

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
May 8, 2023

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

Absent with Notice: J. Lewis; B. Roth

I. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Library Decanal Search: The library decanal search firm provided a diverse pool of candidates from which the search committee will choose semifinalists this week. Provost Kornbluh noted that we should be able to hire a dean with either a Master of Library Science or a Ph.D. If the selected decanal candidate to head both units does not have a Ph.D., other options for the School of Information Science (SIS) can be considered, such as appointing someone with an appropriate title to oversee promotion and tenure. Discussions with the faculty of SIS and the search committee noted the importance of this broadening of criteria in order to enlarge the candidate pool. The SIS faculty express frustration at their inclusion in the libraries unit but have no alternative proposal, since they are not interested in moving into CLAS or any of the other existing colleges. Hopefully this can work, since most complaints do not appear to be structural but rather dependent on personalities of the unit dean.

Interim Chief Diversity Officer: Kornbluh will review nominations for an interim chief diversity officer and make a decision soon. There will be a search committee for a permanent CDO, so the Senate should provide a representative as usual.

Presidential Search: The Board of Governors may make a decision on May 9 to invite between one and three finalists to campus, though they may go on vacation and make that decision in late May. renee hoogland noted the importance of having finalists meet with faculty and students, as requested by the Senate members at the recent May plenary. Noreen Rossi noted the lack of adequate faculty representation on the search as another factor favoring that approach. Kornbluh said it was not clear who will be invited to meet with the finalists. At minimum, he does not think the BOG will do what Ohio State did: the Ohio State Board asked the president to resign and decided not to appoint an interim, so the CFO and the provost are now reporting to the Board. Predictably, the faculty are furious because this violates the charter rules of the university. hoogland asked whether there was consensus on the search committee regarding the semi-finalists. Kornbluh did not think the search firm handled the search in a way that allowed the search committee to have the type of discussion that would have resulted in consensus. Linda Beale noted the way they conducted the search was entirely different from the provost search.

Commencement: Commencement went well, with much enthusiasm. Most of the deans would prefer the opportunity to shake hands with graduates. That may be possible in future years. Danielle Aubert hoped there would have been a better way for faculty to see students and students to see faculty. A relatively simple remedy could be to set up a row of chairs at the front of the stage, off to the side, where the students cross over, and to have the faculty from each college come up for the part of the ceremony when the students from that college are called. hoogland noted unless you are on the platform, students and faculty cannot see each other. Beale agreed with the need to consider platform seating for faculty.

Regarding the doctoral hooding ceremony at the Hilberry Gateway, Beale thought it was odd to have the students and their mentors seated behind the platform party. Kornbluh agreed, adding it was crowded on the stage, and they did not have air conditioning. Moreover, the readers did not even announce the student's department or dissertation title, making the ceremony short but less meaningful for participants. When Rossi participated in last year's doctoral ceremony, she was appalled at the absence of many mentors. Pramod Khosla suggested the university needs to find a way to ensure faculty attend: he thinks it an important part of academic culture, but apparently faculty in some areas consider it a chore. Kornbluh noted attendance depended on college and department: Engineering and Education had a good showing of faculty, but CLAS hardly participated. Chemistry and Psychology are the two biggest producers of Ph.Ds., but those departments made no effort to encourage faculty to attend. Beale suggested the deans should put some pressure on faculty to attend. Kornbluh would like to put a committee together that allows some deans and Policy to discuss this issue. With the presidential change, it may be possible to liberate commencement from the Special Events office.

## II. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Campus Card Access and Security Committee: A Campus Card Access and Security Committee has been established, with Gina Shreve (Engineering) and Jeff Withey (Medicine) from FSST as Senate representatives. Shreve agreed to keep Policy informed of the discussions that take place.

Kornbluh noted there was an RFP for a consultant on campus card access. He was unsure whether the committee is going to choose the consultant or if the consultant was chosen and the committee will work with the consultant. This is a \$20 million project, and the first step is to have national consultants help us understand what we bid out for the larger project. There certainly is a desire to put card access on all internal labs. It costs about \$10K per door because of the need for an electrical connection. There are cost and policy decisions involved. Some things are clear: it is silly to have brass keys, and PIs need to be able to see who has gone into their labs. Rossi noted the VA does not have individual labs, but they know when she has gone in and out of the basement where the research area is because the only way she can gain access is with a chip. Kornbluh explained RFID technology is proximity-based so that would not require the specific door electrical access.

