

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2013

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; R. MacArthur; L. Romano; W. Volz; P. Vroom;
A. Wisniewski; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: C. Parrish; A. Vlasopolos

Guest: Kelley Skillin, Director of Professional and Academic Development, Office of the
Provost

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of February 11, 2013.

1. Changes in Accreditation Requirements: Ms. Skillin informed the Policy Committee about the changes in the requirements for accreditation by the North Central Association. Rather than an intensive process every ten years, accreditation now requires increased annual reporting. Ms. Skillin explained that there are three strands to the accreditation process: (1) Federal Compliance; (2) the Quality Improvement Initiative; and (3) the Assurance Process.

The accreditors will check if the University is in compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Universities must choose a Quality Improvement Initiative to undertake; Wayne State has selected advising. The Assurance Process replaces the self-study that was prepared and reviewed under the previous requirements. Wayne State's next accreditation site visit will take place in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Universities must comply with the Federal Higher Education Opportunity Act. One of the important areas for Federal Compliance is the credit hour policy, which includes the definition of a credit hour and how the University ensures that credit hours are consistent across programs and different types of classes (lectures, labs, clinical, etc.) In that regard, Ms. Skillin is auditing courses as listed in Banner. As currently set up Banner identifies courses as either lectures or laboratories, even though there is no laboratory but there is a quiz section. Banner has the ability to identify courses differently, but that application is not being used now. The sections will have to be identified correctly. If the accreditors find a university out-of-compliance, they are required to report the institution to the federal government, which may take disciplinary action against the university. Disciplinary action could be light or severe. The most severe is revoking a university's ability to distribute federal financial aid.

Universities choose their Quality Improvement Initiative (QII). The QII must be related to the academic core of the institution. Wayne State chose advising because it is part of the retention initiative and has metrics attached to it. The accreditors have to approve the QII chosen by a university. WSU's has to be accepted by March 2014, but because we are in the middle of our ten-year accreditation cycle, we have to submit our report on the QII by the spring of 2015.

The Assurance Process is conducted twice in the ten-year accreditation cycle, year four and year ten. Because Wayne State has passed year four, we only have to do the ten-year Assurance review. The criteria focus on retention, graduation, assessment, and learning outcomes. In 2013, the University will begin uploading evidence files to demonstrate compliance with the criteria. In 2016, it will have to submit a brief, of no more than 35,000 words, explaining how the evidence demonstrates the University meets the criteria. The accreditors are interested in retention reports and strategic plans and not in individual students.

At the end of their site visit the accreditors no longer give a preliminary exit report. They mail the preliminary report to the institution, which has a specified number of days in which to respond to factual errors. Upon receipt of that information, the accreditors will write their final report.

Deputy President Vroom said that Joseph Rankin, Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, is working on the Assurance Process and Monica Brockmeyer, Interim Associate Provost for Student Success, is working on the Quality Improvement Initiative. She also said that all information affecting educational policy would be given to the Policy Committee. Mr. Romano offered the services of the Policy Committee to assist in the accreditation process. In addition, Mr. Woodyard noted, there are advantages to having the Senate committees involved in the preparation of the materials.

Ms. Skillin will send to the Policy Committee the Higher Learning Commission's New Criteria for Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education's guidelines regarding the definition of a credit hour.

[Ms. Skillin left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:
 - a. The group studying the retention of students of color, students of low income, and students who are the first members of their families to attend college will meet this week. Deputy Provost Vroom will inform the Policy Committee about the meeting next week.
 - b. Members of Policy Committee suggested that parking structures, or at least one parking structure, be opened on days when the University closes due to bad weather. Despite the University being closed, some faculty, graduate assistants, and employees have to come to campus because of their research. The cars that were parked on the streets last Friday when the University was closed were ticketed.
3. Report from the Senate President:
 - a. The Board of Governors met on February 6. Monica Brockmeyer presented the annual report *Undergraduate Student Success* to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board. A member of the Board is very concerned that the graduation rate of African American students has not improved in the last six years. The administration is addressing the concern.

