

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 7, 2024

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

Absent with Notice: R. Reynolds

I. POLICY PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of the September 16, 2024 Policy Committee were approved as submitted.

II. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Psychology 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Provost Clabo mentioned the 100th anniversary celebration of the psychology department, which is one of our top-rated fields nationally.

Provost and Academic Senate Task Force on Academic Interdisciplinary Programs: The membership for the interdisciplinary task force has been finalized, but the charge now needs to be sent out.

Graduate School review: Clabo noted it is time for the regular Graduate School review. Half the committee is elected by faculty and the Student Senate elects one person, and the other half of the committee is appointed by the provost. Social work dean Sheryl Kubiak will chair the committee. As customary, Policy will select one representative who will be one of the provost's appointees. Steve Chrisomalis will serve, and Jennifer Lewis will take over his role as the Senate representative on the DEI Council.

Master's enrollment presentation: The provost provided information about master's enrollments prepared for the October 23 Board of Governors meeting. For fall 2024, master's enrollments have increased, although they are not back to the 2016 numbers. International enrollments have been more or less flat since 2020, but domestic enrollments went down considerably until the gains this year. India, Canada, Ghana, Nigeria and China were the largest sources of international master's students. Somewhat surprisingly, there were about 50 students this year from Ghana, Nigeria and China. That may mean that there will be additional students for the winter term as more finalize visa arrangements. Some graduate student enrollment problems originated with the Graduate School's conversion to GradCAS and the slow down in processing applications. That slow down created a reputation that may discourage other students. We will continue to address that, but the increases in master's enrollments are encouraging.

Clabo also covered data on race, ethnicity and age of master's students. Somewhat surprisingly, the 25-to-34 age group is increasing even though employers generally are not paying tuition. Policy discussed the possibility that potential master's students realize a need for more skills to be selected in employer pools. Clabo mentioned specifically that the business school's new degree program in organizational leadership had drawn increased enrollments. Some had considered the MDMBA a passé degree because of MDMPH interest, but Wayne admitted the largest class ever of MDMBA applicants. Law's MSL increased 35%. Engineering enrollments in AI and

biomedical engineering increased, but other engineering fields did not have the expected increases. Social work is up about 20%.

### III. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Update on searches: Beale mentioned the two ongoing VP search committees, noting that the VP Health Affairs will select three or four finalists for campus interviews probably in later October or early November. The VP Enterprise Performance and Operational Excellence search now has a candidate pool. That search is moving somewhat slower.

Update of School of Public Health: Policy discussed planning for the School of Public Health and the need for better communication. Beale, Chrisomalis and renee hoogland mentioned that working groups have at best heard summary updates, except for the faculty and curriculum groups that have been drafting the materials. Clabo noted that it is important that the executive committee meet, which they are trying to schedule. There will need to be adequate communication about the planning for curriculum and faculty. Research, finances and the other issues are also important and require appropriate communication.

Beale mentioned the likelihood of state funding, though how it will be provided has not been finalized. Clabo pointed out there is some federal and Wayne County funding and may also be support from Henry Ford Health in providing biostatisticians and dollars for the school.

### IV. CIAC-II SENATE REPRESENTATIVE REPLACING VALLERAND

Policy agreed on a nominee to replace April Vallerand. Beale will reach out to determine their willingness to serve.

### V. QUALITY INITIATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPLACING HOOGLAND

The quality initiative, a data driven assessment of our DEI effort, is required for accreditation. Lewis agreed to serve on the Quality Initiative Advisory Committee instead of hoogland.

### VI. DINING RFP ADVISORY COMMITTEE SENATE REPRESENTATION

hoogland agreed to serve on the Dining RFP Committee. Policy members noted the importance of emphasizing sustainability, less use of plastic and less waste, and that the vendor needs to be open to feedback from a broad group of consumers rather than merely holding a small focus group.

### VII. LEARNING TOOLS INTEROPERABLE/LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM POLICY DRAFT AND SENATE REPRESENTATION

Policy discussed the importance of this group. It will be relatively small but is intended to assess suggestions for learning tools accessible through Canvas and paid for generally by university funds. Beale will ask Bob Reynolds to serve, and Policy will seek an additional two representatives. Members will look at the membership of Faculty Affairs, Curriculum and Instruction, and the Academy of Teachers to seek potential nominees. Representation will be finalized at the next Policy meeting.

