

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

July 22, 2024

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

Absent with Notice: D. Donahue

Guests: Rob Davenport, AVP, FP&M; Steve Gilsdorf, Sr. Dir., Facilities Operations & Maintenance; Edna Lorenz, Director, Campus Sustainability

I. SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION

Policy Committee invited Davenport, Gilsdorf and Lorenz for a general discussion about sustainability initiatives on campus. A couple of years ago, the former coordinator for the Office of Campus Sustainability, Daryl Pierson, started a sustainability strategic plan that focused on nine main themes around campus which included broad campus carbon and energy use reduction, the built environment, the impact of faculty, staff and students' transportation and mobility on the greater community, and environmental justice initiatives. As a result of this focus over the last two years, the United Nations Regional Center for Expertise (UN-RCE) designation was given to Wayne State, along with University of Windsor, the City of Detroit and the City of Windsor for being a resource for the region in sustainable matters.

UN-RCE Detroit director Donna Kashian (CLAS) meets weekly with FP&M. Lorenz has also been attending the meetings and as those models take shape, they are expanding the conversation to facilities to introduce more sustainable initiatives into the operational side, from reducing energy use to reducing vehicles on campus. They have put a few measures in place and more policy discussion will be forthcoming.

Gilsdorf said the next meeting will be around stormwater management and introduction of additional bioswales and green space around campus. Facilities has received more requests for space to hold classes outside, but it is currently not inviting to do so. Having a master plan for the hardscape and landscape of campus will make it feel less like a city block and more like an inviting park environment.

Linda Beale questioned the planning process. Davenport referred to the campus plan created in 2019 that had focused on buildings without sufficient attention to landscape and hardscape around the buildings. Along with SVP Business Affairs Bethany Gielczyk, facilities is now working on an RFP to engage a landscape architect to look at the campus grounds more intently. The area around the Reuther building, for example, needs considerable concrete repair. This is an opportunity to change our philosophy by not replacing all that concrete.

Beale pointed out the uselessness of the tiny lawns in front of the law building, for example, where there is a row of hosta and a row of grass that they mow too frequently (which often disrupts classes). That small width of lawn is not usable. Why not have native prairie plants or even more hostas all the way out to the sidewalk rather than having something that has to be mowed? Davenport agreed. There will be an opportunity as they look at the campus to consider these ideas, including with construction of the new law classroom building. There will also be a parking study to define the best approach as they consider replacing parking lots with green space. The less pavement we have, the lower our tax and water bills are with the city.

Beale noted her hope that the university will address the number of vehicles driving through campus when it is not an emergency. It seems to be a hard habit to break for many of the state's and our own maintenance and construction vehicles, when it is not necessary for them to drive onto the sidewalks and park. It creates more difficulty for walkers, need for cement replacement, air pollution, and other harms. Furthermore, we have more cement than we need: reducing that would add a lot to the campus environment. Brad Roth noted that we should also take into account the distance some heavier loads might have to be hauled for deliveries if sidewalk access is not allowed. Davenport meets every two weeks on vehicle access. About a decade ago, vehicles could only enter campus in three or four gated areas and were only allowed to go to certain areas, but now there are various unwelcome trips into campus. For example, in the spring a FedEx driver came all the way up Gullen Mall from Warren to the Mort Harris Fitness Center because he was unwilling to walk to make the delivery. We may need to revisit the former idea of having drop off points from which the product can be carted to the correct building, rather than allowing deliveries that drive through campus to a building's front door. We have taken some actions to prevent unnecessary driving. For example, two large planters were placed near the nursing building to prevent vehicles on Cass from pulling up at the curb cut. There is an update to the APPM policy that will be shared with the Policy Committee for review. The biggest difficulty is planning for regular deliveries (e.g., Staples, UPS). For contractors, FP&M is committed to providing instructions on appropriate vehicle access.

