

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

December 19, 2011

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

Absent with notice: L. Beale

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of December 19, 2011.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Student Success Report: Provost Brown asked Policy Committee members for their comments on the draft Student Success Report. A member spoke in support of the report. Another member asked how much backlash the University expected for changing the admissions standards and how the change would affect the budget. The Provost expects the number of transfer students from community colleges to increase, which would make up the lost revenue. Wayne State must assure that students enter with the ability to perform the required academic work. The University will recruit good students from the Detroit Public Schools. New government regulations regarding Pell Grants require more diligence in recruiting and in monitoring students who receive financial aid. Applications for students who appear marginal in their academic work will be reviewed. One member predicted that although the University might lose students initially, enrollment would rebound after a few years. Another member mentioned that at one time the University had a speakers' bureau of faculty who visited high schools and talked with students about their fields of study and Wayne State. In the past, some departments had a day when they invited students to campus for science demonstrations or to have their writing evaluated by faculty. Members of the Policy Committee would like more information about the evaluation of admission applications and how a decrease in enrollment might affect the general fund budget. They asked that the Director of Admissions Judy Tatum and the Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis Robert Kohrman meet with the Policy to discuss the Report.
- b. Office for Teaching and Learning: Policy Committee and the Provost discussed the functions of the Office for Teaching and Learning and the type of leadership needed in that Office to assist faculty. The University is searching for an Associate Provost who will direct the OTL.
- c. Graduate Teaching Assistants: The Graduate School is offering a course that provides basic teaching strategies for graduate teaching assistants. It is not a required course. Mr. Romano asked the Provost for information about the course. The Provost will contact Interim Dean of the Graduate School Hilary Ratner for the information.

[Mr. Parrish left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Senate President:

- a. Search for the Director of OTL: Mr. Romano is on the search committee for the Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning. That position recently was upgraded to Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning. Some additional applications were received after the change. Telephone interviews will be conducted at the beginning of January.
- b. University Foundation Board: As Senate President, Mr. Romano is a member of the Foundation Board. At the Board's last meeting, Vice President for Economic Development Ned Staebler informed the Board of initiatives in the downtown area. The Board is also discussing the possibility of private companies building and managing new housing for students.
- c. Commencement: Future commencement ceremonies will be held at Ford Field. The names of the graduates will not be announced but their pictures and names will be displayed on a monitor as they receive their diplomas.

*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of December 5, 2011, were approved as amended.

*4. Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics: The general fund budget of the Center last year was \$2.7 million. In 2015, the Director of the Center expects the general fund budget to be \$3.6 million. The active grants of the faculty whose assignment is in the Center total \$2.8 million with an indirect cost return of \$1.4 million. The Policy Committee believes that a center's indirect costs should equal or be greater than its general fund support. Some of the grants that centers include in their budgets are held by faculty whose appointments are in academic departments but who are affiliated with the center. Mr. Romano thinks that centers should take credit for grants of faculty with joint appointments only for the percentage of the indirect costs that are allocated to the centers. The Statute on Centers and Institutes states that center/institute budgets are to be reviewed annually but this has not been done. The Policy Committee approved renewal of the charter of the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics with itemization of the Policy Committee's concerns.

*5. Graduate Faculty Appointment: Mr. Romano submitted to the Policy Committee a revised Graduate Faculty Appointment policy, which the Committee approved. Mr. Romano will submit the approved document to the Provost and to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

[Provost Brown left the meeting.]

6. Fourth Floor State Hall Renovation: Policy Committee nominated members of the faculty and academic staff for the committee that will be consulted about the planned renovations to convert the fourth floor of State Hall to classrooms.

*7. January 11 Academic Senate Meeting: The Policy Committee canceled the Academic Senate meeting scheduled for January 11, 2012.

8. Reports from Liaisons to Committees:

- a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Ms. Vlasopolos, the liaison to the C&I Committee, said that, at the Committee's December meeting, Associate Vice President Howard Shapiro talked about the Academic Success Report, improving retention, and revising the general education requirements. The goals for general education are: understand, create, communicate, and think. Mr. Shapiro talked about retention initiatives, including advising, assessment, APEX (Academic Pathways for Excellence), and being compliant with the North Central Accreditation requirements. The C&I Committee would like the Policy Committee to pressure the administration and the AAUP-AFT to form the committee that is to review the SET form. Mr. Romano asked that the C&I Committee submit a report with its recommendations, which he will forward to the administration.
- b. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Ms. Dallas, the liaison to the FSST Committee, reported that Michael Colburn, who supervises the building engineers and the tradespeople in Facilities Planning and Management, met with the Committee. Mr. Colburn is trying to improve communication and cooperation between the two groups of workers. FP&M is moving to a system of on-line reporting of problems at www.facilities.wayne.edu. Policy Committee members thought the current system of employees' submitting problems to a building coordinator was dysfunctional. Mr. Romano was asked to let James Sears, the Associate Vice President for FP&M, know that the procedure for reporting problems should be widely disseminated.

9. Changes to the FY 2012 Budget Book: At the December 5 Policy Committee meeting, Mr. Woodyard reported that he had met with Rob Kohrman, Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis, about errors in the calculations for enrollment and credit hours in the FY 2012 Budget Book. Mr. Kohrman agreed that Mr. Woodyard's calculations were correct and he said that the errors in the Budget Book would be corrected. The Budget Book shows that the projected undergraduate enrollment would be -0.64% but the correct figure for the projected decline is -1.93%. The bar graph in the Board Book showed projected undergraduate credit hours to be 227,180, but the projected number should be 225,180. The projected decrease in graduate enrollment in the Budget Book is listed as -0.69%, but using the calculations in the Book results in a projected graduate enrollment decrease of -2.56%. In addition, under Central Accounts, the FY 2011 Approved Budget for the Academic Excellence Program is listed as \$0.0 and in the FY 2012 Book as \$11,547,300. However, a note in the Book states that the Academic Excellence Program is increased by \$2,750,000 to fund the 2% undergraduate teaching initiatives. There is no explanation how the additional \$8,797,300 in the Academic Excellence Program will be allocated. Mr. Kohrman said that he would specify the programs that would be funded with the additional \$8,797,300, but he has not done so. On November 28, 2011, the Provost gave the Policy Committee a list of projects in the schools and colleges totaling \$14.5 million that would be funded this year. Mr. Kohrman agreed to provide the Policy Committee with the lines in the FY 2012 Budget Book used for the \$14.5 million.