- b. The Board approved the issuing of bonds up to \$92 million for construction projects. Sixty million dollars will fund the Multidisciplinary Biomedical Research Building. The remainder will be used for other potential projects. Mr. McIntyre, the faculty representative to the Board’s Budget and Finance Committee, and Mr. Romano, the faculty alternate representative, informed the Board that the faculty were not opposed to the other potential construction projects, but questioned the order of the priorities. Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Romano did not comment on the plans for the Advanced Technology Education Center at the Macomb Extension Center, but Mr. Romano believes that consideration must be given to the uses of the building. If the plan is to have research laboratories at the facility, a study should be done to determine if this is the best location for the laboratories. Mr. Romano also spoke to the need to analyze whether the University has enough students to justify constructing a new 30-room laboratory building on the main campus.
 - c. The U.S. State Department and the Commerce Department have a program wherein certain equipment must be categorized before it can be exported. Mr. MacArthur said that the issue was covered at a meeting of the Senate’s Research Committee. Mr. Romano believes the full Senate should be informed about the policy. He will invite Phil Cunningham, Assistant Vice President, Compliance, Research Office, to discuss the issue at a Senate meeting.
- 4. Student Retention: Mr. Woodyard brought to Dr. Vroom’s attention a program run by Florida State University that is successful in retaining and graduating minority students. Mr. Woodyard thought Wayne State should consider implementing such a program. The students FSU helps are similar to disadvantaged students in the Detroit area. Policy Committee members discussed the implications of such a program for Wayne State. A member noted that good comparative data were important but one had to determine what should be compared. For example, what are the universities with an ACT range that compares with WSU doing to help their students succeed? Ms. Dallas pointed out that a researcher who studies retention found that major factors in a student’s success were his/her commitment to getting an education and how well the education fit with his/her goals. Deputy President Vroom noted that Associate Vice President for Research Joseph Dunbar believes faculty availability and faculty mentoring are important components of student retention. Ms. Beale commented about the intensity of mentoring and the greater number of faculty that would be needed for such work.
- 5. Interim Provost: Mr. MacArthur received a letter from President Gilmour thanking him for the letter from the Policy Committee nominating Mr. Romano for the position of Interim Provost. The nomination of Mr. Romano will be considered with others that have been put forward. Policy Committee would like to discuss any possible candidate with the Deputy President before a decision is made.
- *6. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 4, 2013, were approved as corrected.
- *7. Advisory Group: Policy Committee selected Andre Furtado (Mathematics, Liberal Arts and Sciences) to serve on the advisory group studying the retention of students

of color, students of low income, and students who are the first members of their families to attend college. Mr. Furtado accepted the appointment. Victoria Dallas (Communication, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts) also serves on the advisory group.

8. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Mr. MacArthur, the liaison to the FSST Committee, reported that the Committee sent a letter to Vice President for Finance and Business Operations Rick Nork concerning the cost of facilities projects and suggested that departments and faculty be allowed to get external bids for work for approval by the University.
9. Building Purchase: At its meeting of February 6 the Board of Governors authorized the purchase of property at 5447-5449 Woodward to house the School of Social Work. The most recent occupant of the building was the Detroit Institute for Children. The School of Social Work has outgrown the Thompson Home. Mr. Romano thought the administration ought to have consulted with the Senate about the purchase because it involves the expansion and relocation of a School. At Mr. Romano's request, Dr. Vroom will ask Mr. Nork for the price and the size of the building.
10. School of Medicine Research Incentive Program: Mr. MacArthur reported that researchers at the School of Medicine who participate in the School's research incentive program will receive their first bonus checks February 13. The majority of the faculty receiving the bonus opted to take it as income. For the faculty who receive less than \$25 the amount will be deposited in their indirect cost recovery account or in their research and development account. About 15% of the faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine will receive the bonuses that range from \$1.00 to \$1,446.00. The total amount of money distributed in Internal Medicine for the period June 1 through September 30, 2012, is \$9,418.00. The top four recipients received 51% of the money. This indicates that there is not enough funded research in Internal Medicine. Mr. Romano believes Medicine's incentive plan does not encourage new research grants. Giving a bonus to faculty having a single grant does not encourage submissions of new proposals. It would make more sense to give a bonus only for faculty having two grants.
11. Elections Committee: Mr. Woodyard, who chairs the Elections Committee, reported on the status of the member-at-large election. The call for nominations will be e-mailed to all members of the faculty and academic staff.