

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

September 19, 2022

Present: D. Aubert; M. Barnes; L. Beale; r. hoogland; P. Khosla; M. Kornbluh; J. Lewis; N. Rossi; B. Roth; S. Schrag; N. Simon

I. APPROVAL OF PC PROCEEDINGS

The September 12, 2022 proceedings were approved with technical corrections.

II. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Mark Kornbluh did not have anything new to report to the Policy Committee.

III. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

WSU Football Tailgate Reception: President Wilson invited Linda Beale to the football tailgate reception and Danielle Aubert accompanied her as her guest. In attendance were some of the president's cabinet members, deans, alumni and donors. If any Policy members are interested in attending a future tailgate reception, Kornbluh said he would be happy to bring them as his guest.

Reception for Outgoing Deans: Provost Kornbluh held a reception at the Tierney Alumni House for the three outgoing deans: Robert Forsythe (Business); Farshad Fotouhi (Engineering); Matthew Seeger (Fine, Performing and Communication Arts).

Invitation to Lunch: Beale invited the Student Senate representatives to the Board of Governors committees to join Academic Senate BOG committee representatives for a lunch after the Board of Governors meeting on Friday, Sept 30th from 1-2pm at Tony V's. Policy members are also invited to attend. The Provost offered to pay for the lunch. RSVPs should be sent to the Academic Senate Office administrative assistant.

Budget Committee and Policy Committee Joint Meeting: The Budget Committee is meeting on Monday, September 26 (Rosh Hoshana) from 11:00-12:30 because the Board of Governors meeting is on Friday, September 30. The Policy Committee will have a joint meeting with the Budget Committee and will not meet separately.

Voting at Plenary: Clickers were considered an option to use for voting at plenary meetings. However, they must be purchased in addition to a monthly software subscription. Policy members suggested using QR codes would be simplest. Michael Barnes agreed to provide QR code instructions to the Senate office for distribution to members.

School of Public Health Exploratory Committee: The president has established a School of Public Health Exploratory Committee. renée hoogland has agreed to serve.

Anti-Bullying Statement of Values: Boris Baltus (AVP) met with Beale to discuss setting up the Anti-Bullying Statement of Values as a webpage. Beale suggested including the webpage prominently on the provost's website.

Centers and Institutes: There will be a number of CIAC I and II reports coming through Policy over the next 18 months. AVP Tim Stemmler in OVPR will become the interim Vice President of Research, replacing Steve Lanier on October 1. Beale noted that she expected to invite Stemmler to an upcoming meeting of Policy to talk about the "initiatives" under OVPR that appear to be functioning as centers under the BOG statutory definition and about the BOG temporary chartering process. Stemmler has worked directly with some of these initiatives. Noreen Rossi would like to understand which centers are chartered through the university and which are centers that sound good as a NIH grant.

Kornbluh will propose two changes to these rules: i) have an external part of the review for renewals and ii) allow nested centers. He explained that some large grants are only available if the university creates a new center (with the same leadership). Nested centers would be reviewed as part of the mother center. Beale pointed out a provision in the Board of Governors' statute with phrasing likely intended to temporarily cover this issue by providing for short-term centers that exist for duration of a particular grant, but it does not appear to readily apply to a nested center such as the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Health (CURES), which claims to fit under IEHS's charter. See BOG statute 2.23.01.040, which provides for a unit or grouping that includes 'center' in its name that applies "*to a special-purpose faculty grouping of limited duration that has been designated by an external agency as a 'center' (e.g., an NIH 'center grant'), as long as that faculty grouping does not receive direct financial support from the University and has not elected to be governed by this statute*".

Rossi thought it would be helpful to have an organizational chart of existing centers. Beale agreed, noting that there have been instances of faculty groups creating websites for something that appears to be a center or institute that has not gone through any chartering process. These may be functioning as centers for multiple years and may be connected to a grant or grant application, but it is not always clear. It would likely help if creation of such websites could be linked to a process that clarified whether the "center" falls within the chartering requirements of the statute.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS

A. Academic Senate Oct. 12 Plenary Session Draft Agenda

Beale will ask Board of Governors member Mark Gaffney to speak about the presidential search. The process should be well underway by the September 30th Board meeting; by then they expect to have finalized a RFP to hire a search firm and possibly to have decided on the makeup of the search committee. This will provide a chance for Gaffney to hear comments from the Senate about what they want in the new president. Kornbluh suggested asking Gaffney if he wants to use this a part of this time as a chance to hear from the Senate members or if he would like to schedule something separate.