Noreen Rossi emphasized the need for communication. How do we communicate to FedEx or UPS on where to go? How do we communicate with the city of Detroit about puddles in the streets that impede crossing the street (i.e., Canfield and Brush turns into a lake so one must cross in the middle of the street instead of at the light, which is dangerous)? Davenport noted the latter is likely a catch basin that needs to be cleaned out.

Rossi asked whether Davenport is part of the planning of the new medical school building. Sustainability must be considered from the beginning, before they even start pouring concrete. Davenport met last week with the project's executive committee to discuss the status of the project, including preparing the site for the building and the means and methods necessary to maintain watershed.

Steve Chrisomalis was interested in knowing how we are managing chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers) on campus. Gilsdorf responded that less is better. The five-year sustainability strategic plan has some guidance around pesticides and chemical use. Pesticide for pest control is only used as a last resort. Preventative measures are usually physical and include monitoring and managing the interior spaces such as making sure that custodians are cleaning where needed, sharing the message about not keeping uncontained food out of drawers, making sure the building envelopes are maintained and have no holes near windows or in brickwork creating access issues, installing sweeps on the doors to help prevent entrance of pests, and ensuring the drain systems are intact. Non-pesticide treatment like glue boards is also used. If pesticide is needed, it is used sparingly in targeted areas with proper notification and ventilation. As far as the herbicides and the fertilizers on campus, we finally are tracking where and what we use on campus. The new landscape plan for green areas includes more natural and native areas that will not require many pesticides. There will still be some spots because of the nature of campus and how we use it, but if we have a healthy environment, fewer chemicals are needed.

Lorenz has started working with student interns to benchmark our sustainability, allowing us to monitor and chart our progress. When she arrived on campus two months ago, conversations with students and staff revealed the need to document our recycling procedures because recycling was not consistent across campus. Students will document current procedures and determine who handles waste and who generates waste on campus. (The janitorial staff, OEHS and C&IT handle

waste; athletics and theatre are large generators of waste in addition to everyone else.) The students' conversations with the grounds staff and OEHS have produced ideas such as OEHS collaborating with C&IT on electronics waste. Lorenz has also been working with engineering interns this summer to document energy flows throughout campus. This is an old parcel of land with some very old buildings, and the way utilities are distributed across campus is not straightforward: there is not an electric, gas and water meter per building. We cannot manage that which we do not measure, so verifying what each utility meter monitors will be important. Eventually there will be a plan to have multiple buildings on one electric meter and one gas meter. The first step is double-checking to ensure the meter numbers are correct because the city of Detroit has a benchmarking ordinance that requires compliance by October. We will not have everything metered precisely by then, but we will have campus energy consumption ready to report. The goal is to be more precise. By next year we should be able to measure energy consumption by the meter and then by building. Ideally, we could consider energy use by floor—especially where there are multiple departments in a single building or a mixed-use building including both research and classroom components.

Lorenz has also been researching grants and other opportunities available to the university. The EPA Community Change Grant is focused on infrastructure improvements in economically disadvantaged communities. WSU's census block in Detroit and the surrounding communities are considered economically disadvantaged and meet several criteria for environmental injustice concerns, so we are eligible to apply for this grant. That would have a positive benefit not only for the campus, but also for Midtown. Lorenz noted that WSU has never had barriers to entering the campus: we can build on that by developing campus as a green space for the community by reducing sidewalks, replacing hard concrete with permeable surfaces and adding bioswales to reduce runoff from the campus into neighborhoods. She is currently talking to the Office of Economic Development as a potential community partner, since a portion of this grant is to show that whatever project we implement will not displace folks and will benefit the existing community. This may include the Prentis building renovation as a showcase for carbon neutral building design practices.

Rossi suggested Lorenz reach out to Melissa Runge-Morris, the director of the Center for Leadership in Environmental Awareness and Research, who may be able to provide language for how this will improve the health of the individuals in our environment, both on campus as well as in our neighborhoods.

