

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
February 26, 2024

Present: D. Aubert; L. Beale; S. Chrisomalis; L. Clabo; D. Donahue; r. hoogland; P. Khosla; J. Lewis; N. Rossi; B. Roth; S. Schrag

Guests: Ahmad Ezzeddine, AVP Academic Student and Global Engagement; Erika Wallace, Athletics Director

I. APPROVAL OF POLICY PROCEEDINGS

The February 19, 2024 Policy Committee proceedings were approved as amended.

II. PROPOSAL FOR ALCOHOL AT SPORTS EVENTS

Wallace met with Policy to discuss the option of selling alcohol at Wayne State sporting events, something we do not do currently. She spoke with the Student Senate and plans to speak with faculty and members of the Woodbridge community to gather feedback. She provided background information and next planned steps.

Governor Whitmer signed Senate Bill 247 in September 2023 allowing Michigan public institutions to sell alcohol at sporting events. Most Big Ten schools have done so for 15 years other than U-M, MSU and the University of Nebraska. Wayne State can now apply for a liquor license and sell alcohol at sports events. Although it usually takes three- to six-months to obtain a license, Michigan expedited it (two- to three-weeks) for U-M and MSU last fall.

The Board of Governors (BOG) is open to considering Wayne State seeking licenses for the next academic year's football and basketball seasons. There would be two separate licenses: one for Tom Adams Field (football) this fall and one for the Wayne State Fieldhouse (men's and women's basketball games) next winter. Wallace has also spoken with General Counsel, Risk Management and WSU Police Chief Anthony Holt. This would be covered by existing insurance if we take on that liability by doing sales. There is also an option to bring in outside vendors who hold the liquor license currently under review by General Counsel.

Currently, we have a liquor license through the BOG for the McGregor Conference Center. We also sell alcohol for the Motor City Cruise (an NBA G league affiliated with the Detroit Pistons) games hosted in our fieldhouse (currently in the second season). Wallace explained an outside vendor holds that license and sells alcohol for all the Motor City Cruise games we host within the Wayne State Fieldhouse.

Linda Beale asked whether the university receives proceeds from those sales. Wallace confirmed the university does not; however, vendors do pay to rent the fieldhouse. Because this is already done in the fieldhouse, we know how to handle sales there logistically, but the university will have to determine logistics for football games at Tom Adams Field. Sales will be in a fixed area, not in the stands. There are other restrictions that go with the license—i.e., servers must be certified, and each transaction requires appropriate carding and identification. There is customarily a maximum of two beverages per transaction. Items cannot exceed 5% alcohol content and must be canned (no fountains or kegs).

Beale asked whether the restrictions outlined were in the enacted law or were university norms. Wallace responded that these were the restrictions most institutions had adopted; the university would adopt those restrictions in any first sales pilot. Currently, there is tailgating with alcohol in the parking lot, but the

university would still not serve or sell alcohol outside: all alcohol sales would take place in the venue. Further, no one would be able to go into the venue to purchase alcohol and return to tailgate in the parking lot: there is no re-entry.

Noreen Rossi asked about the difference in liability with an outside vendor. Wallace confirmed hiring an outside vendor who holds the license takes the risk off the university. Conversations are ongoing regarding identifying a vendor. The Detroit Pistons use an outside vendor to service Motor City Cruise and that vendor might also be interested in servicing Wayne State Men's and Women's Basketball and Wayne State Football. If the BOG decides to support this, the next conversation would be for Wallace and the Pistons to discuss what that could look like.

Policy asked what the differences in cost and revenues would be with outside vendors comparing to university licensing. Wallace noted that the university would likely use Aramark if done internally, though Aramark does not have enough servers to accommodate all our football and basketball games. This would involve paying people hourly wages versus bringing in a vendor and receiving a percentage of sales.

Beale assumed any initial contract with the vendor would be a relatively short-term, pilot program. Wallace agreed. After year one, we can evaluate the revenue to determine if it is worth handling internally or if it is more about enjoyment of the gameday experience. If there are not significant revenue gains, it might be easier to handle it externally. Steve Chrisomalis asked whether Wallace sees the goal as primarily revenue or attendance driven. If it is the latter, an outside vendor appears to be the simplest and safest option. If the project increases school spirit, there may be revenue implications down the line. Wallace agreed that it is more about the gameday experience. Chief Holt also assured her that no additional security would be needed—only repositioning of his officers.

The cost to get into the game is \$15; students can get in free with their One Card and faculty and staff are half off. Parking is free. Rossi noted that is a bargain; it brings people in because it is relatively inexpensive to see something in person rather going to a sporting event at Comerica Park.

