

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

November 26, 2012

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

Absent with notice: D. Kessel

Guests: John Oliver, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and former Vice President for Research; Alexey Petrov, Professor of Physics

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of November 26, 2012.

1. Research Ranking: John Oliver was invited to present data about the University's research ranking. Alexey Petrov, Professor of Physics and a member of the Academic Senate Research Committee, is preparing a presentation to the Senate and was invited to the meeting, as well.

Mr. Oliver used data from the National Science Foundation (NSF), John Lombardi's report "Top American Research Universities: An Overview," and the National Research Council (NRC). The data covered total research expenditures, including University expenditures and all external support; total external research funding from all sources, including state, local and federal governments, contracts, and grants; federal research funding; internal research funding; and funding from other external sources.

Wayne's NSF rankings for total or federal R&D expenditures showed a steady decline since 2002. For example, when measured against all research universities, Wayne State's ranking for total R&D dropped from 61<sup>st</sup> in 2002 to 78<sup>th</sup> in 2010, the latest year that data are available. Mr. Oliver compared Wayne State against eight other peer universities ranked by NSF; WSU was last. In comparing the schools, Mr. Oliver found that quality of faculty, medical schools, and size were important. John Lombardi's Center for University Performance used nine parameters to rank public universities. Once or twice Wayne State was above 50. In 2003, the NRC ranked departments with Ph.D. programs against the same departments in other universities. Two departments ranked in the second quartile, 9 in the third quartile, and 22 in the fourth quartile.

Mr. Oliver's recommendations are to only recruit faculty who can compete on the national level and to provide support to tenure track faculty and hold them accountable, i.e., denying tenure to those who do not prove their ability. In addition, Department Chairs and faculty have to demand quality from their colleagues.

[Mr. Oliver, Mr. Petrov, and Mr. MacArthur left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. President Gilmour will appoint the Interim Dean of the Law School from the three faculty whose names were submitted to him by a committee of faculty in the School.
- b. Matthew Ouellett, currently at the University of Amherst in Massachusetts, has accepted the position of Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning.
- c. Provost Brown distributed the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (MACRAO) Transfer Agreement. This Agreement will facilitate students' transferring from community colleges.

[Provost Brown left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Romano and Ms. Beale have completed the first draft of the report of the Academic Senate's Development Committee. After the full Committee reviews it, it will be given to the Policy Committee and the Budget Committee for comment.

\*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of November 19, 2012, were approved as corrected.

5. Student Survey regarding Online Courses: The Office of Online Programs is surveying students about their interests in online courses and degree programs. Policy Committee will write a memo inquiring if faculty were consulted in developing the survey.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of December 17, 2012