

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
April 24, 2023

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

Absent with Notice: D. Aubert

I. APPROVAL OF PC PROCEEDINGS

The Policy Committee proceedings of April 17, 2023 were approved as revised.

II. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

VPR Search: The search prospectus for the vice president for research is going out with suggested changes from the Senate president to remove the extended statement on current leadership since we will have a new president. Provost Kornbluh expects the semifinalists to be determined in August and the finalists to be invited to campus shortly after the fall semester begins.

III. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Graduate Council Executive Committee Meeting: Provost Kornbluh and Beale met with the Graduate Council Executive Committee to discuss the perennial issue of graduate faculty status and the need for faculty of record for any certificate or degree housed in the Graduate School.

The Graduate Council Executive Committee will consider rewriting the graduate faculty status proposal. Beale noted little rationale supporting the need for a five-year review or for having status situated in the Graduate School rather than determined in the schools/colleges as appropriate for specific fields. The position is essentially based on continuing past practice, with changes to make it more inclusive by creating subcategories. It appears they will consider rewriting it along the lines discussed by Policy so that the department/field determines graduate status; if it is multidisciplinary, then people from those fields would make the determination.

The Graduate Council also appeared receptive to the idea of establishing a faculty of record for interdisciplinary items. Beale urged them to establish guidelines for determining a faculty of record that included not only the PIs who put forward a certificate or degree but also a few independent voices from within each of the departments or fields involved who would be expected to consult within their departments on the curricular issues involved. This will likely be coming to Policy in the fall after it passes Graduate Council.

NYT Article: Beale shared a *New York Times* article with Policy that addressed threats to academic freedom and campus speech from states.

Senate Budget Committee Meeting: The Senate Budget Committee discussed a not yet public medical school tuition increase rate for in-state and out-of-state students. Beale noted that the main issue in the past has been potential concern about debt loads for medical school graduates, which was generally more of a problem for out-of-state students than for in-state students. Dave Massaron (VP, CFO) stated the office would pay attention to that potential problem each year as the rate is set.

Kornbluh was interested to know the history behind this. Beale explained that we had typically charged out-of-state students about double our in-state rate, and several years ago, it was reported that LCME had noted a concern about medical school graduates' debt load, which was significantly heavier for out-of-state students. The former Academic Senate president Lou Romano proposed that the difference be reduced by making the out-of-state tuition increase be the same dollar amount as the in-state percentage increase. There was a period where the medical school held tuition very low—for example, promising no increases for a cohort. Now there is again the same percentage rate increase for both groups. Kornbluh noted many states do this because institutions lose money on medical students. MSU costs about \$47,000 for in-state residents and about \$87,000 for out-of-state residents—a \$40,000 difference, so he was surprised that a potential accreditation concern had been raised because of our lesser difference. Beale's understanding was that it was a stated concern about debt loads, which on analysis was mostly borne by out-of-state students, leading to a history of adjustments through the tuition rate.

Report from Senate ad hoc Committee on AI: The Senate ad hoc Committee on AI submitted their preliminary report, and Beale asked Policy members for recommendations on what actions should be taken. It is too late to include any action on the May plenary agenda, so Beale suggested Policy submit a memo to the provost and president highlighting some key issues in the report as recommendations for administrative action (i.e., syllabi, orientation, support). The Student Code of Conduct recommendation and any Senate resolution or statement will have to wait until fall.

Naida Simon suggested the preliminary report be sent out with the May plenary materials so that the committee is recognized for the work they did in a very short period of time. renee hoogland agreed the syllabus language should be shared with the Senate, but suggested Policy should edit the rationale before sending it. Jennifer Lewis agreed the report might be pared and offered as guidance and a resource. Beale recommended Policy select the syllabus language, the points about faculty and student orientations and perhaps other recommendation points to create an excerpt to distribute to the Senate membership. hoogland agreed to assist in developing the excerpt. A resolution dealing with other matters, including Student Code of Conduct changes, can be planned for a Senate plenary vote in September, in continuing consultation with the ad hoc group's members.

Center for Emerging and Infectious Disease Response: Beale discussed the need to provide a formal response on the Center for Emerging Infectious Disease request for support. She has received several emails from Thane Peterson (Vice Dean, Medicine) asking if Policy has approved their revised request for a five-year charter for a college center. Policy determined in the last meeting that a college charter would be inappropriate and decided that Beale should talk to Tim Stemmler (Interim VPR) to discuss chartering this center under the CIAC-I process rather than as a college center. She suggested sending a memo on behalf of the Policy Committee that they reviewed the additional materials sent and reached a firm view that this should be a CIAC-I committee, and CEID will need to follow up with Stemmler about that. Kornbluh agreed it sounds like a reasonable response.

Faculty Affairs Committee Recommendation: Beale noted receipt of an email from Elizabeth Stoycheff (CLAS) addressing a Faculty Affairs Committee recommendation about faculty mental stress. If it is possible, FAC recommends that the university treat the agreed-upon two days of fall break for students (Monday-Tuesday in mid-October without classes) as time off, with no planned administrative meetings, for faculty and academic staff. Kornbluh pointed out the number of workdays is part of union negotiations, so he cannot make that policy decision. Beale suggested Policy could send a memo to the Provost and CFO stating that they support administrative flexibility on this issue and a call for avoiding meetings on those dates to the extent possible.

Free Speech Situation: Beale noted her continuing concern about the treatment of a faculty member in respect of a free speech issue, especially given the letter from President Wilson to the entire university community suggesting that his post amounted to a threat. Policy discussed a potential draft of a Senate statement that could be shared with the provost and the president.

IV. AMENDMENT TO SENATE BY-LAWS TO ADD STANDING DEI COMMITTEE

Beale shared a draft of bylaws changes required to make the Senate ad hoc DEI Committee into a Senate standing committee and asked members for comments regarding the statement of the charge to the DEI committee. Members considered the proposed changes appropriate. Beale noted that Senate bylaws require notice of a bylaws change proposal to take place at a plenary session *before* the plenary session at which the vote on the proposal is taken to make the change official. She suggested consultation with the Senate parliamentarian (Steve Caulkins, Law) to see whether the Senate could vote to override that rule. In case an override cannot be done, the plenary can take a non-binding straw vote with the plan to take the final vote in September. In the meantime, we would include the DEI Committee in the list of standing committees with the makeup provided in the bylaws (with a footnote that it remains an ad hoc committee until formal approval expected at the September plenary vote).

Brad Roth attended the recent DEI Council meeting, at which members discussed the DEI Council having representation in the Senate since the Senate has two representatives to the DEI Council. The council is working on a document that it expects to send to the President. Roth has asked Monica Brockmeyer (co-Chair, DEI Council) when he can forward it to Policy. She has recognized that educational policy is the bailiwick of the Senate, and she has said there is no intention to encroach upon the Senate's jurisdiction. Kornbluh noted, however, that Chamblee and Brockmeyer presented a DEI Council proposal to the Cabinet that the DEI Council act as a policy-making body advisory to the president rather than to the chief diversity officer, but there was not wide acceptance as proposed.

Kornbluh also confirmed that an announcement will go out asking for nominations for an interim chief diversity officer because of Chamblee's retirement. A search firm will be hired to do a national search.

V. DRAFT AGENDA FOR MAY 3 SENATE PLENARY

Beale noted that the current draft for the plenary agenda includes the amendment to the Senate Bylaws to add the standing DEI Committee after the reports from the standing committees. She assumes it will take no more than 10 minutes to complete.