

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

November 18, 2013

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

Absent with notice: R. MacArthur

Guests: Mathew Ouellett, Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning; Monica Brockmeyer, Interim Associate Provost for Student Success; Rita Casey, Psychology, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Adham Aljahmi, President, Student Senate

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of November 18, 2013.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Last week Provost Winters attended a follow-up meeting with the group involved in the community engagement program. The University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State formed an organization that is now called the Civic Engagement Consortium. They discussed Wayne State's role in the consortium. WSU will list all of the ways in which it is involved in civic engagement. The list will be online so that it can be searched, modified, and updated. There is a great deal of local activity within the schools, colleges, and other units. Dean of Students David Strauss reported that students are involved in many activities in the community, but they are not generally known. That prevents the University from connecting with organizations on campus and in the community.
- b. There were a number of activities held last week in connection with Undergraduate Research Week. Most were well attended. The students' posters and oral presentations were very impressive.
- c. Provost Winters attended the meeting of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities. There was a convergence of the presentations at the meeting, discussions she has had with the Kresge Foundation, and Mr. Romano's recommendations about student retention that all suggested that Georgia State University was doing something right regarding retention. Therefore, she indicated that a group from Wayne State would travel to Georgia State. She also mentioned that Georgia State received an award for innovation at the APLU meeting. The APLU sponsors a group called Student Achievement Measures that is lobbying to change the criteria by which university achievement is measured. They want to move away from counting only full-time first-time-in-any-college students and they want to increase the number of years to graduation included in the statistics. Our transfer students who have better graduation rates are not included in the statistics.
- d. President Wilson's inauguration will take place on April 4, 2014. There will be a research symposium, a reception, and a concert in conjunction with the inauguration.

- e. At an earlier meeting, the Policy Committee had asked Provost Winters for data about students who were admitted but chose not to attend Wayne State. Data are being put together that will provide some insights into why they do not attend. Policy Committee also wanted to know the majors the students might have had if they had come here. Until this year, if a prospective student had not declared a major, the only option on the survey was “general or undecided.” They are now being asked to identify their intended major.
 - f. Policy Committee also had asked if students who have Presidential Scholarships and go overseas as part of the Study Abroad Program lose their Scholarship upon returning to Wayne State if they did not take the number of credits required to keep it. Provost Winters learned that a student’s leave must be approved by the Honors College, and that College is responsible for seeing that the student does not lose the Scholarship.
2. Report from the Senate President:
- a. Mr. Romano met with Vice President for Finance and Business Operations Rick Nork about the possibility of having a joint administration-faculty committee to make recommendations for the renovation of State Hall. Mr. Nork did not expect any renovations to be made in the next couple of years. He thought that the Senate’s Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee and the Curriculum and Instruction Committee ought to develop a list of priorities for a new teaching building. The list could include the facilities that are needed and are available at other universities.
 - b. Mr. Romano also addressed with Mr. Nork the re-working of the Master Plan. It has been many years since the last one was produced. Buildings were added that were not in the plan and other buildings were demolished. Mr. Romano suggested that a joint committee work on the project as part of the strategic planning process. Mr. Nork will mention the suggestion to President Wilson as part of the strategic planning process, which will begin next week.
 - c. A member asked if there was any progress to the Policy Committee’s recommendation that students’ parking fees be included in the student services fee. It was suggested that the FSST Committee invite Jon Frederick, Director of Parking, and Tim Michael, Associate Vice President and Chief Housing Officer, to a meeting to discuss the issue. Policy Committee members believe it would improve enrollment and retention. Students stop attending classes when they run out of money for parking.
- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of November 11, 2013, were approved as corrected.
4. Attributing Credit Hour Totals by Unit: Last week Policy Committee learned that when a student takes a course that is not in the student’s department where his/her major is, the credit for the course is attributed to the department of the major. Provost Winters will get clarification.
5. Board of Governors Statutes Describing Hearing Panels: The Board of Governors Statute 2.51.01 Appointments, Continuing Tenure, Termination and Dismissal Policies and Procedures for Faculty and Statute 2.52.01 Appointments, Tenure,

Employment Security Status, Termination and Dismissal Policies and Procedures for Academic Staff state how the panels are formed that hear these cases. The language in the Statutes is the language that was in the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT that expired 11 years ago. The nomination procedure for Article XXX committees, which these are, was changed. The Statutes should be updated so they are in agreement with the language in the contract.

