

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
November 18, 2024

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

Guest: Erika Wallace, Director of Athletics

I. MISSED CLASS GUIDANCE FOR ATHLETES

Wallace met with the Policy Committee to discuss a draft of student-athlete class attendance guidance. She noted the importance of documenting the practice norms in athletics that have never been put in a format that students could easily search for instructions. This is just one piece covering missed class time for student athletes.

Policy noted that timelines for the different activities need to be specific for both students and faculty. For regular season games, students know those dates at the beginning of the term so they should inform faculty at that point. If faculty cannot be flexible, students would know they need to find a substitute course. For special playoff dates, students should be told to inform faculty as soon as any date is set. Members also suggested organizing the guidance with a first section on faculty flexibility and responsibilities and a second section on student responsibilities. That way students will have more context to understand how faculty respond to these kinds of situations. Ideally, this material would become part of a student athlete handbook that would provide useful information on many similar issues.

Members also discussed the relationship between religious absences and other issues, and the fact that Policy is developing recommendations, probably for plenary to approve, through a review by the Faculty Affairs (FAC), Student Affairs (SAC) and Curriculum and Instruction (CIC) committees. Members agreed that it was reasonable for students to understand the expectations that they inform faculty as soon as they know that a date may be a conflict for these other reasons as well.

II. POLICY PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of the November 11, 2024 Policy Committee were approved as submitted.

III. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Enrollment update: Provost Clabo provided an update on winter enrollment. Undergraduate is up 2% and master's is up 7% over last year at this time. Hopefully that master's enrollment trend will continue.

C&IT discussion: Clabo reported AVP CIO Rob Thompson has been getting requests for using AI proctoring for exams and C&IT would like to issue a statement of guidance. Linda Beale mentioned the WarriorGPT issue and the fact that it would be useful to discuss whether access from any professor for a course results in access for that student in all other potential uses. Noreen Rossi also mentioned concerns regarding research use of different AI programs. Members agreed it would be reasonable to invite Thompson to the next Policy meeting to discuss these issues around AI.

Accreditation: Clabo mentioned accreditation on campus: the Higher Learning Commission is visiting the extension centers, and ABET is visiting Engineering. There has been positive feedback so far.

Provost visits to schools/colleges/divisions: Clabo is continuing her visits to schools/colleges/divisions. Last week she visited University Libraries and was well received. It is helpful to learn about what is happening on campus and what people see as issues and opportunities for us moving forward.

IV. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Employee Appreciation Celebration: Beale was unable to attend the celebration held at McGregor on November 14 because of a planned student meeting but Clabo reported it was well attended. It was an opportunity for people to engage with each other while enjoying international food. President Espy stood at the door and welcomed every person as they arrived.

College-to-Career Pilot Awards: Beale mentioned the president's pilot projects received awards on November 11. This round of awards was based on the deans' recommendations from each school/college. The provost's email to campus announced the launch of an all-campus call to compete for awards during the winter semester. An initial gift of \$750,000 from Huntington Bank will support these awards.

Senate member request to change committee: Elizabeth Stoycheff (CFPCA) is unable to attend the FAC meetings because of the meeting time and requested to change committees. Policy agreed to move her to the Research Committee beginning in the winter semester.

Student Senate Poll on University Policy Matters: Beale mentioned an informational email from Student Senate member Ridaa Khan regarding their desire to poll university students on university-wide policy matters the Student Senate should pursue. The email had also asked if the Academic Senate wanted to join in that polling process, but Beale did not think that would be appropriate. The provost noted that she had been informed that they had chosen three topics on which they wanted to poll students: 1) whether the Student Senate should have unilateral access to the all-student listserv; 2) whether a student committee should oversee and contribute to student organization policies and Student Code of Conduct changes; 3) whether there should be a mechanism for student clubs, local organizations and unions to submit proposals for review directly to the Board of Governors. Two topics that they decided not to send out in the poll were about the oversight of student organizational funding and the oversight of student safety in residence halls. Members generally agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Senate to join in soliciting student views on issues before the Policy Committee, but they also noted the importance of building stronger rapport with Student Senate leaders and encouraging them to share developments with Policy before finalizing resolutions.

Stephen Chrisomalis mentioned there are issues about safety and cleanliness in housing, and also the \$15 minimum wage for students is important. Policy noted agreement with the \$15 wage and the university is trying to move in that direction, but it has not been completely possible to date. Jennifer Lewis questioned why the students were pushing this agenda. Various members mentioned that it is another way to have a stronger voice, although it is somewhat surprising that these Student Senate resolutions do not come to Policy Committee and University Leadership Council first, which has been the norm expected in the past. Students may also view resolutions as a product that they can advertise on their resumes. There was also some discussion of DOSO being seen as controlling student access to the listserv in ways that might have felt unfair and unpredictable to students.

WSU OPEN at Policy: Beale provided feedback for Clabo, who had missed the last Policy meeting, about the WSU OPEN presentation and the concerns Policy had regarding a promise of “speedy and simple” developments for corporations, including curricular matters, internships and free graduate student consulting to corporations that could in fact reveal faculty IP in the process. She noted that AVP Danielle Manley had responded with an email noting the feedback and planning to take it into account.

V. FOREIGN INFLUENCE POLICY DRAFT

Policy briefly discussed the current draft noting it was hard to be sure what changes have been made. It seemed that the definition of "covered person" and the issue of how they would send notice requesting disclosures had been clarified, but it appeared that the gap that Policy had noted before for listed countries still existed. The suggestion was to ask the committee to come back to a Policy meeting before the end of the Fall Term.

VI. 12/4 PLENARY AGENDA

Policy finalized the draft of the 12/4 plenary agenda.

VII. EMERITUS STATUS RESOLUTION

Policy approved the recommendation on emeritus status, except for a change to clarify the language describing emeritus status for administrators with tenured positions.

VIII. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT RESOLUTION

Policy approved the recommendation, with addition of language under 2.3 to add "or any other academic assignment or course materials".

IX. PROVOST RESPONSE ON RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO FREE EXPRESSION WEBSITE

Policy members and the provost agreed that the free expression website should replace the DOSO website links about these issues rather than trying to amend and have a slightly different website on DOSO than the free expression website. They also agreed that the small group that had met originally to discuss the free expression website (i.e., Clabo; Beale; Chrisomalis; SVP for Finance and Business Affairs, and Treasurer Bethany Gielczyk; General Counsel Mike Poterala) would meet again to go over the memo from SAC and to discuss the definition of "threat" used on the website.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of November 25, 2024.