

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 25, 2013

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

Guest: Ambika Mathur, Interim Dean, Graduate School

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of February 25, 2013.

1. NIH Proposal to Improve the Graduate Experience: Interim Dean of the Graduate School Ambika Mathur attended the meeting to inform the Committee about a grant proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a Director's Workforce Innovation Award. The NIH and the National Science Foundation (NSF) are trying to change graduate education to expose students pursuing a Ph.D. in the biomedical field to other areas such as education, business, communication, and law. This program might facilitate students' pursuing careers other than the traditional academic career. This is a national trend. The amount of the award is \$250,000 every year for five years.

In October 2011, Wayne State hosted a symposium in conjunction with the University of Michigan for the purpose of exposing Ph.D. students to careers other than academia. Two hundred seventy-five trainees attended.

Wayne State has about 300 post doctoral students with another 500 to 600 who have completed their six-year training. We have not been tracking our graduates so we do not know where they go after graduation. The Graduate School has begun to track graduates. A Policy Committee member suggested that advisors are likely to know where their students are. Ms. Mathur said that the NIH used to require universities to track their students for ten years but recently changed the period of time to fifteen years. If Wayne State does not track its students it will be in violation of federal compliance as of 2014. Ms. Mathur will set up a system to track graduates.

The NIH recommends universities focus on graduate minority recruitment. Wayne State does poorly in attracting minority graduate students, and it will fare badly in a review particularly because of its location in Detroit. The NIH also recommends that universities restructure financial and business models of graduate schools with data tracking, minority recruitment, and career development. Training should transcend university-wide schools and colleges.

WSU's proposal will focus on developing a university infrastructure that allows trainees in the biomedical sciences early in their graduate experience to explore multiple career opportunities and innovative ways to enhance their skills.

Wayne State will develop partnerships with local and national employers to ensure that, when the students complete their Ph.D., they will have the skills that employers

need. The areas of focus are: Biotechnology/industry, law/patents, teaching, multicultural community engagement, government agencies, healthcare administration, and communication and publishing. Ms. Mathur explained the type of program students would follow and the changes in the infrastructure of the Graduate School that would be needed to carry out the required needs.

Ms. Mathur asked the Policy Committee to support the application for the grant.

[Ms. Mathur left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. Deputy President Vroom reported that there are four finalists for the Coleman A. Young Endowed Chair in Urban Studies. The person who fills the position will be tenured in his/her department.
- b. In response to a question, Dr. Vroom reviewed the status of discussions regarding the budget for fiscal year 2014.
- c. The faculty promotion and tenure process will hold its first meeting on February 27.

3. Report from the Senate President:

- a. The Senate Budget Committee held its annual meeting with the Chairs of the unit budget committees on February 25 at which administrators reviewed the University's budget situation.
- b. A proposal for a Master of Science degree in Mathematics was introduced at the February 20 meeting of the Graduate Council. The degree would serve as a step to the Ph.D. Margaret Winters, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel reported on the new collective bargaining agreement between the University and the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee-American Federation of Teachers. Changes were made in the grievance procedures. Graduate teaching assistants will receive sick days and a personal business day. The University collects a fee that the federal government charges international students when they apply for admission. The University has changed its procedures for collection of the fee.

4. Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee: A faculty member selected for the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee declined to serve. Deputy President Vroom will ask that another faculty member from the School be nominated to bring the number of nominees to two. Policy Committee and Margaret Winters will jointly select the replacement. The selection was done via e-mail.

\*5. University Research Grant Committee: A faculty member selected to serve on the Life Sciences subcommittee of the University Research Grant Committee declined to serve. Policy Committee and the Deputy President jointly selected the replacement.

6. Proposal to Establish a Center: The Policy Committee received a draft proposal to establish the Leonard Kaplan Education Center for Critical Urban Studies. Mr. Romano provided the statute governing the establishment of centers and institutes for the College of Education's use in preparing the documents for the formal proposal.

Members of Policy Committee pointed out that the University would have to provide financial support to the Center.

7. Commencement Ceremonies: Mr. Romano will represent the Academic Senate at the first commencement ceremony on May 9. Mr. Volz will represent the Senate at the second ceremony.
8. Agenda for the Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed the drafted agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of March 6, 2013.
9. Reports from Liaisons:
  - a. Faculty Affairs Committee: Ms. Vlasopolos reported that, at its most recent meeting, the FAC focused on how to mentor associate professors so they are promoted to professor. She said it appears the only way to do so is through Margaret Winters's and Kelley Skilin's offices.
  - b. Research Committee: At the next meeting, Kenneth Doherty, Assistant Vice President, Procurement, will talk about the pro card.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of March 18, 2013