been accomplished in the planning process and what still needs to be done. Vice President Lanier, Vice President Nork, Provost Winters, and Vice President Wright form the Executive Committee. The Barthwell Group is assisting the University in the process. The vision statement, mission statement, and focus areas have been identified. The focus areas are student success, teaching excellence, research, diversity, entrepreneurship, community engagement, and financial stability. Each focus area has goals and each goal has multiple objectives, which are more specific than the goals. An action plan will be developed to achieve each objective and goal. Focus groups (faculty, staff, students, and academic staff) meet with the Barthwell Group and comment on each of the focus areas, goals, and objectives. The steering committee was broken into smaller groups and other faculty and administrators were added to the groups to get their opinions on the focus areas, goals, and objectives. A town hall meeting for the University community will be scheduled. Several more meetings of the various groups working on the plan will be held. Provost Winters noted that presentations would be made to the Academic Senate, the Council of Deans, and the President's Cabinet.

A Policy Committee member was concerned that the information provided by the focus groups may not be reported accurately; the Barthwell Group did not report back to the groups what it submitted from their input. Another concern was the fact that the schedules of the faculty were not taken into consideration when scheduling meetings.

7. Composite Fringe Benefits Rates FY 2015: The fringe benefits rates for each employee category have been changed. Mr. Romano brought the changes to the attention of the Policy Committee and the Provost. He questioned the changes for faculty paid from research grants who, during the summer are classified as part-time faculty (represented), and for the spring/summer GTA category. Mr. Romano was advised to contact James Barbret, the Controller, for an explanation of the changes. He will report back to the Policy Committee.
8. Reports from Liaisons:
  - a. Budget Committee: Mr. Volz, the Policy Committee liaison to the Budget Committee, reported that, at the meeting of October 6, the Committee looked at the enrollment figures for the fall term. Overall there was a modest decline, but less than what had been budgeted. Graduate enrollment has increased, in particular in Nursing, Engineering, and Social Work.
  - b. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Last academic year, Mr. Artiss was involved with the concern of a researcher about wide temperature swings in the Scott Hall animal facilities. He reported that Facilities, Planning and Management addressed the problem. The temperature in the rooms will be controlled within two degrees.