IT Security Policy: Months ago, Rob Thompson (CIO) had shared a draft form with Beale for a new IT security policy. He said he would share it in a format that would be used for posting, but she has not yet received it. It will be on an upcoming Policy Committee agenda.

Rossi suggested James Wurm (Sr. Dir., Academic Research Technology) and Melissa Crabtree (Sr. Dir., Campus & Classroom IT) be invited to Policy over the summer vis-a-vis the uncertainty with university-issued computers she raised at the last plenary. They can speak to it from their point of view, so it is clear to Policy members, rather than receiving secondhand information.

Regarding the issue raised at plenary concerning accessing Canvas from a personal computer, Kornbluh said it might be possible that administrative access to Canvas will need to be protected, but Thompson is not certain. His hope is to define information in such a way as to not limit administrative access to Canvas. One possibility might be limited access to certain information—i.e., the screen to enter grades can only be accessed from a university-issued computer, leaving the rest of the environment open to any machines. They are still working on this. He also noted the requirement to harden our systems is about five years out. They are currently working on multi-factor authentication.

CEID Memo: The Center for Emerging and Infectious Disease (CEID) memo has not gone out yet because of complaints from both Medicine and Pharmacy. For medicine, there is talk that not

approving CEID as a School of Medicine center might result in the center going to U-M. At the same time, other sources say Pharmacy faculty working in similar areas do not want CEID to be a School of Medicine center because they feel left out even though it is Paul Kilgore's (EAPCHS) vaccine lab that is expected to be the primary source of revenue for the center. Kornbluh has discussed this issue with Tim Stemmler (Interim VPR), but needs further discussion with the two deans. Stemmler has tentatively agreed that CEID should be a university center chartered through the CIAC-II process, but Beale noted that is the key question that must be resolved.

Academic Integrity Module: Beale reported that Richard Pineau (CLAS) has tried to put some of the AI suggestions into the academic integrity module and wants to know if Policy members want to have access to review it again before he does anything further. Policy members would like access.

### III. SUMMER DATES FOR PC MEETINGS AND 2023-24 DATES FOR SENATE PLENARY

Policy members were provided a list of the summer dates and asked to mark the dates they will be away. A list of potential dates for 2023-24 plenary sessions was also shared with Policy members. The primary question to be resolved is the scheduling of the September plenary; it has been held on the second Wednesday instead of the first Wednesday for several years because of Jewish holidays. The holidays do not present a conflict this year, and classes are starting earlier. Beale proposed scheduling the first plenary session on September 6, which allows more time between the first two plenary sessions. Policy members agreed with the date.

Jane Fitzgibbon pointed out there is a Board of Governors meeting on March 6. Because the Board usually starts at 3:30 p.m., Policy members agreed to change the start time to 1 p.m., with the meeting running from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Senate members will be given adequate notice about the change. If lunches continue, the lunch for that meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. instead of 1 p.m.

### IV. HONORARY DEGREE COMMITTEE

The honorary degree process is a presidential policy put in place by President Wilson in 2016 without any consultation with the Academic Senate. Beale was only made aware after receiving an invitation to attend the upcoming awarding of an honorary degree of law to Marian Ilitch. Under Wilson's 2016 policy, the committee is comprised of various administrators and only two faculty members who are chosen and appointed to three-year terms by the president. Honorary degrees have two purposes: honoring celebrities who are willing to receive a degree from Wayne State thus adding to our reputation and honoring donors (either of whom may also have an existing connection to Detroit and the university). The Wilson policy also allows the president to unilaterally select people that did not go through the honorary degree committee to receive a degree (Ilitch was selected under this provision). Kornbluh noted if we had a proper development strategy, she would have been nominated through the committee. Beale agreed, but believes there should be a more open process that calls for nominations from schools and colleges as well as administrative offices (such as the President's Office, the Provost's Office and Development). Honorary degrees should be affirmed by the school or college in the field in which the degree is being given. There should be something more explicit about what types of attributes make a candidate worthy of consideration. As the elected voice of the faculty and academic staff, the Senate should appoint the faculty members to the committee rather than the President selecting personal faculty representatives, and faculty should make up a larger part of the committee.

