

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

March 23, 2009

Present: N. Barrett; V. Dallas; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz;  
A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard; R. Yamazaki

Absent with notice: J. Whittum-Hudson

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of March 23, 2009.

1. Strategic Thinking Retreat: The Policy Committee discussed the Strategic Thinking Retreat that President Noren held on March 9 and 10.
2. Report from the Senate President:
  - a. Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Volz will meet with the President's Cabinet on March 26.
  - b. Policy Committee was invited to meet with the candidates for the Dean of the Graduate School. Members reviewed the schedules and indicated the meetings they could attend.
  - c. Mr. Wolfson reported that at the last meeting of the Foundation Board, there was a presentation by the Finance Committee of the Board concerning a desire to increase the amount of the University Endowment that would be allocated to Hedge Funds. Mr. Wolfson expressed concern about doing this in this uncertain market and asked that a professional financial advisor meet with the Board and explain this before he could approve the change. Other members of the Board expressed the same concern and John Davis withdrew the item and stated it would be taken up at a subsequent meeting. However, Mr. Wolfson noted that at the recent Board of Governor's meeting, John Davis mentioned that they had already started to use the new investment policy. It appears they had moved forward with that change without the approval of the Foundation Board. Mr. Wolfson was concerned about his liability on the Board since the University Administration was proceeding without the Foundation's approval and he could be liable for any challenges to University losses of endowment funds. He indicated he would ask John Davis for clarification of this matter.
  - d. Questions were asked about the need to change passwords, and Mr. Wolfson was asked to request a copy of the policy.
3. Budget: Policy Committee discussed how the University might deal with possible budget shortfalls next fiscal year.
- \*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of March 2, 2009, were approved as modified.
- \*5. Senate Apportionment: Policy Committee confirmed the action it had taken by e-mail approving the apportionment figures for Senate membership for the 2009-2010 academic year.

- \*6. Search Committee for Director of Online Courses: Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs Ahmad Ezzeddine asked Policy Committee to nominate a faculty member to serve on the search committee for the Director of Online Courses. Policy Committee named a faculty member and Mr. Wolfson will ask the nominee if he will serve. Mr.

Wolfson was asked to invite Mr. Ezzeddine to a Policy Committee meeting because there were questions about the development of an incentive policy for the teaching of online courses.

7. Undergraduate Research Award: Some faculty contribute money to a student-research fund in lieu of paying dues to the AAUP-AFT. Undergraduate research is supported also through the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). Last year both the Academic Senate Research Committee and the OUR sought applications, reviewed them, and awarded grants. It was suggested that the two programs merge with some members of the Research Committee serving as reviewers of the applications. Policy Committee also asked that the wording on the web site announcing the competition be revised to clarify that the program is open to all students, not just Honors students.
8. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the agenda for the Graduate Council meeting of March 25, 2009. One of the items on the agenda is a proposal for a PhD program in kinesiology.
9. April 8 Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed a list of items for the April 8 Academic Senate meeting. The agenda will be finalized next week.

[Mr. Volz left the meeting.]

10. Committee Minutes: Policy Committee received the minutes of the Elections Committee meeting of February 17 and the minutes of the Research Committee meeting of January 27.
11. Recapture of Indirect Cost Recovery Funds: A member asked if the Policy Committee would look into a question raised at the March 11 Senate meeting, i.e., whether one of the Dean's Offices was recapturing the indirect cost recovery money that had been distributed to departments. Information will be sought.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of March 30, 2009