

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 9, 2015

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

Absent with notice: R. N. Frank; D. Kessel

Guest: Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of February 9.

1. Report from the Chair:
  - a. Marquita Chamblee, the Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, began work on February 2.
  - b. The search for the Coleman A. Young Endowed Chair in Urban Affairs is near completion. The recipient will teach and work on projects in the city and the region. The person in that position will perform professorial work and will be involved with community engagement in Detroit.
2. Report from the Senate President:
  - a. The search for the Vice President for Finance and Business Operations is proceeding. Airport interviews will occur next week. Mr. Romano is a member of the search committee.
  - b. Mr. Romano mentioned several items that were discussed at the February 6 Board of Governors meeting. Only about \$6.9 million dollars was added to the endowment last year. A few years ago a group of faculty looked at the activities of the Development Office. They recommended that funding for development should be performance related so there is an incentive to increase donations.
  - c. Associate Provost for Student Success Monica Brockmeyer presented the Annual Report on Undergraduate Student Success to the Board of Governors. One of the concerns from the Board is that the six-year graduation rate for African American students is 11%.
  - d. The Board of Governors gave a special award to Evan Leedy, the student who raised money so Detroit resident James Robertson, who walked 20 miles in his commute between home and work, could purchase a car.
- \*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of January 26, 2015, were approved as submitted.
4. Undergraduate Student Success: Policy Committee reviewed the report that was given to the Board of Governors. They asked about the proposed revision to the course scheduling matrix. One has been developed and will be piloted in summer 2016 with adoption by the entire University in fall 2016. Classes will begin on the hour and on the half-hour. At the request of the Policy Committee, the Provost will provide descriptions of the changes that are proposed. PC members again

## Proceedings of the Policy Committee - February 9, 2015

expressed their concern about the low graduation rate for African American students and whether different strategies should be used to address the students' needs. A member recommended that it might be helpful to have a checklist of the steps that are to be performed to improve the retention and graduation rates.

5. General Education Reform Committee: Policy Committee received the revised charge to the GERC. Mr. Romano noted that the goals in the charge do not mention the need to address political considerations that affect departments. Although it should not be a priority, it should be considered. Policy Committee asked that Monica Brockmeyer and Thomas Fischer, who chair the GERC, meet with them during the summer for an update.

[Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis, joined the meeting.]

6. Budgets:
  - a. The first question that Policy Committee asked was how the budget shortfall for FY 2014 was covered. Mr. Kohrman said that it was covered from fund balances, i.e., the amount of money carried forward from every school/college/division. Policy Committee asked for a breakdown of the budgets by school/college/division.
  - b. Mr. Kohrman reviewed the enrollment figures for the winter term. Overall enrollment is down 2.2% compared with winter 2014. Undergraduate enrollment is down 3.4%. Graduate enrollment is up 0.4%. Enrollment in the professional schools is down 2.2%. Credit hours are down about 2.5%. The increase in students enrolled in Engineering and the Brazilian students who are studying here has kept enrollment higher than it would be otherwise. The Brazilian government wants the students who are enrolled in the undergraduate program to return next year in the graduate program. This is a Study Abroad program.
  - c. Twenty to twenty-five percent of our undergraduate students have a GPA of 2.0 or lower. Twenty-three percent of the freshmen who entered in fall 2014 have a first-term GPA of 2.0. Policy Committee members asked about the steps taken to intervene with these students.
  - d. Mr. Kohrman reported the number of applications that have been received for the fall 2016 term. A \$25 application fee has been levied this year. Mr. Romano suggested that the fee be credited to the student's tuition bill if they enroll. Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach, and Mr. Kohrman are meeting with the Deans about enrollment projections.
  - e. Mr. Kohrman presented data related to budget cuts. The data compared the number of students with the number of faculty. The University has not adjusted its expenditure base although enrollment has declined. Policy Committee members pointed out that reducing the number of faculty would not make Wayne State a better University nor would it help attract more and better students. One-third of the credit hours are taught by tenure and tenure-track faculty. The members also noted that data about the numbers of administrators needed to be included. One member suggested that the information should include how much money is spent on faculty and on administrators of different categories as well as credit hours.
  - f. Mr. Kohrman explained the metrics that will be used to determine the reductions to the budgets of the schools and colleges for FY 2016. About two-thirds of the

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – February 9, 2015

reductions will be determined by the metrics and one-third by the President and the Provost. The colleges that have freshmen will use the metric of first-year retention rates. The professional schools will be judged based on the professional test results of their graduates as compared with their peers. National rankings are not used because many programs do not have that as a measure. Members spoke to the need to consider the quality of programs as well as the size of the college.

7. Parking Advisory Committee: The administration is re-establishing a Parking Advisory Committee. Policy Committee was asked to appoint three faculty to the Committee. Mr. Artiss and Mr. Romano volunteered to serve, and Mr. Artiss, who chairs the Facilities, Support Services and Technology, was asked that another member of FSST serve also. Ivan Avrutsky (Electrical and Computer Engineering) who is a member of the FSST Committee.

---

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee of February 16, 2015