

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
September 16, 2024

Present: L. Beale; S. Chrisomalis; L. Clabo; D. Donahue; r. hoogland; P. Khosla; J. Lewis; J. Moss; R. Reynolds; N. Rossi; S. Schrag

I. POLICY PROCEEDINGS

Policy tentatively approved the September 9, 2024 proceedings, pending two members' minor comments.

II. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Enrollment: Census Day numbers show a larger class than last year. Policy members who attended the 9/13 Board meeting were impressed with the data on this fall's undergraduate class. Wayne State undergraduate enrollments are primarily traditional young learners: adult learners and returners constitute a small proportion (between 18 and 21%).

First Year of Focus Event: Provost Clabo thanked those involved in the first Year of Focus event on 9/12. Participants suggested that future programs should have a clearer agenda and a genuine opportunity for interactive dialogue, especially among panelists. For future events, which will include many smaller sessions, AVP Brandon Gross will serve as organizing leader. The February culminating event will feature Princeton Professor Eddie Glaude Jr.

III. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Board of Governor's meeting: Linda Beale pointed out for the Policy Committee that the Board of Governors Budget Committee materials included purchasing exceptions with a number of inappropriately written or unclear items, particularly one regarding the hiring of a consultant written in terms of the need for Wayne Pediatrics to understand its fiscal and client problems. A number were sourced in Department of Ophthalmology general funds although some covered expenses specifically designated for Wayne Health's Kresge Eye Institute and others were for research equipment and sourced in "Ophthalmology auxiliary fund". These purchasing exceptions should be accurately written to show sources and uses of funds.

Beale had discussed these items briefly with the provost and SVP Bethany Gielczyk, so during the committee meeting she only raised the provision for \$100,000 for a VP search to come out of the president's office auxiliary fund. There is no such fund.

Beale noted that 20 to 30 people protested in favor of the Palestinians in Gaza. They turned their chairs backwards, communicated by cell phone during the meeting and laughed rudely at various statements. Several gave passionate but caring speeches.

Courses not being offered: Beale shared with Policy Committee information that a student had brought to her about having been attracted here to plan for a career in diplomacy for which she expected to minor in Russian and major in political science. She indicated she had been told by various people about the language classes available in the Russian minor only to find out later that intermediate Russian is rarely offered. Beale indicated that in raising this issue she is concerned that students may be misled about courses being available at a reasonable time during their studies. It may be worth planning an in-depth discussion with data provided by the registrar

about courses that are listed for programs that are not offered frequently enough to allow students to plan appropriately.

CIAC-I and CIAC-II replacements: Policy discussed potential faculty to replace nursing professor April Vallerand on the CIAC-I and CIAC-II committees. Beale will reach out to determine willingness to serve.

IV. SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARIAN AND VICE CHAIR

Policy agreed to ask the 2023-24 Senate vice chair and parliamentarian to continue to serve.

V. OCTOBER 2 PLENARY AGENDA

Policy discussed potential items to include on the October 2 plenary agenda. Beale will reach out to one or two Board of Governors members to determine their availability to address the Senate.

VI. BUILDING COORDINATOR GROUP SENATE APPOINTEE TO REPLACE GINA SHREVE

Policy discussed a potential Senate representative to replace former Senate member Gina Shreve (Engineering) in the building coordinator group. Beale will reach out to determine willingness to serve.

VII. PARKING COMMITTEE SENATE REPRESENTATION

Policy discussed appointing two Senate representatives to serve on the Parking Committee. Beale will reach out to determine willingness to serve.

VIII. PC LIAISONS TO EACH OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Policy members determined Policy Committee liaisons to the Senate standing committees:

- Budget Committee—Linda Beale
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee—Pramod Khosla
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee—Jennifer Lewis
- Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee—Noreen Rossi
- Faculty Affairs Committee—Stephen Chrisomalis
- Research Committee—Robert Reynolds
- Student Affairs Committee—renèe hoogland

IX. SENATE APPOINTEES TO THE JOINT PROVOST/ACADEMIC SENATE TASK FORCE ON ACADEMIC INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

Policy discussed potential faculty members to serve on the Provost and Academic Senate Task Force on Academic Interdisciplinary Programs. Beale will reach out to determine willingness to serve.

X. CAMPUS FREE SPEECH AND USE POLICY

For this meeting, two key documents shared were a Student Affairs Committee memo noting concerns about the new expression and free speech website and Beale's comments on issues

regarding the current DOSO website—in particular, the treatment of threats and additional matters that DOSO reasonably may need to address (e.g., clear information about hate speech) that are currently awkwardly worded and even perhaps misleadingly so.

Policy members will review these documents to discuss at a future meeting.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of October 7, 2024.