

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

November 21, 2011

Present: L. Beale; R. Brown; D. Kessel; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: V. Dallas

Guests: Frances Ahern, Director, Planning and Project Management, Facilities Planning and Management; Monica Brockmeyer, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Success; James Sears, Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management; Kelley Skillin, Director of Professional and Academic Development, Office of the Provost

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of November 21, 2011.

1. Selection of the Members of the Article XXX Committees: The members of university-wide committees are chosen according to the provisions of Article XXX in the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT. After the slates are ready, the Policy Committee and the Provost separately select the persons they would like to serve on the committees. The Provost and the Policy Committee then meet to jointly form the committees.

Prior to the regular meeting on November 21, the Policy Committee met without the Provost to decide which nominees they would like to serve on the committees. They did not finish their selections, and will continue the process next week. Also, next week, the Policy Committee and the Provost will jointly select the membership of the committees.

[Ms. Skillin joined the meeting.]

- *2. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of November 7, 2011, were approved as amended.

[Provost Brown joined the meeting.]

- *3. Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute: The Policy Committee received the report of the Type II Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee for the review of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute. A Policy Committee member objected to the Policy Committee's recommending renewal of the Institute's charter because the budgetary information was not complete. However, the majority of the Policy Committee members recommended renewal of the charter of the Institute.
4. Agenda for the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee: Provost Brown brought to the Policy Committee several agenda items that will be submitted to the Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee at its December 7, 2011, meeting.

- a. Dissolution of Low Productivity Programs: The administration is recommending to the Board of Governors that low productivity programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, the School of Medicine, the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, and the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences be dissolved. Some of the programs on the list were eliminated in 2006 but were not submitted to the Board of Governors for approval. Other programs have not granted a sufficient number of degrees during a five-year period. Some members of the Policy Committee noted that there was incorrect information in the documents being submitted to the Board related to the number of active students in a program and to the projected cost savings for another program. The Provost asked Ms. Skillin to revise the report in response to the comments. It was noted that the University does not pay attention to the programs that some of our best students would like to pursue.
- b. Master of Laws in General Legal Studies: Also on the agenda is a recommendation to give approval to the Law School in its efforts to establish a Master of Laws in General Legal Studies. Ms. Beale gave the background of the proposal. This degree is designed for foreign students who received the equivalent of a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) abroad and seek a thorough but generalist knowledge of the U.S. legal system. It was Ms. Beale's understanding that the proposal was inaccurate because, although the Law School faculty approved the establishment of the degree, they did not approve all of the required courses, and the one course they did approve appeared to need to be revised. Policy Committee advised the Provost to verify if the faculty in the Law School had approved the language in the proposal.
- c. Department of Theatre and Dance: A recommendation to merge the Departments of Theatre and Dance to establish the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance effective January 1, 2012, is being submitted to the Board.

[Ms. Skillin left the meeting.]

5. Report from the Chair:
 - a. The Provost updated the Committee on the status of the search for the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Dean of Social Work, and the Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning, and the position of enrollment manager. Policy Committee discussed the role of the enrollment manager. They noted the important connection between enrollment and marketing. A member pointed out that in the past, successful recruitment efforts included WSU representation at college nights held at area high schools and a speakers' bureau of faculty to lecture to high school students. Provost Brown suggested that an advisory committee of faculty and academic staff might assist the marketing office in reaching out to high school students.
 - b. Provost Brown announced that no receipts for meals are required for reimbursement when traveling.
 - c. The Provost has asked Rick Nork to give to the Policy Committee the Bylaws of the College of Nursing Practice Corporation (NPC) and the contract between WSU and the NPC. Provost Brown will give to the Policy Committee the report of the consultants who reviewed the Advising Office.

[Ms. Ahern, Interim Associate Vice President Brockmeyer, and Mr. Sears joined the meeting.]

6. Renovation of the Fourth Floor of State Hall: Mr. Sears said that, at the Board of Governors meeting of December 7, the administration will seek authorization for the budget to convert the offices and former computer laboratories on the fourth floor of State Hall into classrooms. Ms. Ahern explained the current plans for the reconfiguration. The Division of Facilities Planning and Management looked at the pedagogy to accommodate the collaborative work of students in small groups after a lecture. Ms. Ahern believes that the increased use of technology in classrooms will influence students' decisions about which university to attend. Employees of FP&M have visited universities that have similar classroom configurations. They have begun discussions with Deans to learn which disciplines might use the new rooms rather than a traditional room. Ms. Ahern is contacting other universities to find out how the instructors use the rooms. She displayed the architectural drawings that have been developed. The cost for the construction, technology, and furniture is estimated at \$4.4 million with \$2.5 million from fiscal year 2010 budget savings. Vice President Nork is looking for funding source(s) for the remainder of the project. Mr. Sears would welcome faculty nominated by the Policy Committee to serve on a committee to contribute to the design and develop of the project. Mr. Romano asked for the names of the people who currently are on the committee. A member of the Policy Committee suggested that FP&M might need to present the design to the individual departments to learn what would serve their purposes. Dean Yee plans to set up focus groups of faculty to provide feedback on the design and to discuss what the different disciplines need and which would use the rooms.

[Ms. Ahern, Ms. Brockmeyer, and Mr. Sears left the meeting.]

- *7. Criteria for Graduate Faculty Appointment: The Policy Committee approved the revision that Mr. Romano made to the *Proposal to Revise Criteria for Graduate Faculty Appointment* passed by the Graduate Council. The Provost thought the revision was a good compromise document and will work with Hilary Ratner, the Vice President for Research and Interim Dean of the Graduate School, to seek acceptance by the Graduate Council.
- *8. Type II Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee: The Policy Committee accepted the faculty members nominated by the Vice President for Research to serve on the CIAC-II. The Vice President for Research and the Policy Committee each appointed two faculty to the CIAC-II for three-year terms. The Policy Committee appointed David Cinabro (Professor, Physics, Liberal Arts and Sciences) and David Kessel (Professor, Pharmacology, Medicine). The Vice President for Research appointed Ellen Barton (Chair, English, Liberal Arts and Sciences) and Wei-Zen Wei (Professor, Oncology, Medicine).

[Provost Brown left the meeting.]

9. Reports from Liaisons

- a. Ms. Beale reported that James Mazoue, Director of Online Programs, made a presentation to the Faculty Affairs Committee. He told the FAC that Wayne State had increased its courses that are totally online from 15 in 2002 to 600 in 2010. He said that only 11% of the U.S. universities have a head count that is more than half of WSU's head count in online courses. Ms. Beale had asked Mr. Mazoue about quality control and he replied that we were not using any of the methods available. He was unable to tell the FAC whether full-time faculty or lecturers were teaching the online courses. His office had conducted a survey which showed that students wanted more interaction, better-prepared teachers, more flexibility, lower tuition, and to be able to take the course at their convenience. One study found that \$100,000 is needed to develop a good online course.
 - b. Mr. Woodyard reported that the Student Affairs Committee is developing a policy to cover special circumstances when students must miss examinations. Mr. Romano suggested that the SAC could forward the policy to Associate Vice President Howard Shapiro. Gayle Reynolds, Registrar's Office, and Mr. Shapiro reported the usage statistics of the new Student Services Center housed in the Welcome Center. During the month of October the Center received 9,351 phone calls, 3,262 walk-ins, and 2,519 e-mail contacts.
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Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of November 28, 2011