

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010

Present: N. Barrett; C. Parrish; L. Romano; M. Sengstock; H. Tse; A. Vlasopolos;  
W. Volz; J. Whittum-Hudson; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Guests: John Davis, Vice President, Finance and Facilities Management; Robert Kohrman, Associate Vice President, Budget, Planning and Analysis; Hilary Ratner, Vice President for Research

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of March 1, 2010.

1. President's Cabinet Budget Work Group: Mr. Davis, Mr. Kohrman, and Vice President Ratner attend the meetings to discuss with Policy Committee the budget and strategic directions. Mr. Kohrman reported that on March 1 President Noren, President Mary Sue Coleman of the University of Michigan, and President Lou Anna Simon of Michigan State University testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Higher Education. Their testimony focused on the importance of the University Research Corridor and the need for funding of their universities, which receive 93% of all academic federal awards in the state of Michigan. From the questions and comments of the members of the Appropriations Committee it was inferred that there would be a cut to higher education at some time. The Appropriations Committee members asked the University Presidents about their planning for the next budget year. Mr. Kohrman noted that the \$122 million in cuts that the U of M has made and will make is a smaller percentage of their budget than the \$50 million in cuts that WSU has made.

Mr. Kohrman expects a cut in the state appropriation to higher education of about 10% in fiscal year 2011. President Noren and the Cabinet Budget Work Group are meeting with the individual Deans and Vice Presidents. The Deans will have an opportunity to meet with their college budget committees to get their input before their second meeting with the President and the Budget Work Group.

Policy Committee discussed the problems with cutting part-time faculty. Departments will cancel classes if they cannot hire part-time faculty, and the University will lose revenue. Members pointed out that cutting the lines that fund part-time faculty is the same as cutting part-time faculty.

Mr. Kohrman does not expect the state's FY 2011 budget to be adopted until August or later. He expects to know within a percentage point or two what the appropriation for higher education will be by July 1.

A member raised an issue that had arisen in his department. A faculty member could not accept a grant from a government agency because the agency reserves the right to approve publication that results from the research. Signing such an agreement is in violation of Board of Governors Statute; the University cannot

accept such grants. He asked if this was an issue that should be looked at. Vice President Ratner said that one grant per year comes through with language that makes it impossible for the University to accept. She is investigating what other universities do in connection with such grants. She informed Policy Committee of the reasons for the Statute. Vice President Ratner proposed forming a

working group of faculty and administrators to consider whether the University should accept such contracts and whether a proposal should be made to change the Board Statute.

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. The Student Academic Success Summit is scheduled for March 11 and 12. The speaker will be Michael Carter, Professor of English and Associate Dean of the Graduate School at North Carolina State University.
- b. The residence halls are fully occupied. The administration is looking to convert some of the apartments to residence hall housing with resident advisors. The apartment occupancy rate is at 91%. The drop in apartment housing seems to be related to the decrease in the number of international graduate students. One-third of the fall 2009 incoming freshmen live in the residence halls. There is a commitment to subsidize housing because of the high debt service on the residence halls. The Housing Authority has been dissolved but housing remains an auxiliary of the University. Mr. Woodyard mentioned that, at a Student Affairs Committee meeting, the Director of Housing Timothy Michael said that the current thinking is that housing for students involves their academic and personal development. It was suggested that Mr. Michael be invited to a Policy Committee meeting to inform the members about Housing.
- c. The Provost said that for now, the Code of Ethics will apply to non-represented employees. The Provost noted that the federal government requires the University to have a code of conduct for certain offices such as financial aid.

3. Meeting with the President's Cabinet: Once a month Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Romano participate in a meeting with the President's Cabinet. They reported on the discussion at the February 26 meeting.

