

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
March 25, 2024

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

I. APPROVAL OF POLICY PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of the March 4, 2024 Policy Committee were approved as drafted via email.

II. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management: An official announcement will be made soon about the new vice provost for enrollment management who will begin June 1.

Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs: The search firm is still building a pool. The original timeline was to meet candidates at the end of this semester, but that may be extended. Provost Clabo will meet with the search firm this week and update members of the search committee.

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs: Policy Committee discussed some concerns that had been raised about the president's announcement regarding the new position of senior vice president for health affairs: both the length and complexity of the announcement and the use of the term "realignment" caused some consternation among faculty and worry that this was much more than a slight change to the existing VP health affairs position. In particular, moving the deans to retain only a dotted relationship to the provost caused concern that the university would be even more siloed between health-related schools and the rest of the campus. The provost noted that this role can enhance interprofessional activities and impact.

April Vallerand: Clabo informed Policy about the death of April Vallerand, a well-respected and long-serving faculty member in the College of Nursing.

III. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Foundation Board meeting: At the Foundation Board meeting last Friday, Phillip Levy (AVP, Research) talked about research, public health issues and the mobile health vans. Dave Greco (Dir., State Relations), who deals with the university's relationships with the government in Lansing, also gave a brief presentation. Linda Beale noted that at the end of that meeting, she noted her appreciation for the report, but she thinks there is something consistently left out whenever we describe our outreach to Michigan legislators. There appears to be a razor focus on STEM disciplines and very little effort to remind legislators about the enormous value of a university like Wayne State in terms of a liberal arts education with highly regarded faculty for a diverse population of students in the humanities, creative arts, and social sciences—especially in introducing students to critical analysis, understanding of the social context, and the kind of self-awareness that leads to better citizens. She urged Greco to think about ways to have WSU faculty meet with different legislators off and on during the year. Meeting and talking with faculty who are excited about their fields of study and the students they work with can provide a strong understanding of what Wayne State offers.

Call for Article XXX nominations: The Article XXX call for nominations went out to faculty and academic staff. This was something suggested last year because some deans are better at sharing that information to encourage faculty and academic staff to self-nominate if interested.

Budget Planning Council hearings: The Budget Planning Council (BPC) hearings are underway. Some are better, some are worse, as one might expect. People have asked about medicine because of the many different accounts: Beale noted the BPC is still pushing for real information about the FMRE and PEPPAP accounts and how they are used. Bethany Gielczyk (Sr. VP, Business Affairs) will keep prodding. It was supposed to be available for the hearing but was not.

Noreen Rossi emphasized that the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) at the School of Medicine has asked for that information as well, but they have only been given one or two slides which were very broad without any detail or explanation of the numbers. Beale agreed this is a problem, and will require a push from the VP-level that there is an expectation that deans will discuss the BPC template development in detail with their BACs. Clabo noted that she had told the schools, especially medicine, that the template must be followed and adequate information must be provided. The budget officers did tell several participants at the end of a hearing that detailed accounting of both revenue and expenses is required and that no budget will be finalized without the information requested.

Wayne Experience (WE): The WE requirement suspension was originally until the end of this academic year. Beale asked if there was yet a plan for developing a substitute or alternative proposal for the fall semester. Clabo responded that she thinks it will be necessary to suspend the requirement for an additional year, with a plan to pilot a number of proposals that might replace the original WE.

Jennifer Lewis informed the group that Tamme Quinn Grzebyk (Business) will present a report from the WE focus groups held during the cancelled March plenary time at this week's Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting. Lewis will forward it to Policy for further consideration as well.

AVP FP&M Rob Davenport departure: Davenport's last day was March 20. He accepted a job at Case Western so that he could work close to his home in Ohio. Amr Abdel-Azeem will assume the role of interim AVP FP&M until a search is concluded.

Presidential investiture ceremony: Beale noted that the March 18 investiture ceremony at the DIA was a well-attended grand celebration of Wayne State: it has received considerable coverage in internal and external media. Nonetheless, she shared her concerns about some of the organizational decisions that were made. There was a very large room for the many VIPS (including all who were on the University Leadership Council (ULC), platform party, Board of Governors, former Board of Governors and distinguished visitors from other campuses): it was conveniently organized with many comfortable seats at a variety of tables, multiple racks for hanging robes and coats or leaving hats or bags, and multiple staff around to assist and to safeguard items. On the other hand, there was only a small, uncomfortable and inconvenient room for faculty that barely included a pathway between low tables in which faculty could gather, no place at all to hang coats or robes (the rented ones were simply laid out on the low tables), small chairs that were not suitable for adults so no ability to sit and chat while waiting and no staffing to assist or ensure personal items would be safe. Robes for the VIPS were apparently provided at the university's expense, but faculty were told to bring their own or pay for rental. The room for the VIPS had elaborate large floral arrangements, but the room for faculty had no flowers. The room for the VIPS group had about 75 boxes of pizza as well as drinks and various other goodies, but the room for the faculty had two small bowls of some kind of nondescript candy and nothing to drink—not even water. The personnel who were busily assisting the VIPS hardly paid any attention to ensure faculty had the appropriate information. The set up was an insult to the faculty who took time from a busy Monday schedule to participate.

