

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
November 16, 2015

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

Absent with notice: L. Romano

In the absence of Mr. Romano, Mr. Artiss, the Vice Chair of the Senate, chaired the meeting.

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of November 16.

1. Report from the Chair:
 - a. Last week Provost Winters hosted the Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Conference. Students in the STEM fields presented posters and those in the humanities and social sciences made conference-style oral presentations. The undergraduate research office provides small stipends for faculty who serve as mentors.
 - b. Vice President for Health Sciences David Hefner is holding a retreat for Chairs and Deans in the Medical School and members of the central administration the afternoon of November 20 and all day November 21. Lou Romano is attending as President of the Academic Senate and Charles Parrish is attending as the President of the AAUP-AFT. The foci of the retreat are funding and economics at the School of Medicine.
 - c. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion is holding a program November 16. Small groups will discuss issues regarding race and the lack of inclusion.
 - d. Asked about the University's policy regarding guns on campus, the Provost said that the University prohibits guns on campus.
- *2. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the meeting of November 9, 2015, were approved as submitted.
3. Revision to the Facilities and Administrative Costs Distribution Policy: Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier has proposed changes in the Policy. The indirect cost recovery rate would be increased from 26% to 32% for corporate sponsored clinical trials. The Policy Committee did not object to the change.
4. Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Placement/Competency Exam Committee: The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the University purchase the ACCUPLACER exam to replace the current exam that tests math competency and that places students in math courses. The Provost said that "Math in Today's World" would be added to the competency exam. The efficacy of the exam will be monitored. The General Education Oversight Committee has to approve the use of the exam for the math competency requirement and the Undergraduate Committee in the Mathematics Department has to approve the use of the exam to place students in MAT 1000 and MAT 1050. It is likely that the Math Department will begin using the exam for placing students in courses in the winter term, and will be fully implemented in the spring/summer semester. ACCUPLACER can be customized but it was not clear if the company would provide a separate package to customize the exam to

meet the competency requirement or if the University would customize it. Provost Winters will find out if the University is able to pilot the software or if we have to purchase it outright. The report did not include the cost of the software. A member asked if the Math Department was revising its curriculum because the chart was confusing. It was noted that statistics was another path students could follow to meet the competency requirement. The Ad Hoc Committee's report states "The time frame for the decision did not permit the committee to undertake a fine-grained analysis of the mathematics constructs covered by the exam and their validity." Overall, Policy Committee members were concerned that this software solution does not effectively resolve the competency test issue or the statistics competency issue or the existence of various confusing introductory math courses. Provost Winters will send the questions raised by Policy Committee to the Ad Hoc Committee.

5. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the agenda and supporting documents for the Graduate Council meeting of November 18.
- *6. Agenda for the Academic Senate Meeting: Policy Committee approved the draft agenda for the Senate meeting of December 2.
7. Reports from Liaisons:
 - a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: At the meeting of November 11, Ms. Simon made a report on the early academic assessment data. They found that the higher the level of the student who receives an EAA in the 1000, 2000, and 3000 level courses, the better they do in the end. The administration is considering whether to require the EAA in the 3000 level courses. In the winter semester of 2015 a number of freshmen and sophomore students were in 3000, 4000, and 5000 level courses. The class level of students has been added to the class lists given to faculty to alert them that lower level students are in their classes. They could suggest that the students drop the course. Mr. Artiss and Ms. Beale serve on the Information Management Systems Committee and will raise the issue at that Committee's next meeting. Also, at the CIC meeting, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Joseph Rankin gave a report on the proposed scheduling matrix.
 - b. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Mr. Artiss reported on last week's meeting of the FSST Committee. The University has a web portal that allows students, faculty, and staff to purchase used computers in the range of \$50.00 to \$200.00. The Committee is generating maps that will identify unisex washrooms for the people who are transitioning, nursing rooms for mothers, and foot washing stations. FSST has been asked to assist the Student Senate in reviewing their green strategy policy.
 - c. Research Committee: Mr. Kessel is the Policy Committee liaison to the Research Committee. He reported that Bonita Stanton, Vice Dean of Research in the School of Medicine, reported that the research grant income of the SOM is up to the level that it was in 2010. Ms. Stanton will provide the Committee with the information by department.