Davenport discussed waste stream management and monitoring. Fortunately, Pierson did a marvelous job of this when he was here, so we do not have to build something from scratch. There are also Inflation Reduction Act funding opportunities for energy projects that tie back into our campus capital plan (e.g., mechanical, electrical and plumbing components that need to be changed out). The metering by building also ties into budgeting by building, which allows us to develop a more complete return on investment for these funds.

Beale raised the issue of unnecessarily purchasing so many plastic products. For example, installing filtered water fountains in more of the buildings would discourage the purchase of bottled water. We also need to encourage sustainable consumption and purchasing practices in all the units, such as both-sides printing and purchasing replacement ink cartridges for pens rather than purchasing entire pens that are tossed in the trash when the ink cartridges are emptied. Davenport agreed that FP&M could do more in that area.

II. APPROVAL OF POLICY PROCEEDINGS

The Policy Committee proceedings of June 17 and June 24, 2024 will be held for Provost opportunity to review.

III. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Enrollment: FTIACs are down only 2.1% after being down 8% the week prior. Master's enrollments are up 11%. The business school is a major driver in both undergraduate and graduate admissions. Provost Clabo reported that VP Enrollment Management Charles Cotton was able to secure a Michigan College Access Network grant for \$20,000 to pilot mobile FAFSA fill-out sessions. The plan is to hold sessions in August in several locations including Michigan Central Station, Eastern Market and Comerica Park. They are putting every last effort into driving the FTIAC enrollment.

Searches: The SVP Health Affairs prospectus is complete, with pool generation in the search firm's hands. The VP for Enterprise Management and Operational Effectiveness search firm is doing listening sessions at this time.

Division of Research & Innovation: VPR Ezemenari Obasi announced the Division of Research, Office of the Vice President for Research and Office of Technology Commercialization have been restructured into a single research hub: the Division of Research & Innovation (DORI).

Fall Opening: Preparations for a robust Fall Opening are underway. Convocation is moving back to McGregor from Keast Commons. renee hoogland is on the planning committee for FestiFall and is impressed with the events being organized. There are plans for additional faculty engagement that brings existing faculty and new faculty together at the end of the day. The faculty lunch is scheduled on Sunday and a social mixer will be held Tuesday evening following New Faculty Orientation. There is also planning for a movie night.

IV. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

New Board of Governors committees: At its June 26th Board meeting, the Board approved a number of revisions to the Board's Bylaws. Among the changes were the creation of a new standing committee on Health, Research and Economic Development and the merging of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs into one committee on Academic and Student Affairs. Senate appointments to those committees will be made after the Policy Committee is elected on September 4. Beale noted her concern that the merging of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs reduces the opportunities for faculty voice.

Academic Senate Coordinator: Beale announced Sarah Schrag's title has been elevated from Administrative Assistant I to Academic Senate Coordinator.

Upcoming agendas: Policy should start thinking about the September plenary agenda. At an upcoming Policy meeting, Beale would like to schedule General Counsel Mike Poterala and Gielczyk to discuss moving to compliance with the Michigan statute requiring a Campus Police Oversight Committee. Additionally, the foreign influence policy draft should be coming back to Policy soon. After two years, there is still ongoing discussion. Other matters that should come forward in the next few weeks include charges to Senate standing committees and the interdisciplinary task force charge.

V. PROPOSED REVISION TO GRADUATION WITH HONORS

Beale had asked Kurt Kruschinska (Sr. Dir., Registrar) for more data, but he requested more time to make that available. Policy will include this on the agenda at a later date. Beale suggested it be considered by both the Student Affairs Committee and Faculty Affairs Committee in early fall.

VI. NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION AUGUST 19

Beale would like New Faculty Orientation to be something that encourages people to think about the Senate as something that is a worthy, shared governance institution. Policy members discussed ways to make it more interesting for them. Each of the chairs will speak for two or three minutes and then new faculty can go to tables labeled by committee to hear more about one or more of the committees' work.

VII. ARTICLE XXX COMMITTEES

Policy Committee reviewed the Article XXX Committee nominees and selected faculty and academic staff to serve.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of August 5, 2024.