6. Process for Developing Emeritus Status Criteria: Policy Committee suggested that the rules covering the granting of emeritus status be revised and codified. Policy Committee suggested guidelines for a revised policy. Mr. Romano will write a statement for next week's Policy Committee meeting.
7. Board of Governors Meeting: The Board of Governors Budget and Finance Committee, their Academic Affairs Committee, and the Board will meet November 22. Policy Committee reviewed the presentation of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
8. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the materials for the Graduate Council meeting of November 20, 2013. Mr. Romano noted that the search committee for the Dean of the Graduate School has begun working. Some applications have been received.
9. Report from the Chair of the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Mr. Artiss reported on the meeting of November 13, 2013. Leo Lieberman, the Manager of Mail and Receiving Services, attended the meeting to discuss issues with the delivery of mail. Ivan Avrutsky and Jeffrey Withey reported on the meeting organized by the Computing and Information Technology Office to consider a new telephone system. Howard Matthew reported on the renovation of the second floor of Manoogian Hall. Joseph Sawasky, the Chief Information Officer, who is the administrative liaison to FSST, reported on the organizational and service changes to desktop and work group IT. A member asked the Committee's support for renovations to the Law School. Mr. Artiss asked that he send a message detailing what is being requested.

[Mathew Ouellett, Monica Brockmeyer, Rita Casey, and Adham Aljhami joined the meeting.]

10. Release of SET Data: Mr. Ouellett, Ms. Brockmeyer, Ms. Casey, and Mr. Aljhami are members of the 2N Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) Committee. The Committee recommended that SET data be released to students. Policy Committee questioned the value of doing so. The guests were invited to discuss the differing views. The ratings had been released in the past but the practice was discontinued in 2002 because it was expensive to print the report. Mr. Aljhami said the Student Senate believes releasing the data holds faculty accountable and allows students to make decisions about taking classes in which they can succeed. The Student Senate wants to work with the faculty to develop what should be released. The SET Committee identified the questions that are given to Chairs and salary committees to evaluate faculty, not the entire SET or the students' comments.

Mr. Ouellett added that the recommendation has the endorsement of the whole 2N Committee. It was given to the Policy Committee as a progress report and the 2N Committee is seeking the perspectives of the Policy Committee.

Policy Committee members do not believe that the SET accurately measures whether a teacher is good or effective. Studies on SET scores show that they can only measure such issues as whether a teacher is clear or confusing, if the pace of the course is appropriate, or if the faculty member writes well and speaks well. Set scores tend to reflect popularity or attractiveness of a teacher rather than teaching. SET scores are statistically meaningless when they average ranking data from various students and treat the results as commensurate. For example, a professor who gets a 2 from half the students in a class and a 4 from the other half on some measure cannot meaningfully be said to be, on average, ranked at 3 on that measure. SET scores are also statistically meaningless when they are used to compare teachers across courses or disciplines.

Mr. Ouellett pointed out that because students do not currently have any data on which to make decisions about classes, the SET Committee concluded that it would be useful to release the SET information to provide some information to help students make decisions about courses. The Policy Committee disagreed and noted that providing statistically misleading information would be worse than providing no information, except for those few items on the current SET from which one can draw some conclusions about attributes relevant to classroom learning (such as the professor's clarity or pace).

Mr. Aljhami mentioned that last year the Student Senate received the agreement of President Gilmour, Deputy President Vroom, and the Board of Governors to release the information. The increase in tuition for the 2013-2014 academic year was higher than the Board had indicated to the students, and the students felt betrayed. That the SET scores have not been released has raised additional concerns for students.

Mr. Aljahmi said that the students want to work with the faculty. Mr. Ouellett asked the Policy Committee to send to the SET Committee the items they think warrant further consideration for release to students. Provost Winters noted that some form of evaluation from students would continue.