

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

March 19, 2012

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano;
A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: R. Brown

In the absence of the Provost, Mr. MacArthur, the Vice Chair of the Senate, chaired the meeting.

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of March 19, 2012.

1. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Romano reported that the search for the Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning was not successful. A new search will be conducted.
2. Search for the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Mr. Parrish, who serves on the search committee for the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, reported that several candidates will be invited to campus.
- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of March 5, 2012, were approved as submitted.
4. Student Academic Success: Policy Committee received the recommendations of the Curriculum and Instruction, the Faculty Affairs, and the Student Affairs Committees on the report *Student Academic Success*. Mr. Romano will incorporate the committees' suggestions into a memorandum that he will forward to Provost Brown and to the full Senate. The subject will be on the agenda of the April 4 Senate meeting for action.

A member noted that the only criterion for awarding Presidential Scholarships, the University Scholarships, and the Green Scholarships is the grade point average. The ACT score is not considered nor is the fact that some high schools have a more rigorous curriculum than others. He believes the ACT score and the rigor of the school should be considered when the scholarships are awarded. With the Admissions Office taking a holistic approach in evaluating applications, this could be done.

Members commented on the curriculum for students in the Summer and Fall Bridge Programs as laid out in the report. The plan is to have students move through the programs as a cohort; all students who enter the program at the same time would take the same courses. Members thought some courses that were not listed should be included and some that were listed should not be included. The general education requirements might be different depending upon the field of study, and students might have to take other general education courses than those in the Bridge Programs. It was also noted that students might enjoy taking an elective course.

5. Strategic Focus Committees: The President's Cabinet and the Policy Committee are forming strategic focus committees to cover the areas of teaching and learning, research, budget, and community engagement. Policy Committee selected faculty to serve as co-chairs of the committees.
6. Graduate School: The AAUP-AFT has requested that a search be undertaken to hire a permanent Dean of the Graduate School. This requires the formation of a 2N search committee. The Graduate School does not have its own faculty, and it had been decided that the Policy Committee would nominate faculty for the search committee. Now Provost Brown prefers that the Graduate Council elect the faculty for the search committee from those who have graduate faculty status.

There is concern that the motive behind the change is the potential merger of the Graduate School and the Division of Research. The Policy Committee thinks that extensive faculty consultation and a wide-ranging discussion among the University interest groups need to occur before considering such a merger. The Policy Committee will seek the support of the Academic Senate for this consultation at the Senate's April 4 meeting.

7. Board of Governors Meeting: Policy Committee received the recommendation the administration is submitting to the Board of Governors for the room and board rates for campus housing for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and the Report on New Awarded Research Grants as Reported to Sponsored Program Administration for the first quarter of FY 2012.
8. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the materials for the Graduate Council meeting of March 21, 2012.
9. School of Medicine: Mr. Kessel reported on the March 15 meeting of the Faculty Senate at the School of Medicine.
10. Completion of Degrees: In discussing WSU's low graduation rates, it was noted that courses are not always scheduled to meet the needs of students. Courses that undergraduates need often are closed, are offered at the same time, or are not offered. Policy Committee will discuss these problems with the Provost. Mr. Woodyard is working with Chief of Staff Michael Wright to develop a student survey. He will suggest that one of the survey questions ask students what impediments they have encountered in completing their degrees.
11. Budget Committee Meeting: Mr. Volz, the Policy Committee liaison to the Budget Committee, reported on the meeting of March 5. The Budget Committee received information about the Nursing Practice Plan, which runs the student health center. The omnibus fee supports the health center.