

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 10, 2017

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; B. Roth; A. Rothe;  
W. Volz; K. Whitfield; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: N. Simon

Guests: Darin Ellis, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness; Thomas Fischer, Associate Professor, Psychology, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Co-Chair of the General Education Reform Committee

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of April 10, 2017.

1. Mathematics Competency: Mr. Ellis reported on the progress to replace the general education math competency requirement. He said that all of the disciplines recognize the need for students to understand, work with, and interpret data. The General Education Reform Committee's Quantitative Experience Subcommittee proposed changes to the General Education Oversight Committee. Several approaches were suggested depending upon a student's ACT math score. Students who enter with high ACT scores or equivalent test scores would fulfill the requirement specified by their major. Students with lower ACT scores would be required to take a math course or a quantitative experience course. Various programs are considering what their students need to learn in a quantitative experience course and some are developing courses. A new placement test, Accuplacer, is one of the ways being considered to meet the requirement. The test has a quantitative reasoning placement test, an algebra placement test, and a statistics placement test. It is used by 1,000 schools. The computer version of MAT 0993 would be eliminated. The math competency requirement was suspended for two years. A replacement must be in place by March 2018 for the fall 2018 term.

[Mr. Ellis left the meeting. Mr. Fischer joined the meeting.]

2. Communities Courses: Last week Policy Committee was given information about the communities courses that are proposed for the revised general education program. The members raised concerns based on the information they had received: the need for two courses, the cost of the courses, and the lack of substance. Mr. Fischer claimed the Policy Committee did not have the most recent information, that the proposal not only covered events for the purpose of forming communities, but included the development of skills for academic success, such as how to talk with the professors, how to talk with and work with advisors, time management, taking notes, and financial literacy. Mr. Fischer will send the most recent information about the courses to the Policy Committee. [As of April 24 the Policy Committee has not received additional information. Ms. Simon stated that she

had provided the most recent information that was available to the Committee as of April 10, 2017.]

[Mr. Fischer left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Chair: Provost Whitfield gave an update on the searches for Deans. The candidates for Dean of the Law School have visited campus. The airport interviews for the Dean of the Library System are scheduled. The faculty in the School of Library and Information Science are considering changing the School's name. When they submit a request, it will follow the standard procedure for approval. The review of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will begin in fall 2017. It will be useful in the search for the Dean of the College, which will be conducted in the 2017-2018 academic year.
4. Procedure for Merging, Moving, Separating or Terminating an Academic Unit(s): Two members of the Policy Committee drafted language for a proposed Statute. Mr. Romano asked about the status of the draft. Provost Whitfield will check.
5. Report from the Senate President
  - a. Robert Reynolds (Computer Science, Engineering) will represent the Academic Senate at the commencement exercises for the College of Engineering on May 10.
  - b. The budget hearings have begun with schools, colleges, and administrative units making presentations to the Budget Planning Council.
- \*6. Proceedings of April 3: The Policy Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of April 3, 2017.
7. University-wide Tenure and Promotion Committee: A member asked what action had been taken to correct the appointment of an ineligible faculty member to the University Tenure and Promotion Committee. The Agreement between the University and the AAUP-AFT states "Faculty bargaining-unit members who are currently serving on School/College/division tenure and promotion committees, except for those which are initiating committees, shall not be eligible to serve" on the University Tenure and Promotion Committee. The individual had served on his college committee. The Provost will report back to the Policy Committee.
8. Success of Students in the Athletics Program: Mr. Romano said that the members of the Budget Planning Council were impressed with the academic success of the students in the athletics program. More than one-half of the students have GPAs above 3.5 and all of the athletic teams have average GPAs of 3.0. About 80% graduate within six years. How can this success rate be replicated in other programs? It may be expensive. Ms. Beale believes one reason for the success is the culture where everyone understands the need to help students succeed. Provost Whitfield noted that the NCAA has some influence over the program's success. The Provost and the Committee discussed the benefits of cohorts and learning communities to improve student success. Advising Works, the new

software program, will allow instructors to alert an advisor when a student is experiencing academic difficulties.

9. Graduation Rates: A Policy Committee member asked to see a study that shows the six-year college graduation rates for all public high schools and charter high schools within the City of Detroit. He suggested that the University might work with the high schools to improve students' preparedness for college, thus relieving our need to provide remediation. Mr. Romano said that the group that is writing the INCLUDES proposal for National Science Foundation funding considered developing the high school curriculum for use in the classroom, but the hurdles needed to be overcome to do this made this impossible. Policy Committee and the Provost discussed possible ways to engage middle school and high school students over a period of time to prepare them for college.

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Approved as corrected at the Policy Committee meeting of April 24, 2017