## VIII. FOREIGN INFLUENCE POLICY DRAFT

Policy discussed the foreign influence draft and considered it generally an improvement over past drafts, especially since it defined “covered persons” as those receiving extramural funding for their research, which added great clarity in an otherwise muddy definition of people who might need to disclose. Policy saw some problems with the procedures in that it was not clear how the committee could contact the “covered persons” without already having the disclosure necessary to know who they are. Policy members supported combining the three possible forms we have been discussing—the annual fall consulting form, the research disclosure form for foreign relationships, and the conflicts of commitments form. This would be the ideal way to ensure that appropriate information is collected and can be provided to the appropriate people.

## IX. POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE DRAFT

Policy members discussed the new draft from General Counsel Mike Poterala and SVP Finance/Business Bethany Gielczyk regarding the establishment of the Police Advisory Committee in accordance with the Michigan statute. The earlier campus advisory committee did not comply with the statute and had been defunct for more than a year and a half. Members noted that this policy draft is still problematic. There is no definition of “grievance” or “complaint”, and those terms are used somewhat questionably in the discussion of what the police department can do. There is what appears to be significant police chief control of the entire process, which is not what most members think should be the way an oversight group works. There is a lack of transparency. In addition, the draft does not ensure that the police website for citizen complaints that come directly to the police department includes information on both complaints to the police department and complaints directly to the committee. The draft needs various changes. It is in fact self-contradictory in a number of places (i.e., saying the police chief will meet four times in one place and saying the police chief will meet two times in another place). Beale will invite them to come to the October 21 meeting of Policy to receive feedback about these concerns.

## X. NOVEMBER 6 PLENARY AGENDA

Policy discussed the November 6 plenary agenda.

## XI. NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Policy Committee meetings: Policy will not meet on October 14 since it is a designated no-class day. Policy will meet on October 21 to cover the Campus Police Oversight Committee draft with Gielczyk and Poterala and finalize the selection of Learning Tools Interoperable representatives for the campus software issue.

Chemistry Building Coordinator: Pramod Khosla mentioned a problem with the chemistry building recently when the building was shut down and police could not reach appropriate personnel. Some sensitive equipment was lost. Clabo noted the building coordinator usually relays information about building closings. She is aware of these incidents. Jason Gizicki (Dir., OEHS) should have been contacted. There was a break in communication.

## XII. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS

Student Affairs Committee: Chrisomalis reported SAC will meet with an agenda including the remote operations policy. Students are concerned that the policy should encourage faculty to exercise their discretion not to penalize students who are unable to attend a remote class due to

lack of power, transportation or childcare, for example. Some members also would like to see greater clarity about the remote operations policy as it applies to public safety situations. For example, emergency notifications go out to the university community when the university moves into remote operation, but the decision to move to remote in May in response to concerns around the encampment was noticed through emails from the president.

Faculty Affairs Committee: hoogland reported that FAC met last week and discussed the Expression and Free Speech Policy. Members were impressed with the SAC memo noting concerns. As we have noted, Beale expects to have this as a future Policy item.

Research Committee: Noreen Rossi reported RES met last month. They concluded that the IRB/IACUC charge can be delayed until a later presentation by AVPR Phil Cunningham.

VPR Obasi presented his call for research thrusts. His plans provide that three of the thrusts could be existing research areas, and two could be aspirational. He has met with vice deans for research at the various schools/colleges in hopes they will communicate these ideas to the faculty. Rossi noted, however, the faculty in the medical school had not heard anything from the discussion, and the chairs and the vice deans for research had not presented it at the Council of Chairs. VPR Obasi may not yet fully recognize the communication limitations here at Wayne State and the importance of ensuring that communication about these issues reaches the faculty for feedback.

Rossi also shared the current F&A/Indirect Cost Recovery distribution with the Research Committee. VPR Obasi has suggested a need to centralize more of those funds in order to invest in services and benefits for the research endeavors. Rossi is concerned because several departmental chairs have mentioned their desire to discuss this plan on centralizing more funds with him. If the plan is not well communicated with opportunities for feedback, it will not work. Clabo agreed that it is important for Obasi to become familiar with the culture that may struggle with new ideas, so it will be important for him to speak directly with concerned faculty rather than solely through the associate deans or vice deans for research.

Finally, Rossi reported that Assoc. VP and CIO Rob Thompson invited her to experiment with the Google Cloud AI project for research. For example, it allows terabytes of information to be uploaded for creation of a podcast: Rossi's podcast with AI bot discussion was impressive. Chrisomalis added that this is not generative AI; instead, AI is simply summarizing, reformulating and simplifying language. Policy members agreed this is an AI strength.