Rob Thompson (AVP/CIO) and Garrett McManaway (Sr. Dir. Info. Security & Access Mgmt.) have agreed to provide an update on campus data and IT security. Members discussed the allotment of time for the topic. Beale thought it important to allow faculty to ask questions about the new security requirements. Kornbluh noted that we have no choice about implementing these requirements: we cannot operate as an institution without these types of difficult security updates. Beale suggested that makes the chance to ask questions about it even more important—so that people understand why these responses are necessary. Policy members agreed with the additional time needed for questions.

Jennifer Lewis thought many of the comments will be on the quality of service from C&IT. Beale agreed there are many quality-of-service issues: moving C&IT staff around and not being dedicated to one place means they don't fully understand the place where they are, and they can't serve the university as well. We've suffered from mediocritizing as a result. Kornbluh suggested he be included so that he can talk about the importance of these issues. Rob Thompson is working hard and takes every complaint about customer service seriously. We will stay with a central service that allows the security staff to veto anything that causes a problem immediately.

Lewis commented on the necessity of a reliable network. There are times she cannot get on the network in her classes and that is completely unacceptable. She can't have a Zoom meeting in her office because she cannot connect to the network. She has put in a ticket for this problem, and C&IT staff responded that they have improved that area of the Education building, but that has not solved the problem. Other Policy members commented on being in dead zones that were helped when C&IT installed new access points. Kornbluh noted that such dead spots in offices can be fixed: it is the responsibility of the chairs of the departments to get the appropriate C&IT help.

Beale noted that there are some idiosyncrasies of consolidation that do not seem to be driven by security but more by convenience. For example, times for software updates are set centrally, and they often occur with a notification that does not provide any ability for faculty to pause the update/restart until current work is finished.

Roth commented on the negative impact of moving C&IT staff around rather than allowing them to become familiar with the faculty and operations of a single unit. This also appears to be not a matter of security but rather a plan to make people interchangeable that is not sensitive to the value of having people who have been in a college for a period of time, have learned the specific needs of that college, and have working relationships with the people there. It seems they are deliberately moved for the sake of disrupting any relationships other than with C&IT. Not only is it irritating to the people served, but it also wastes work on the part of people who have done the training. Kornbluh responded that it is a problem if staff work in a college so long that they view the professors as their bosses instead of the C&IT managers. This happened with one staffer who would not listen to the central security demands. He added that these kinds of complaints should be directed to him rather than to Rob Thompson at the Senate meeting.

Lewis understood the university is trying to make sure security is solid, but the system isn't quite in place. She shared her experience of calling the phone number on an AV stand for assistance: the message says the number is no longer working.

Kornbluh pointed out that the semester started a few weeks ago without C&IT being inundated with calls or complaints from deans and chairs. In the 20 years he has been responsible for colleges, he has never had a semester start as clean as this semester has started with IT. He thinks faculty and staff need to be more appreciative of that result. There are twice as many devices on our network this year as last year, and this is actually one of the few things that work well here. We have double redundant electrical systems with DTE and Detroit Power & Light. There was a seven-minute delay for logging into the system this morning, and C&IT sent out an email out immediately to inform the campus community of the problem. Kornbluh suggested there are multiple issues at stake here that should not be conflated. Clearly, there is a customer service issue in C&IT, and Thompson is working to improve that. If the ticketing system isn't working well, Kornbluh can let Thompson know. There is also a "not in my job description" issue at the university: too many people say either "it's not my problem" or "let me put a band aid on it" and then just walk away. But C&IT tried to make sure service was available by having people on call for the first two weeks of class in six of the most used buildings on campus.

Barnes said the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts (CFPCA) has studios with completely different setups that are nightmares though clearly they were established before they were moved to C&IT. Aubert noted that CFPCA feels like it is on its own: the reason C&IT isn't getting calls is because people have simply given up. Kornbluh responded that he is aware of CFPCA's particular needs: he will ask C&IT to work with their labs to find solutions. Barnes added that the problem isn't that staff have been moved out of CFPCA, but rather that they have been assigned additional buildings. Aubert added that their IT person is now out on medical leave because of the stress being thrown at him from C&IT.

Beale explained that allowing time for questions and answers was important to have the full understanding of the background of the security concerns and how it is intended to work. She suggested that the provost introduce the topic and point out the positive things that have been accomplished, and then introduce Thompson to give some more specifics on the data breach policy and IT security issues, what the university is doing about that and what that will mean in terms of accessing Banner, and what it means for computer hardware (docking stations, phones, etcetera).

Lewis suggested providing a link to a survey or something that allows Senate members to share their concerns. Beale queried whether that would satisfy the need: there are various emails or contacts for reporting problems, while what faculty seem to want is more responsiveness.

