

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

February 6, 2023

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

I. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Graduate Council/AMP: The Graduate Council has been discussing an expansion to the AGRADE program called AMP (Accelerated Master's Program). The idea is to allow students to connect their undergraduate degrees to a graduate degree that is in a field relevant to the undergraduate major but not in the same field as the major, whereas the current AGRADE allows students to enroll simultaneously in an undergraduate program and apply some of the undergraduate credits toward a master's degree in the same field. For example, the new program would allow a sociology, anthropology or public health major to apply credits to a Master of Social Work. There is no special funding proposed, just awarding of credit for certain undergraduate courses to the graduate degree. There is no change in degree requirements, so it is unclear if this requires approval other than from the individual undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Grad Council has discussed a structure and appropriate marketing. Linda Beale suggested that Policy review the AMP proposal to be clear on its provisions, so she will request it from Ed Cackett (Chair, Graduate Council Executive Committee).

Naida Simon questioned the minimum undergraduate GPA requirement: it would be 3.0, which is lower than AGRADE's 3.5 GPA minimum. Provost Kornbluh responded that the graduate program controls admissions so there is no guaranteed admission into the program.

renée hoogland raised a concern about 7000-level classes that include a mix of students at different levels. She has both MA and PhD students in her seminar class, which makes it difficult to teach. Kornbluh noted the related difficulty in determining likely demand for this program, but he thought the problem of mixed levels of students would be less because the primary focus is on the professional master's degrees offered in Pharmacy, Social Work and Education.

Pramod Khosla requested further clarification on the use of the undergraduate credits towards different fields. Kornbluh noted that social work may allow a psychology major who has completed specific social work classes to waive the master's degree social work requirement those classes fulfill, and those same social work classes would also count toward the undergraduate psychology degree. The details are worked out between the relevant undergraduate and graduate programs.

Brad Roth questioned whether an undergraduate program would be obligated to accept any professional-level course. Kornbluh explained the decision-making power lies with the department that offers the degree. The programs control their own curriculum and must agree to this—i.e., law offers a master's in labor relations, so if history wants to tie into this program, the two departments could decide which two law classes count toward both the law and the history degree.

Beale noted that the critical change is double counting certain credits for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees, but she thought it should not be a problem. She will request a copy of the proposal as soon as Grad Council finalizes it for a brief discussion at Policy.

Advisory Committee on PhD Education: Kornbluh will charge an advisory committee to look at PhD education at Wayne State to figure out the broader economics and discuss ways to improve the graduate experience in a revenue-neutral way. The funding of PhD education is complicated, and we

do not have a clear grasp on this. Historically, TAs were distributed based on a formula grounded in factors of which people are no longer aware.

PhD education is not the same across the board. renee hoogland questioned if the charge includes a focus on different perspectives. The committee will be co-chaired by Amanda Bryant-Friedrich (Dean, Graduate School) and Rick Bierschbach (Dean, Law School). Law represents a neutral party since it does not have a PhD program.

Beale noted that there had been a TA Allocation Committee under former Provost Whitfield and Senate President Lou Romano that did a study of the historic allocation of GPA funding and made specific recommendations for phasing in changes. She recalled a significant division of opinion on whether anything could or should change.

Jane Fitzgibbon recalled Communications receiving money for PhD enhancements a few years ago. Noreen Rossi pointed out that grants are handled differently. Jennifer Lewis addressed an issue in education where doctoral students associated with faculty who have grant funding also receive some funding and gain the experience of being part of a research team, whereas other doctoral students' experience is giving talks with dissertation advisors and others have no similar experience. Support is unequally distributed and not well considered.

Beale noted an issue mentioned by a faculty member in CLAS where a senior faculty researcher tends to get all the good students while other faculty are not able to have students working on their projects, which then affects their ability to get new grants. Khosla confirmed this is a problem with GTAs in chemistry. In contrast, other departments allocate a specific number of GTAs per lab. Without some metric for distributing students across labs, students will congregate to the labs which have ample research funds. It is problematic when there is no consistent policy. Chemistry has more than 70 GTAs and Nutrition and Food Science has eight GTAs (there were only six GTAs when there were four faculty, now there are eight GTAs with 12 faculty). Chemistry will not give up any GTAs because it disrupts their program. It not only impacts the students, but it also affects faculty on the path to P&T. In sum, he appreciates creating a task force to look at the issue.

Rossi does not believe it is that simple. If a faculty comes in and has starter funds, then the GTA will help get the program up and running, which will then provide the grants to continue it. If the faculty is further out and has no grant funding, then there will be a student who does not have the supplies or wherewithal to do doctoral work. It impacts the student and that is problematic.

When asked about the membership of the committee, Kornbluh said there will be a group of deans and chairs. The Policy Committee is invited to select two representatives. Danielle Aubert noted the Directors of Graduate Studies (DGSs) are often faculty and suggested they be involved.