Rossi questioned if there is a list of former honorary degree recipients. Fitzgibbon noted it is on the back side of the commencement program, though no dates are given. Kornbluh explained honorary degrees are usually given at one of the commencements. This honorary committee nominated Lizzo but that did not work out. At his previous institution, the Faculty Senate must

vote on the offering of any degree, including honorary degrees, so the graduation lists were approved at the Faculty Senate meeting. That was also true at Beale's previous institution, which is one of the reasons she raised this issue. The question is, with a new president, should the Policy Committee push to change the makeup of the honorary degree committee and the idea that approval of an honorary degree should come to the Academic Senate? (The latter could be included in the bylaws section on the Senate's role in educational policy decisions.) Policy members were supportive: it is understandable that they want to honor potential donors, but this is also an issue of reputation. Khosla suggested the honorary degree recipient be encouraged to act as an ambassador for the university, using them in publicity and various things. Beale recommended this be a project worked on over the summer.

#### V. AD HOC BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Because of the necessity for bylaws changes, Beale suggested having one person from each of the standing committees serve on the ad hoc bylaws committee. FAC chair Elizabeth Stoycheff (CFPCA) has agreed to serve, so members are still needed from BUD, CIC, DEI, FSST, RES and SAC. The work needs to be done before August, and Beale anticipates holding two meetings over Zoom to discuss what should be included, drafting the changes and arriving at some consensus if there is disagreement. Policy members will send names of committee members to Beale who will reach out to determine willingness.

Beale asked what Policy members thought about including an explicit statement that Graduate Council reports to the Senate on any educational policy issue. The Senate has been discussing expanding membership to include the heads of each of the schools/colleges' councils or faculty assemblies as ex-officio members of the Senate in order to create a greater flow of information in both directions and ability to act. The General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC) is aware their general education items are supposed to come to the Senate. It is the Graduate Council that seems ambivalent, so a specific statement should be in the Senate Bylaws that any educational policy matter from Graduate Council and the GEOC must come to the Senate before being forwarded to the president and BOG. The provost and Policy members agreed.

#### VI. RECOMMENDATION TO PROVOST ON AI REPORT ITEMS

Regarding the AI subcommittee's preliminary report, Policy must decide whether to recommend to the provost and Dave Massaron (VP, CFO) any of the specific recommendations in the preliminary report that needs to be done over the summer.

Regarding the syllabi statement, Beale suggested sending a memo to the provost and then to the faculty through the listserv that urges them to include their position on the use of AI in their syllabi. The memo will explicitly state examples of language are provided and can be incorporated into the syllabus. Hoogland agreed it is helpful to have sample language to copy and paste that if they do not feel like taking the time to write their own language—or just tweak it. It is also important that the decision be made before the semester starts, so students are aware of it.

For the new faculty and new student orientations, Kornbluh suggested Pineau, if willing, can work with Sara Kacin (Asst. Provost, Faculty Development and Success) to talk about this at new faculty orientation, and Policy can send an email to Darin Ellis (AVP) to include this in the new student orientation. Beale will include these other recommendations on the memo to the provost and Massaron, and copy Ellis on the memo.

Some of the recommendations under university priorities need to happen before the semester starts. Beale will include the recommendation on issuing a campus-wide email on the academic

integrity module in Canvas as well as the recommended AI privacy issues. The memo should also mention the caution about use of AI in writing personal statements for admissions.

Naida Simon recommended the memo also be sent to academic staff who teach FYS.

#### VII. REQUEST TO BE PUT ON BOG AGENDA TO PROVIDE SENATE UPDATES

The Board of Governors does not seem to be aware what the Academic Senate does, despite being invited to every Senate plenary. Beale will continue to invite a Board member to speak at a minimum of three plenary sessions a year. The Board receives reports from deans and VPs at their meetings, and it occurred to Beale that they should be requesting a report from the Academic Senate, so she would like Policy to request it be added as a regular process. Policy members suggested submitting the reports in December and May/June.

Kornbluh recommended Beale present on the Academic Senate at the next Board meeting in June. The morning agenda includes committees which have an annual calendar (e.g., the enrollment report is presented at a certain time, housing costs at certain time). The Senate can ask to be on Academic Affairs' calendar twice a year. Another option is to request that a report from the Academic Senate be on every Board agenda in the afternoon. Beale can submit something in writing, and will then be given the option to speak.

It is important that the Board recognize what the Senate is trying to do. Hoogland explained it is not exchanging information as much as it is pushing the issue of accountability. Beale agreed: BOG members claim to be supportive of academic governance, but unless they stay informed of the issues the Senate addresses, they will not know how well academic governance is working.

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*Approved as revised at the Policy Committee meeting of May 22, 2023.*