The LEADS (Linked Employee Assessment and Development System) program was discussed briefly. Mr. Wolfson learned that for now the program does not apply to Deans, Associate Deans, Chairs, and Associate Chairs. Provost Barrett chairs a committee looking into how the University should deal with the LEADS program and in particular with regard to academic administrators. From the list of nominees submitted by the Policy Committee, the administration selected Michael McIntyre (Law) and R. Douglas Whitman (Psychology, Liberal Arts and Sciences) to represent the faculty on the Committee.

Mr. Romano and Mr. Wolfson raised issues about Commencement ceremonies. There are five ceremonies over two days on May 6 and May 7. Having several ceremonies means that students who are being honored and persons receiving honorary degrees only attend one ceremony and all of the graduates do not participate in those aspects of the ceremonies. President Noren prefers the separate ceremonies because he believes that the students want to hear their names

announced. A Policy Committee member pointed out that guests attending Commencement should be warned that, in the case of rain, the grounds and parking lots might be muddy.

The Brookings Institute held a meeting in St. Louis, Missouri to which the Presidents of universities in cities that have financial problems were invited. They wanted to help with economics and the improvement of the situation. During the Cabinet discussion, the Provost mentioned the related issue when the Brookings Institute held a meeting in Detroit which she thought was not very productive. At that point in the meeting, President Noren chastised the Provost in very strong terms for bringing up her point about the Brookings Institute. He went on for several minutes with his attack on the Provost to the obvious discomfort of other Cabinet members. Both Mr. Romano and Mr. Wolfson were horrified at the rudeness of President Noren toward the Provost.

The grant for the Perinatal Research Branch expires in 2012. The renewal will be very competitive.

4. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Wolfson serves on the search committee for the new Provost. The process is proceeding quickly. Korn/Ferry International has been hired to manage the search.
- \*5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 22, 2010, were approved as submitted.
6. Student Evaluation of Teaching: Policy Committee charged the Curriculum and Instruction Committee with making a recommendation regarding the implementation of the recommendation in the 1995 Report of the Student Evaluation of Teaching (ASSET) Committee that called for addressing potential bias in evaluation related to student interest. The C&I Committee carried out their charge and recommended that a committee be formed to examine the current SET process, including the items on the SET form as well as the reporting of SET scores and the use of SET scores for faculty evaluation. The current form is 15 years old and teaching has changed in that time. They recommended that the Provost form a committee. The appointment of the committee is governed by the Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT.
7. University Parking Advisory Committee: Mr. Woodyard, who has served as the faculty representative to the University Parking Advisory Committee, developed conditions that the Policy Committee might want to be met so that a faculty representative could be named to the Parking Advisory Committee. Policy Committee accepted some of the suggestions. Mr. Wolfson will write to the administration. Mr. Woodyard had agreed to continue to serve with the understanding this memo will be sent to the administration.

- \*8. Apportionment for Senate Membership: Mr. Woodyard, as Chair of the Elections Committee, figured the apportionment of Senate seats for the 2010-2011 academic year. Policy Committee discussed how to treat the School of Library and Information

Proceedings of the Policy Committee ♦ March 1, 2010

Page 4

Science in the apportionment, i.e., whether with its status as a school meant that it should be separated from the University Library System in determining the number of representatives. As the Senate Bylaws currently read, the School and the Libraries are considered one unit. The number of Senators increases by one for the coming academic year; the number of representatives from the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences will increase from three to four. Policy Committee accepted the apportionment figures as presented. The number of full-time equivalent faculty has increased by 42.

- \*9. Agenda for the March Senate meeting: Policy Committee approved the agenda for the March 10, 2010, Academic Senate meeting as submitted.
10. Reports from Liaisons:
  - a. Research Committee: The members of the Research Committee interviewed administrators to learn their perceptions of research. Mr. Tse reported that the Research Committee has discussed the reports and is preparing a report to be made to the Senate in May. Mr. Tse read some of the items the Committee identified.
  - b. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Ms. Whittum-Hudson reported that the FSST Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee met at the building that houses Computing and Information Technology for a presentation of the new digital security cameras. The members of the Committees were given a tour of the C&IT facility.