Kornbluh stressed some of these decisions belong at the college level. Beale agreed with the importance of that distinction: one of the problems the last time this was undertaken was that it was under the Graduate School, and it may have seemed to be an allocation decision that could hurt or help particular schools or departments.

## II. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

FERPA-Compliant Requests for Information: Beale discussed the FERPA issue that was raised at the February Academic Senate meeting. The request mentioned came from a university office and did not violate FERPA, but because there was no name associated with the notice, faculty could easily mistake it for a phishing effort. These notices requesting academic progress reports on students will in the future be signed with contact information so faculty can ask questions if needed. Also, a similar notice will go out to faculty when a student withdraws from the faculty member's course, and students will be advised when dropping a course will cause them to fall below a full course load that

could affect their financial aid. She believes this is something that should be on all notices sent from the Provost's Office.

OTL Tech Survey to Faculty: Tonya Whitehead (Assoc. Dir., OTL) has requested the Academic Senate send out a faculty tech survey (somewhat different from the surveys that C&IT has run) through the faculty listserv. The survey is to see how faculty are using technology, what they are using and what their issues and concerns may be. An email has been composed and will be sent from the Academic Senate. Beale requested that a new Academic Senate banner also be created.

Faculty Ambassadors to Recruit Students: A member of the faculty emailed Beale in response to the plenary discussion about declines in enrollments to suggest ways to make it easy for faculty to act as faculty ambassadors to recruit students. When faculty talk with people in their community groups, religious groups, or with other people that may have college-age kids, they could act as faculty ambassadors. A faculty ambassador program could provide web training and a volunteer sign-up for interested faculty. Faculty could share a QR code that would direct interested parties to a well-planned landing page that provides information that parents would want to know about (i.e., financial aid, scholarships, majors, certificate programs). Kornbluh liked the idea of a QR code to connect someone in a simple way, and he asked Beale to send the suggestion to Ahmad Ezzeddine (VP, Academic Student Affairs and Global Engagement) for follow-up.

Fitzgibbon commented that she always tells her students that they are an advertisement for this institution. Having student volunteers as ambassadors should be considered, especially if they can tell a good story about funding, doing research or becoming involved because it will attract other students.

### III. SELECTION OF 2 SENATE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BUDGET PLANNING COUNCIL

Policy members discussed potential Senate representatives to the Budget Planning Council. Meetings have been set up in the first and third full weeks of March (but not in Spring Break week). Beale will reach out to the selected candidates to determine their willingness to serve.

### IV. SELECTION OF AN FSST CHAIR TO REPLACE MICHAEL BARNES

Policy members discussed potential Senate members to replace Michael Barnes (CFPCA) as the chair of the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee through September 2023, when new chairs are appointed. Beale will reach out to the recommended senator and determine willingness to serve.

### V. SELECTION OF A P&T REPRESENTATIVE TO REPLACE SUSAN FINO (CLAS)

Policy members discussed a potential substitute for Fino, who can no longer serve on the P&T Factors Committee. Beale will advise Boris Baltes (AVP) and Jake Wilson (Faculty Affairs Coordinator) of Policy's selection.

### VI. APPROVAL OF THE OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR THE LATINO STUDIES CENTER CHARTER RENEWAL

Beale shared a draft official memo of support for the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies charter renewal. Policy approved the memo, which will be sent as soon as possible.

### VII. DRAFT AGENDA FOR MARCH 1 SENATE PLENARY

Policy discussed a draft agenda for the March 1st plenary. Beale will contact Tommy Martin (Assoc. Dir., Office of Equal Opportunity) to present on equal opportunity processes. Another item on the draft agenda is a presentation from Ezzeddine and Rob Thompson (AVP, CIO) on the Wayne Online Program. Beale will also reach out to Cackett to see if the Graduate Council has finalized its proposal on graduate faculty status. There is also a graduate transfer credit revision from the Graduate Council that likely can be discussed next week and may be ready for a plenary vote.

Policy members suggested as potential topics a discussion of academic integrity and the current academic freedom concerns in Florida K-12 and public higher education. Beale foresees Policy drafting a relatively brief academic freedom resolution that would go to the plenary and be passed by the plenary as a clear statement of the Senate. Although that discussion had been planned for this February 6 meeting, she delayed it until the next week so that the discussion would have the benefit of the draft statement being developed by legal scholars Rick Bierschbach (Dean, Law), Brad Roth and Jon Weinberg (Law). Clearly this is an important issue that is not going away and should be addressed by the Senate in the next month or so.

#### VIII. PROPOSAL FOR AN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOFTWARE CHEATING

Beale proposed creating an ad hoc subcommittee on AI cheating. Richard Pineau (CLAS) has agreed to chair the subcommittee and Hoogland is also willing to serve. Policy members discussed potential Senate members, and Beale will reach out to determine their willingness to serve.