Policy agreed the change in alcohol policy and the ticket policy should be marketed. Wallace noted Athletics just got access to send emails out and they do plan to market this, especially to faculty, staff and students. We want people that are invested in the university to know that we are putting on these types of events. This includes the surrounding community. When Wallace meets with members of the Woodbridge community, she will talk about what our events look like. Last season they partnered with Woodbridge Pub, and the head football coach did a coach's show two days before the home game. There was a good turnout for a happy hour with a podcast on what to expect with the upcoming game.

Beale mentioned the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana allowed tailgating on campus and it brought a large section of the community there. Perhaps the tailgating opportunity should also be marketed as something to do in connection with university sports. Damecia Donahue lives in Midtown and when there are events people stay parked in the parking lots and come into the neighborhood. There may be an opportunity to reach out further than Woodbridge with incentives to bring people to businesses and to make partnerships.

Rossi suggested partnering with the medical school. Perhaps we can offer a blood pressure checking booth somewhere outside for health screening, like Healthy Hair where people would check their blood pressure when they go to the barber, bringing the service to them rather getting them to come to you. Jennifer Lewis has friends who are emergency room doctors that work games at U-M, and almost everyone they treat is alcohol-related. That probably would happen whether alcohol is being sold or not, but it should be considered. Wallace noted other states see less binge drinking in tailgate lots when people know they have the ability to purchase alcohol once they get into the venue. Without inside sales,

there are often early game situations because people try to drink a lot beforehand. This is another good reason to have the medical school involved in some ways.

Wallace will be presenting this proposal to the BOG at the March 6 meeting.

III. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Margaret Winters: Acting Provost Clabo received notice that professor emerita and former provost Margaret Winters died the morning of the Policy meeting. The Office of the Provost will send out an announcement shortly.

University Relations Officer/Chief of Staff: The president announced Melissa Smiley as the new university relations officer/chief of staff beginning March 4.

Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs: Clabo announced the completion of the position profile with input from the search committee. The search firm is concerned that the market may be difficult—they have seen a limited pool in a similar search elsewhere. Clabo noted we would delay the search if the pool is not adequate. Thankfully, Bethany Gielczyk (Senior VP, Business Affairs) has taken on the interim role and is handling it well.

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management: Candidates will be on campus this week and next. It is understood that the short notice means various Policy members will not be able to join all meetings. Clabo noted the concern is loss of candidates between selection and visit times.

Desktop refresh plan: Clabo thanked Rossi for bringing issues regarding the desktop refresh plan to attention at our last meeting, when it was discovered that the refresh plan applies only to those with a 0.51 faculty appointment, even though the collective bargaining agreement provides full-time benefits to those with a 0.50 faculty appointment. As a result of the discussion at Policy, Clabo has directed CIO Rob Thompson to move the requirement to .5 FTE. There will be an option to participate for those who are 50% in a practice plan and may have a laptop under either the plan or the university. Gielczyk will make sure that message is communicated clearly.

Towers residence fire: There was a fire this morning at Towers residence that has temporarily displaced about 40 students who will be moved to the 11th floor (currently vacant). The fire was contained to one unit on the fifth floor, but water has caused damage down to first floor shops. Subway and the Towers Café will be closed, and some remediation is needed in the W Pantry and the thrift shop. This is the second dorm fire this semester (the first was caused by a candle). The source of the fire is uncertain but under investigation. The remediation team is drying the area so the fire suppression system can be restarted. A WSUPD officer was transported to hospital for potential smoke inhalation as a precaution.

IV. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Pet insurance: For anyone who had not noticed the numerous emails, Beale reported the university is offering pet insurance to benefits-eligible faculty and staff. Open enrollment ends March 10.

Internet Systems Management Committee: Beale reported the Internet Systems Management Committee met and discussed the many different software systems used by development and alumni relations. They do not yet work well together, but C&IT is working to integrate them.

Office for Teaching and Learning (OTL) statements: Beale raised a concern about OTL's statement that three assistant teaching faculty presenting their research on white racist language also plan to tell students what places on campus their research has identified as good or bad in this respect. Beale finds that statement worrisome since this is not peer-reviewed research: OTL is apparently trusting both its validity

and that this identification of university places as “good or bad” will not be defamatory potentially to specific university personnel. Clabo agreed and will have a conversation with Asst. Provost, Faculty Development and Success Sara Kacin to clarify the intent. Drawing further attention to that sentence may not be wise, but she will seek information on how the sentence was generated and what information it was intended to convey.

Beale also found it worrisome that OTL had described an information session as one describing "the new factors". In fact, what changed is an expansion of information that can be included to support a factor, not creation of a new factor. This can be misleading for those just coming up for P&T review and for those in the colleges being asked to modify their own documents. Clabo responded that it is clear that marketing must devote some resources to internal academic communications for faculty and students. We are an academic institution; we should know that there are segmented markets, and we should also think about aligning and utilizing specialized resources.

Academic Senate Budget Committee meeting: The Budget Committee is meeting from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 4 before the March 6 BOG meeting. The meeting will discuss various budget matters before the BOG budget and finance committee. Policy members are encouraged to attend what is generally treated as a joint meeting of Policy and Budget.

