

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 23, 2015

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

Guests: Ambika Mathur, Dean of the Graduate School; Julia Wysocki, Huron Education, Huron Consulting Group

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Action of February 23.

1. Review of the Honors College: Dean Mathur is chairing the committee that is reviewing the Honors College. As part of the review process, the committee will send a survey to all current Honors students, Honors alumni, and faculty. Dean Mathur is seeking input from different groups asking what questions should be included in the survey. Policy Committee members gave their views of the honors program and its focus. Among the questions they suggested involved the service learning project and better coordination between the Honors College and departments.

[Dean Mathur left the meeting. Ms. Wysocki joined the meeting.]

2. Graduate School Assessment: The University has hired Huron Consulting Group (HCG) to assess the relationship of the Graduate School to the schools and colleges, i.e., which functions should be centralized and which should be the responsibility of the units, particularly for the Masters programs.

The Graduate School supports departments and colleges with financial support for students, through the BUILD program and the BEST program, and provides training grants.

Incentives for departments to develop new programs might help to increase the number of graduate students. Tracking of graduates is important for research grants; the School has begun that work. Questions were raised about the oversight of online graduate programs.

Ms. Wysocki mentioned that the Graduate School has different roles with different schools and colleges. Some colleges are more autonomous than others. One area of focus will be streamlining activities so work is not duplicated. Members thought the Graduate School should provide more financial support to students. Other issues mentioned were the responsibility for recruiting students and the various fees charged students for such things as parking.

[Ms. Wysocki left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Chair:
  - a. In March 2017, the Higher Learning Commission will visit campus as part of the accreditation process.
  - b. Provost Winters will hold a special session with the Council of Deans regarding leadership in the scheduling of classes to reduce conflicts among the courses students need so they can complete their degrees sooner. There will be follow-up sessions for the employees who actually schedule the classes.
  
4. Report from the Senate President
  - a. Airport interviews were conducted last week with the candidates for the position of Vice President for Finance and Business Operations. Three candidates will visit campus in March. The Policy Committee will meet with the candidates.
  - b. The Library Finance Committee met last week. The purpose of the Committee is to find more support for the Library System or find areas where budget cuts can be made.
  
- \*5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 16, 2015, were approved as submitted.
  
6. Daycare: Mr. Artiss chairs the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee. The Committee surveyed students, faculty, and employees about the need for daycare and surveyed other institutions about daycare on their campuses. The response to the campus survey was greater than expected. Mr. Artiss reported on the results.
  
7. Agenda for the Senate Meeting: Policy Committee drafted the agenda for the Senate meeting of March 4, 2015.
  
8. Committee Reports: Mr. Artiss serves on the committee that is setting up the new e-mail system. Migration of data from the old to the new system has begun. Student ambassadors are being hired to assist other students in the use of Office 365. Computing and Information Technology hopes to have everyone, except for the School of Medicine, on the new system by the beginning of the fall term. It likely will be two years before Medicine is on the new system.

Mr. Artiss also serves on a new committee, the Research Information Technology Advisory Group. The purpose of the group is to ensure that internet services throughout the University are up to par for everyone and that everyone has access to high-speed internet.