In addition, two tourist-style large buses were arranged to shuttle the VIPS from the elaborate luncheon held for the VIPS in McGregor to the ceremony at the DIA. They did not seem to have many users, and did not appear to stick to the times that those who did use them had been told they would be available at

the end (Beale had to hitch a ride with BOG Chair Shirley Stancato after waiting for the buses about 20 minutes.)

Brad Roth has been concerned for a long period of time about the lack of a spirit of shared sacrifice in an institution that is constantly calling on people to do more with less. Yet there is a general sense about certain kinds of university events that considerable money is spent to put on a show of a certain sort, even though money is in short supply for things that are desperately needed. Budgetarily it may actually be a drop in the bucket, but the symbolism is a real issue. renee hoogland agreed: we have cuts, cuts and cuts, and then this ostentatious celebration. It does sit oddly with the spirit of austerity signaled to faculty.

One idea that occurred to Beale because of this event would help to welcome faculty (and academic staff who teach) while likely also saving the university money and ensuring that more attend important events like commencements. Regalia is expensive to rent, so Beale suggested that the university purchase regalia for faculty or pay a fixed part of the purchase when they participate in orientation, with a written commitment that they will attend at least 2 or 3 regalia-required events each year. In the long run, it would be a cost savings, but it would also be a way to welcome faculty and to have more faculty attend the ceremonial rituals that we think they ought to attend. Steve Chrisomalis agreed with the idea in principle, but he was unsure faculty would end up attending more ceremonies. He noted that he bought his school regalia on his faculty startup.

W Mascot task force: Beale announced the mascot task force is under way, and the university is hiring a consultant to help design and construct the mascot. She was disappointed, since she had hoped that the group itself would use the university's substantial talent in this area to design a mascot. Pramod Khosla noted we have 1300 faculty who are experts across all sorts of fields: surely there should be functions that this university can do using faculty expertise rather than always needing a consultant.

School of Public Health Executive Committee: Beale announced the School of Public Health Executive Committee will finally meet this Friday, and VP Health Affairs Mark Schweitzer is scheduled to join us on April 1 to provide an update as well.

Wayne Women LEAD panel discussion: Wayne Women LEAD hosted the Women's History Month Panel Discussion: Women Rising on March 21. Panelists included Carolyn Hafner (Assoc VP & Chief HR Officer), Stephanie Hawkes (Senior Director, Multicultural Student Engagement), Virginia Kleist (Dean, Business), Donyale Padgett (Chief Diversity Officer), Lisa Shrader (AVP, Academic Affairs) and Denise Taliaferro Baszile (Dean, Education). Beale noted that there are many leaders besides administration at a university—from program directors to department chairs and Senate committee chairs. Somehow people seem only to consider administration as leadership.

#### IV. DRAFT APRIL 3 PLENARY AGENDA

Beale noted the addition of President Espy's reception from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. following the April plenary. She had been surprised that Espy's assistant got access to the listserv and sent the invitation out without even checking with the Senate president. She discussed this with Melissa Smiley (COS/URO), who apologized for the mistake. As it turns out, however, the acceleration of the date for the presidential reception makes sense because Espy's discussion of the College-to-Career initiative was delayed until April. Espy likely will not join the Senate for the customary presidential end-of-year overview at the May plenary.

#### V. SELECTION OF FACULTY FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR SELECTION COMMITTEE

Policy Committee selected three faculty members to serve on the Distinguished Service Professor Selection Committee. Beale will reach out to determine their willingness to serve and notify the Office of the Provost.

VI. SELECTION OF SENATE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 2024-25 YEAR OF FOCUS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Clabo explained this initiative will be a pilot next academic year and thereafter the planning committee will think about a yearly series of events that are common across the university community that include students, faculty, academic and non-academic staff: the goal is that each academic year the university will focus on a timely, complicated or current issue of concern. For the first year, the ULC thought it would be a good idea to deal with the broad topic of discourse and speech on campus, with events similar to done at some other institutions—i.e., a speaker series, field trips, a series of campus performances, readings, a film festival and cultural events designed to provide an opportunity for everyone in the community to find one or two events of interest. It is a community building exercise. This is not intended as a curricular topic, though of course professors may suggest one or another event in their syllabi, but rather as extra-curricular activities in which the internal and, at least for some, the external community may participate. The title most recently suggested at ULC was “Discourse, Dialogue and Debate in a Charged World”. Clabo requested people who will be broadly representative of the campus and unafraid to speak out about issues of concern. This first year will not be perfect, but it is something that should pull the community together and help us be a more vibrant campus.

Roth and Chrisomalis were already invited and will both serve on the committee. Policy members suggested three additional possible faculty members for the committee (some may find the time demand unworkable at this somewhat late point in this semester). Policy members also noticed there was limited academic staff and no non-academic staff listed by the co-chairs as having been asked to serve. Damecia Donahue will investigate potential non-academic staff members interest and provide the name(s) to Beale for sharing with the co-chairs.