Warrior Strong Distinguished Service Award: Beale had not realized that the university had created a “Warrior Strong Distinguished Service Award” until she noticed that such an award was given to former president Wilson during the January 2024 MLK celebration, as announced by Director of Community Affairs Stacie Clayton. There obviously had been no consultation with the Senate about the award. A Google search turned up a statement at the December 2021 MLK celebration of a “first Warrior Strong Distinguished Service Award” being given to Brenda Jones, an alumna who served on the Detroit City Council, and a statement about the January 2023 MLK celebration noting that the same award would be given to former congresswoman Brenda Lawrence. Beale could not find a description of the award or the award determination process and reached out to Clayton for clarification. She was informed that Clayton and VP Patrick Lindsey essentially select them. Beale noted that it seems inappropriate for the university to recognize someone selected only by administrators in the government relations office: there should be award criteria, a nomination process and a decision process involving faculty.

Presidential Investiture Ceremony: The presidential investiture ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. on March 18 at the Detroit Institute of Arts with a reception afterwards. The Policy Committee will have to change their meeting for members to attend.

Senate elections: The Academic Senate Office will remind faculty and academic staff about upcoming Senate elections soon. A reminder was sent to the deans to hold the school/college elections, and we will soon hold the member-at-large election for the two member-at-large positions—one currently held by Beale, and one recently vacated by retired member Naida Simon.

Faculty to present at Foundation Board: VP David Ripple had asked Beale for a list of faculty Policy could suggest for inviting to speak to the Foundation Board. Beale gave him a suggestion for the March meeting. Policy members were charged with recommending somebody in each of their schools/colleges/departments who would be good presenters of their research, to help the Foundation Board, many of whom are not academics, understand what it is to be an academic person who does research.

V. DISCUSSION OF HOUSING DEADLINES AMID FAFSA DELAYS

Ezzeddine and Patricia Romer (AVP for Student Auxiliary Services/Chief Housing Officer) were invited to Policy to discuss housing deadlines amid FAFSA delays, though Romer was unable to attend due to the fire at the Towers residences. Regarding FAFSA, Ezzeddine explained that data originally promised for

December will now not be available until March. The staff plans to package aid in April following communications to students about the delays. Heart of Detroit students will be informed that the delay will not affect them because they have free tuition. That will also be communicated to students who may qualify for the Wayne Guarantee to let them know to fill out the FAFSA so decisions can be made earlier. All students who received merit scholarships have been informed with their admission and have been sent reminders to complete the FAFSA.

Ezzeddine noted that Admitted Student Day in February had the largest number of students attend, with about 400 students and their parents on campus. Applications are up 18%; admissions are up 16% as of last week.

There was a discussion about the relationship between the housing deadline and the FAFSA delays and whether the housing deadline could be moved forward at least until July 1st or possibly even later (at least with an indication that later applicants would be considered if space was available). Ezzeddine indicated the office did not think it necessary at this point, but Beale urged considering as much flexibility as possible. The matter will be discussed with Corvias.

VI. PROVOST'S PHD COMMITTEE REPORT AND GRAD COUNCIL AWARDS COMMITTEE RUMBLE SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

There was only time for a brief discussion about the Rumble allocation process as an award to schools and colleges based on prior awards. This recommendation from the Graduate Council Awards Committee would instead establish a metric related to both PhD enrollments and PhD graduations. It appears that it would be more equitable, in particular, by providing increases for the College of Education and decreases for the School of Medicine. Discussion at Policy will continue, and the provost and Beale will work together to discuss a potential plan and working groups to consider implementation of the various recommendations from the PhD committee and the Rumbles Award Committee.

VII. REPLACEMENT OF KIMBERLY HUNTER ON SPH STUDENT SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Clabo shared information about members and meetings of the school of public health working groups provided by VP Health Affairs Mark Schweitzer. Policy suggested potential faculty members for the student services working group. Beale will reach out to confirm willingness to serve.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Policy Committee discussed a recent letter from President Espy to the Pediatric Health Practice Plan regarding a claimed \$6 million deficit. The understanding of various Policy members and some others had been that President Roy Wilson had committed to paying out of university funds the full salary costs of the 12 pediatricians recruited to stay for two years as well as other costs of Wayne Pediatrics for that two-year period after the majority of the existing University Pediatricians plan moved to CMU. This was an effort to retain pediatrics at the School of Medicine as necessary for accreditation, although the expectation had been that those remaining pediatricians would be able to practice at Children's Hospital, a practice that was later denied under the CMU/University Pediatricians contract with Children's Hospital. There is apparently now a claim that there is a \$6 million deficit. It is not clear what that deficit is or whether it is connected to the moneys that were promised by Wilson to cover the pediatricians staying with Wayne Pediatrics.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of March 6, 2024.