

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

December 4, 2017

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; r. hoogland; C. Parrish; L. Romano; B. Roth; N. Simon;
W. Volz; K. Whitfield

Absent with notice: D. Kessel

Guest: Dawn Medley, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of December 4, 2017.

1. Awarding Scholarships: Ms. Medley was invited to the meeting to discuss how scholarships and financial aid are awarded. The way that financial aid is applied has changed recently. The University has been under-budgeting financial aid. In July 2016 we had a \$6 million deficit in the financial aid budget. To address the deficit, the procedure was changed so that scholarships are applied first; financial aid supplements what the scholarship does not cover. In fall 2016, the University had \$10 million of endowment awards that were not distributed to students. Scholarships usually are given for merit, but if the scholarship is applied first, the student does not get the benefit of the scholarship.

Ms. Medley said that the University has shifted the awarding of scholarships from merit-based to need-based awards. There was concern that, in shifting away from supporting the highest ability students, we would cut the quality of our freshmen, but that did not happen. Only 70% of the high ability students graduate. Thirty percent transfer to other universities.

This year if, according to the federal methodology, FTIACs had an expected family contribution of zero to \$4,999 the University made it possible for them to have zero out of pocket expense for tuition and fees.

The University has purchased Academic Works, a program that will categorize and track scholarship awards. When departments or colleges give the Enrollment Services Office the criteria for their awards, the Office will identify students who are eligible and send that list to the departments/colleges. Ms. Medley pointed out that universities could not award more to students than the amount determined to be the federal cost of attendance.

Ms. Medley is attempting to eliminate deficit spending of general fund money and to distribute all scholarship endowment money. In the past, there were cases where the University awarded more than the cost of attendance, violating federal Department of Education policy. Eighty percent of our students receive need-based scholarships; 50% of our students are Pell eligible.

The Policy Committee asked Ms. Medley to (a) provide details of the Wayne State Promise Grant; (b) how many students had their merit awards reduced based upon the federal methodology; (c) the number of students whose unrestricted scholarships were reduced; (d) the amount of endowment funds the University gives to students; (e) examples of how scholarship money and financial aid were applied.

The Policy Committee wanted to know specifically how the departmental merit-based scholarships affected the students' university awards. The problem is that students are notified of an award by Admissions, but then receive a merit scholarship from an endowment and then are notified that the university award will be reduced by the merit award amount. This may not be necessary if the student's total award is under what is needed for tuition, fees, books, and room and board.

On another subject, Policy Committee talked about the requirement that students must take 30 credit hours a year to keep their scholarships. Ms. Medley said that students who take 12 credits in fall, 12 in winter, and 6 in the summer would keep their scholarships. However, Policy Committee members said that some advisors and students had understood that students had to take 15 credits in the fall and 15 in the winter. That number of credits in a term could be detrimental to students' successful progress. The Budget Office has seen an increase in the number of credit hours per student.

Tuition will be discounted in the spring/summer term as it has been the past few years.

Policy Committee reviewed the *2017 Enrollment Update* presentation that Ms. Medley made to the Board of Governors on December 1. Overall enrollment is down slightly. Over the past two years, we generated \$8 million dollars in additional tuition revenue but we increased our scholarship dollars by \$6 million. The Vice President for Finance has to reconcile the deficit. Dawn's goal is that the deficit for FY 2018 would be \$4.5 million. To remove the deficit completely we would have to have zero based scholarships. General operating merit based scholarships (the Warrior Awards and many graduate-level scholarships and fellowships) are discounted; they are not hard money.

Policy Committee members are interested in knowing what is responsible for the improved graduation rate. Some members think the increase may be the result of the suspension of the mathematics competency. Mr. Romano asked the Provost for the number of students who graduated in the last two years and the number of those students who graduated without the math competency. It has often been said that the math requirement prevented students from graduating. If the suspension of the math requirement affected the graduation rate that would indicate that having a math competency that is well taught would improve our graduation rate. Mr. Volz said that the General Education Oversight Committee is working on the issue.

The Provost, Ms. Medley, and the Policy Committee discussed other changes that might affect graduation rates. Provost Whitfield is trying to remove institutional barriers that delay or prevent students from graduating. He wants to expand our

successful programs, such as APEX, and he wants students to have more opportunities to get paid internships. Ms. Medley said that there is discussion about discontinuing the differential tuition rate when students move from sophomore to junior status.

[Ms. Medley left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair: The committee reviewing the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is moving forward and collecting survey information.
3. Report from the Senate President:
 - a. The Board of Governors met December 1. On their agenda was the approval of changes in terms and conditions for the sale of the Criminal Justice Building and parking lot 11. As the faculty representative and the faculty alternate representative respectively on the Budget and Finance Committee, Ms. Beale and Mr. Romano questioned the terms because it appears that the purchaser is reaping all the benefits from the changes. The Board approved the recommendation as submitted by the administration.
 - b. The University Foundation Board is meeting December 7.
- *4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of November 27, 2017, as submitted.
5. Academic Staff Professional Development Committee: The ASPDC asked that the terms of its members begin at the beginning of the fall term rather than at the beginning of the calendar year. Upon investigation it was found that the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT states that the terms of the members of the committees selected according to the procedures in Article XXX begin in the fall. Mr. Romano informed Veronica Seatts, the Chair of the ASPDC. The members whose terms would have expired in December 2017 will continue on the Committee until the fall 2018. The members selected this academic year will begin their terms in fall 2018.
6. Student Evaluation of Teaching: A Senate member sent to the Policy Committee a procedure for student evaluation of teaching that another university uses. Policy Committee discussed their knowledge of and experience with the SET. The issue was referred to the Faculty Affairs Committee.
7. Strategic Investment Group: Mr. Romano distributed the Strategic Investment Group's Quarterly Investment Report for the University Foundation for the third quarter of 2017.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee of December 11, 2017