

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 16, 2015

Present: J. Artiss; L. Beale; V. Dallas; R. N. Frank; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; W. Volz; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: A. Sankar

Guest: Arthur Marotti, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Action of February 16.

1. Emeritus Academy: Mr. Marotti sought support from the Policy Committee to establish an emeritus academy. A number of universities have such centers or colleges for the purpose of keeping faculty engaged with the institutions. An academy would improve the relationship of retired faculty to the University. Some faculty do not retire because they want to continue their research and to interact with colleagues and students. An emeritus academy gives them the option of continuing in those roles when they retire. The University achieves salary savings when faculty retire and it profits from the experience and expertise of faculty who are willing to continue their research and scholarship, share their knowledge with younger colleagues and with students, interact in an interdisciplinary environment, and engage in community outreach. Retired faculty are a major source of development funding. Having an academy might increase that support for Wayne State.

The administration and the Academy of Scholars support the academy as do a number of retired faculty. Policy Committee members were supportive but were concerned that funding may be diverted from other pressing needs to the academy. Mr. Marotti wants to set up the academy with endowment funds, not take money from other needs. The only employee might be a student assistant. Provost Winters does not envision general fund money supporting the academy.

Members of Policy Committee support the establishment of an emeritus academy with the caveat that monetary support come from donations.

[Mr. Marotti left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:
  - a. Catherine Lysack is stepping down from the position of Interim Dean of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Howard Normile, who is the Associate Dean and who has served as Interim Dean in the past, will assume the position of Interim Dean effective March 1.
  - b. Last week, a member of the Policy Committee requested a checklist of the steps to be taken to improve retention and graduation rates. Monica Brockmeyer, Associate Provost for Student Success, provided a list of the activities that are available to intervene when students are in academic trouble.

- c. Ms. Brockmeyer is compiling the ACT data by race and ethnicity, as requested by Policy Committee.
- d. Mr. Romano spoke to the need to have students declare a major in their first year at the University so their progress can be tracked. Students cannot be tracked if they do not voluntarily contact an advisor. The Provost said that advisors would be able to track these students when the app to do so is deployed for all undergraduate programs, which should be in six months.

3. Budget for Fiscal Year 2016: Last week, Robert Kohrman, the Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis, met with Policy Committee. He reported that one-third of the budget cuts for the new fiscal year would be decided by President Wilson and Provost Winters. A Committee member asked the Provost what factors would be included in their decision. Community engagement, outliers in the metrics, major challenges and directions over the next few years might have extra value. The percentage that would be decided by the President and the Provost was discussed with the Deans. The consensus was that it be one-third.

A member of the Policy Committee raised the question of the ratings given to the various metrics. He mentioned enrollment in the context of revenue generation, scholarship, philanthropy, and student success. Another member understood that the metrics were set and it would be unlikely they would be changed based on the Policy Committee's suggestions. He also spoke against one metric, the increase or decrease in enrollment in a college. There needs to be some metric that measures and rewards the number of students enrolled. It will be detrimental to the University if budget cuts or a reduction in the money that is allocated to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts continues to decline based on enrollment declines as compared with the other schools and colleges. They teach most of the general education courses and have the largest enrollment among the colleges. Budget cuts in these colleges will lead to cuts in part-time faculty and lecturers, faculty who teach large percentages of our student credit hours. This will lead to further reductions in course sections, leading to further enrollment declines, and a possible death spiral for these colleges. The first member spoke in favor of differential tuition, which we have. The state is limiting the increase in tuition by public universities to 2.8%. It uses the amount of tuition that the majority of undergraduate students pay. It does not use an average.

- \*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 9, 2015, were approved as submitted.
- 5. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the agenda and supporting documents for the Graduate Council meeting of February 18, 2015. Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier addressed the Council at its January meeting. It appears that in the future, the Graduate Council will be more involved in research.
- 6. Commencement: Mr. Volz volunteered to represent the faculty at the morning commencement ceremony on May 7 and Mr. Frank volunteered to represent the faculty at the afternoon ceremony.
- 7. Student Success: In response to a request, Ms. Brockmeyer provided a list of the activities to help students succeed academically. A member suggested that timelines be included in the list.

Mr. Romano again addressed the need to have students declare a major in their first year. It is a requirement at other universities that have improved their graduation rates. They have mandatory advising, a database to track students, and intrusive advising if a student gets a failing grade in the first or second semester. Mr. Romano repeated the request for data about the APEX program.

A member mentioned a problem in some colleges. The advisors in departments report to their Dean's Office. If Ms. Brockmeyer wants to initiate a program, she has to speak with someone in the Dean's Office and that person relays the information to the advisor. This may result in a breakdown in communication.

Policy Committee discussed the difficulties students have in passing Mathematics courses.

Responsibility for general education has been transferred to Ms. Brockmeyer's office.

8. Reports from Liaisons:

- a. Research Committee: Mr. Kessel, who now chairs the Research Committee, reported on the meeting of February 12 when Bonita Stanton, Vice Dean for Research in the Medical School, informed the Committee about the status of research in the School. Grant accrual was up in research but down in clinical trials. The drop seems to be related to the purchase of the Detroit Medical Center by Tenet Health, which is very concerned about liability. Tenet is making it very difficult to get clinical trials because it wants to ensure that the liability is minimal and possibly zero. The Oakland-Beaumont Medical School has been accredited.
- b. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: At the Committee's meeting last week, Mr. Artiss presented the results of the daycare survey. There is an obvious need for daycare on campus for faculty, staff, and students. He reviewed some of the information from the survey. By far the majority of students commute to campus over ten miles a day. Having daycare available on campus might aid in recruiting students. Most of the people who completed the survey currently are not paying for daycare because a relative or friend is providing care. Those who pay for daycare are paying \$200 or \$300 per week for 40 hours. Anna Miller, who is the Executive Director of the Early Childhood Program at the Merrill Palmer Institute, will meet with the FSST Committee in March. Mr. Artiss will present more information next week.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of February 23, 2015