

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 27, 2012

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

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of February 27, 2012.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. The Budget Methodology Committee, which is working with representatives from the Huron Consulting Group to develop a new budget strategy, has been meeting. Provost Brown, Mr. Volz and Mr. Parrish serve on the committee. The Provost believes the academic side should drive the budget. He has insisted that the University proceed slowly in making changes to the budget model and that all the Deans and the Academic Senate have an opportunity to discuss any proposed new budget model. The Provost is concerned that the current budget is based on history and that it is not transparent. Mr. Romano spoke in favor of the budget model proposed by the Formula Funding Working Group in 1999 that was based on an historical model with a dynamic component. If a college was underperforming its budget would be reduced the following year and if it was overperforming its budget would be increased. The proposal included forming a working group or committee of administrators and faculty that would decide what the dynamic components of the budget should be and what the adjustments should be. Provost Brown said that there would be opportunities to revise any proposal that comes from the current committee.
- b. James Barbret, Associate Vice President for Fiscal Operations and Controller, is resigning.
- c. Two candidates for the position of Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning will return to campus for additional interviews. That position will report to the Provost.
- d. Forums will be held for the faculty to meet the candidates for the enrollment manager position.
- e. Searches are underway for the Director of the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies and for the Coleman A. Young Endowed Chair.

2. Report from the Senate President:

- a. The Academic Senate Budget Committee is holding its annual meeting with the Chairs of the Budget Advisory Committees in the colleges and departments. All members of the Policy Committee were invited to attend.
- b. Chief of Police Anthony Holt and Bonnie Stanton, Vice Dean of Research in the Medical School, will speak to the Senate in April. Chief Holt will talk about safety issues and Bonnie Stanton will talk about research initiatives in the Medical School.

*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 20, 2012, were approved as submitted.

4. Budget: At an earlier meeting, Provost Brown had suggested that the Policy Committee might evaluate academic programs with the possibility of reallocating funds. In a memorandum dated February 9, Policy Committee asked the Provost to clarify the objectives of the evaluation. At the February 27 meeting, the Provost told Policy Committee that President Gilmour did not want the study to be done this year. It appears that the University will receive the same appropriation from the state for fiscal year 2013 as it did for FY 2012, and the unit budgets for FY 2013 will be the same. In preparing the budget for FY 2013 President Gilmour will look at the expenditures of units, not just their allocations. He is forming a committee to work on the academic budget for the coming year, and has asked the Policy Committee to nominate faculty.

In its memo of February 9 Policy Committee asked for access to information from the administration. President Gilmour agreed to give the committee access if such a group were formed. The President stressed that the committee's recommendations would be just that – recommendations.

The consultant from the Huron Consulting Group, that is working with the Budget Methodology Committee, had a spreadsheet that showed all revenue including tuition as well as the expenditures. Policy Committee asked to see that information, and the Provost agreed it should be available.

[Mr. Parrish left the meeting.]

5. President's Budget Committee for the FY 2013 Budget: Policy Committee nominated four faculty for the budget committee the President is forming to work on the FY 2013 Budget. The President will select the representative.
6. Future Budgets: It appears that there will be no major changes in the University Budget in FY 2013. However, a member stressed the need for a joint administration-faculty committee to look at the budget of the entire University with an eye for re-allocation, rewarding quality and enhancing deficiencies. Some Policy Committee members advocated for beginning work on such a committee earlier rather than later because of the need to review a great deal of information. If such a committee were formed, Policy Committee asked that the Provost provide a written charge for the committee.

Policy Committee members suggested that two committees might be needed. One committee would consist of faculty to evaluate the quality of the schools and colleges. Another committee would consist of administrators, academic administrators, and faculty to analyze the budgets of all the units and the amount of the budget allocated to the administrative side and academic side. That committee would make recommendations how to allocate the budget.

7. Agenda for the Senate Meeting: The Policy Committee approved the agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of March 7, 2012.

[Provost Brown left the meeting.]

8. Areas of Strategic Focus: The President's Cabinet and the Policy Committee have been developing a list of priorities or areas on which to focus. At their last joint meeting a list was distributed. Policy Committee felt that their areas of concern had not been sufficiently addressed in that list and they revised it. Mr. Romano will send the recommendations to President Gilmour.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of March 5, 2012