Lewis pushed for more focus on the 'new business' portion of the plenary agenda to encourage representatives coming from units across the university to suggest new business. Beale noted that the standing committee process is the most significant way in which members impact the plenary agenda. Ideally, the committees' work should lead to items that are on Policy and then are put on the plenary, and of course we provide a full report of items discussed at Policy so that members can ask questions about that too. Rossi suggested contacting the chairs of each standing committee before the plenary session to remind them to bring up any new business. Roth wondered if it would help to move new business to an earlier point in the meeting, though it is traditionally at the end of agendas. Since not every committee has representation from every unit, Barnes suggested that there could be an additional Senate standing committee with representatives from each college.

Beale suggested a less cumbersome process is to invite Senate members to contact any Policy member about an issue they think should come to the attention of a particular Senate committee on which they do not serve, the Policy Committee, and/or the full plenary session. While she does engage in considerable email correspondence with members on issues they bring up (issues that usually come into the president's reports to Policy or as Policy agenda items), she could also send a periodic reminder email each quarter asking for members to bring issues to the attention of the Policy Committee and/or chairs of the standing committees.

Kornbluh agreed with reminding people it is important to bring issues to Policy because there are clearly important issues out there. For example, almost every chair on campus signed a petition protesting how indirect cost recovery (ICR) funds are distributed, but Policy has not discussed ICR in some time. Beale pointed out that Policy did in fact discuss this issue recently (but before being informed about the petition) in a lengthy conversation with Steve Lanier (VPR) at a meeting when the provost could not attend. The Budget Committee has discussed this issue every year, and it is an issue that has usually been addressed at the Budget Planning Council in connection with the OVPR hearing. She asked the provost to share the petition with her so that it can be discussed at an upcoming Budget Committee meeting.

B. Establishment of an ad hoc Senate Bylaws Revision Committee

Beale shared a rough draft of suggestions for the establishment of an ad hoc Senate Bylaws Revision Committee and asked Policy members for ideas. A record is needed: even if only says that the chairs of each of the committees serve on the committee. If there are chairs that don't see a role for themselves, they can decide not to participate. We must do something about our Policy Committee election and the DEI standing committee. Beale would also like to look at the proportional representation of Senate members themselves. She thinks it would be useful to consider having any school that has an elected head of the faculty assembly/council/Senate serve as an ex officio voting member of the Senate. Kornbluh agreed with the latter suggestion, saying it would make faculty governance stronger to a clear connection there—whether it's voting or not, at least having a serious discussion of how those college-level committees' leadership should relate to the Senate. People that have been elected internally and hear the issues that are coming before them in their school/college will help us as an organization to know about issues and help us make better decisions.

Naida Simon raised the issue of proportionality and questioned whether we should go back to 88 senators: we would need to figure out the formula. Beale noted a range of questions to consider regarding proportionality. What does it mean to ensure that a large school is adequately represented? How do we ensure that smaller schools are not so minimally represented that they don't have a voice? There are those two extremes that need to be taken into consideration. She suggested not using just one formula but a different calculation for representation. If we are not seen by faculty and staff as representing their views, we become meaningless. We need to be more representative in what we do and in the issues we address: this can be addressed in bylaws.

Beale recommended targeting a plenary vote in May to ensure we can set up everything for the next academic year. Kornbluh suggested adding two volunteer positions to the Senate Bylaws Revision Committee. Beale will make an announcement to Senate members at the October plenary.

C. General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC) Senate Representatives for 2022-23

Policy members recommended Senate members for the academic staff representative and faculty representative to the General Education Oversight Committee. Beale will reach out to these members and ask for their willingness to serve on the committee.

D. Academic Senate FSST and FAC Chairs Selection for 2022-23 and Policy Liaisons

Policy members discussed potential Senate members for chairs of the Facilities, Support Services and Technology (FSST) Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC). Barnes agreed to chair the FSST Committee. Beale will reach out to the Senate member recommended to chair the FAC. Kornbluh proposed engaging FAC to build a more supportive environment for promotion from associate professor to full professor.

Policy members determined the Policy Committee liaisons to the Senate standing committees. Aubert provided Policy with the names of the AAUPT-AFT liaisons to the Senate standing committees.

E. University-Wide DEI Council and Steering Committee Representative for 2022-23

Roth agreed to serve as representative to the University-Wide DEI Council and Steering Committee.

F. Selection of Vice Chair and Parliamentarian

hoogland has agreed to be the Vice Chair of the Policy Committee. Policy members recommended potential Senate members for Parliamentarian. Beale will reach out to the recommended Senate member for their willingness to serve.

G. Senate Representatives for School/College Reviews (Social Work, CLAS, and Honors) and Libraries and School of Information Sciences Dean Search Committee

Policy members discussed potential Senate members as representatives to the School/College Reviews (Social Work, CLAS, and Honors) and Libraries and School of Information Sciences Dean Search Committee. Beale ask for their willingness to serve.

Approved as revised at the Policy Committee meeting of October 3, 2022