VII. SELECTION OF SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE APPM HR POLICYREVIEW TEAM

Policy discussed potential Senate representatives to serve on the APPM HR Policy Review team to update current HR policies and draft new policies. Donahue and Lewis agreed to serve.

VIII. FOREIGN INFLUENCE POLICY DRAFT FAQ

Policy members did not have a chance to review the draft FAQ prior to the Policy meeting because of a glitch with the listserv, so it was deferred to next week’s agenda. Beale will share via email the last version of the foreign influence document that Policy reviewed.

IX. STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RECOGNITION OF ARAB AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Academic matters always involve an intricate balance of resources, personnel, qualifications within a field and determination of matters worthy of coverage around which a university and its faculty have to be selective unless assured of available resources. After some discussion, Policy members concluded that the Senate need not take any specific action on this resolution.

Policy members also discussed the importance for the Student Senate to develop a general policy of consultation on these matters that require considerable faculty curricular review and approval, as well as resources to undertake: it would help if the Student Senate would discuss these general ideas at least with the Policy Committee and perhaps also with several of the standing committees (Faculty Affairs, Student Affairs, Curriculum & Instruction) before establishing a lengthy formal resolution. It might ultimately be

more fruitful for them also to consider how to carefully target resolutions to the appropriate channels, rather than sending all of them out to everyone in the university leadership, including the Board of Governors and *The South End*, before undertaking any consultation with those various concerned groups on the matter.

Beale agreed to reach out to the Student Senate president to invite him to meet every couple of weeks to talk about matters that are under discussion in the Academic and Student Senates or may come before them as a way to provide at least some initial consultation on issues that are of tremendous import in terms of faculty skills/fields and university resources.

#### X. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION REPORT (FINAL)

Policy members did not have time to review the marketing plan in advance because of the problem with the listserv. This discussion will also be deferred to the next meeting to allow members to read the report and draft FAQs before sharing comments about it with Provost Clabo and Smiley. Clabo asked members to see if it addresses the concerns Policy has been expressing about marketing and communications.

#### XI. REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEE LIAISONS AND NEW BUSINESS (if time)

Student Affairs Committee (SAC): Chrisomalis wrote extensive comments to Beale about the PhD report. Since others did not provide further comments as expected, Beale did not draft a summarizing memo. Chrisomalis will share the email with Clabo.

SAC will hold a joint meeting with CIC this week to discuss the DFW rates. Darin Ellis (AVP, Academic Affairs) will be presenting the data. Beale noted that before Naida Simon (UAC) retired, she would often share with Policy the EAA information (noting in particular who had participated and what the trends in data showed regarding low grades in various schools). Policy will definitely want to combine the EAA data and the end of semester data to determine whether there has been a negative impact of students taking more credits under block tuition but doing poorly. Chrisomalis agreed to request information on that at the meeting.

Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC): Hoogland reported that FAC met last week. They were supposed to talk to Ashley Flintoff (Dir., Planning & Space Mgmt) but she was unable to attend because of an urgent FP&M matter. They did provide feedback to Boris Baltes (Sr. Assoc Provost Fac Affairs) about the SET 2N Committee report that came out last year. They suggested it would be helpful to have questions for students reflecting upon what their own investment in the course was. However, the problem remains that the SET system is imploding because there is no data coming in. There are usually low response rates, and those responses are usually from students who were annoyed or received a bad grade who trash the class. Clabo noted this is an opportunity for collaboration with Student Senate because they are interested in getting students to do the SETs.

Research Committee (RES): Rossi reported RES met last week. Philip Cunningham (AVP, Research) and Gail Ryan (AVP, SPA) provided information on foreign involvement, collaboration and lecturing. The presentation was detailed and provided links for getting the information and contacts for help. Rossi will provide more details about those links with Policy and perhaps provide them to the Academic Senate as a whole. She also asked Cunningham when the Office of Research Integrity in Washington will likely issue the new document on research misconduct. A draft was floated to various societies, so Rossi provided RES members the document received from the American Physiological Society. Based on his conversation with Office of General Counsel, Cunningham expected it will still be several months. It would be foolish for us to write a policy when we do not know what the government wants to do.

CIC: Lewis reported that Pynthia Caffee (UAC), who serves on CIC and General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC), said that Ellis attended the last GEOC meeting to suggest that they begin to look at

the WE course. Lewis spoke with Chair Dan Kashian and passed along to GEOC the list of factors CIC developed. Kashian will attend the CIC meeting this week to hear about the WE focus groups. Beale asked Lewis to be sure to share any documents with Policy so that each of the committee chairs can be aware of developments: Lewis confirmed that the document shared was the one discussed with Policy earlier. Beale suggested that FAC input on WE will be important as well, hopefully allowing for a discussion there before the end of the semester.

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*Approved as revised at the Policy Committee meeting of April 1, 2024.*