#### IX. PROPOSAL FOR A SENATE BYLAWS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE TO REPORT APRIL 2023 FOR PLENARY VOTE MAY 2023

Beale proposed a Senate Bylaws ad hoc subcommittee to consider needed revisions to the bylaws. She and Simon had discussed developing a new formula to increase the numbers of senators from each school and college. The Senate currently has 76 members. Simon noted that she did the apportionment for next year and no school/college gains or loses representatives. Any bylaws change will not affect this election cycle.

The proposal to allow more senators is because Beale believes the Senate would benefit from broader membership from each college, which that would allow. The subcommittee would likely have two meetings, with an early discussion of possible revisions, then exchanges of drafts and comments to develop the actual language, followed by a final meeting to go over the recommended revisions that would come to Policy and, with its approval, to the plenary. Rossi is willing to serve on the ad hoc subcommittee. Beale recommended including two or three non-Policy Senate members who understand the schools and asked members to send her suggestions before the next Policy meeting.

#### X. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Faculty Affairs Committee: Hoogland reported the FAC has not yet met this semester; however, a proposal was submitted to the provost from a FAC subcommittee for a reading, writing and critical thinking first-year seminar that remedies deficiencies and focuses on ethics of academic work.

DEI Council: Roth reported the DEI Council Executive Committee has been meeting about the future of the DEI Council and how a new president is likely to view the project. It is unclear what the role of the DEI Council is intended to be. It is advisory, but in what way? Some members of the Executive Committee recently met with the provost to discuss this concern.

Kornbluh has been meeting with various affinity groups made up of representatives from faculty and staff: Black, Chinese, LGBTQ, Latinx, Middle Eastern groups already exist, and several more are forming. The provost will meet several times a year and has provided some funding for programming

to raise issues. They presented to the Council of Deans, and the provost is encouraging every school/college to complete a DEI strategic plan by the end of this academic year. Aubert noted the affinity groups also work with Marquita Chamblee (AVP, Chief Diversity Officer) who offers support to deal with group-specific issues.

Research Committee (RES): Rossi reported RES met with the head of IRB regarding problems streamlining expedited reviews, which are software-based so that any change must go back to the company that wrote the program. This leads to delays because changing something on one site will change it on another site. People are still unhappy, but at least they understand what is happening.

RES also met with Dave Massaron (AVP, CFO) about the salary of clinical faculty on grants. Currently, we are only asking NIH and other funding sources for the WSU fraction of their total salaries because the rest comes from practice plans or other sources. A common paymaster was considered, but that will require entities such as UPG to open their books since the university requires some assurance that the money is there. There is also an issue when an individual loses a grant. Without the change discussed, however, the university losses approximately \$5-\$7 million in indirect cost recovery.

In February, the committee will meet with the new General Counsel (Mike Poterala), Phil Cunningham (Assoc. VP for Research/Compliance), and Laura Johnson (Sr. VP for Legal Affairs and General Counsel) to work on the research misconduct policy. If possible, Beale requested the proposed changes come to Policy in time to go before the plenary in April or May.

Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Lewis reported a CIC discussion of ChatGPT. There was a consensus that it needs to be articulated to the university community that these resources are problematic, but they do not want to name any in particular because there are going to be more. One idea was to develop a strongly worded statement, and another was to help faculty think about how to get ahead of this.

Fitzgibbon added that some faculty in journalism expect to have students use it in the classroom to determine what is good and bad about it. Lewis pointed out the parallels with cell phone development—do you teach people to use the power of it or to avoid using it. Beale suggested the biggest problem is if students depend on it for answers early on. How do they learn to evaluate whether a response is good or not? If a student cannot write well, the student will likely simply accept what ChatGPT produces as good. Then the student never learns to think critically. Hoogland stressed the importance of communicating effectively and transparently and writing well-structured sentences. It is increasingly evident that younger people have not learned how to write with clarity.

Roth noted that writing and thinking are closely connected. ChatGPT produces the kind of information available on Wikipedia. Wikipedia is a good resource to find out what everybody knows on a topic, but not a way to start thinking about reliable research and deep analysis of the topic. Students should not cite Wikipedia in a term paper. Similarly, Roth can envision a function for ChatGPT, but he is concerned that students will simply submit ChatGPT results, hoping nobody notices the difference. Those students will have skipped the educational process. Academic honesty is about relationships. A student's professor trusts students to approach assignments honestly. That relationship is undermined to the extent students use an unacknowledged source.

Beale noted the subcommittee will not have an easy path to chart because there are possible good uses for the product. The clear worry is that students will use it to substitute for what they would otherwise do, and they themselves do none of the work. They will not have learned anything from using it, and that is the easy route that some students will take.

Student Affairs Committee: Simon reported the SAC met in January. Darryl Gardener (Sr. Dir., Academic Student Affairs) and Latonia Garrett (Dir., Student Success Initiatives) presented on the

Warrior 360 program, which is still in its pilot stage. Kelly Dormer (Assoc. Dir., Academic Affairs) discussed first-year interest groups (FIGs) and the new transfer student group, TWIGs.

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*Approved as revised at the Policy Committee meeting of February 13, 2023.*