

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2009

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

Absent with notice: W. Volz

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of April 13, 2009.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Barrett announced that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions is holding a Parent Information Session on April 18. The program is designed to help the parents of newly admitted students to assist their children in choosing the right college. The Provost said that the Admissions Office would like faculty to participate and talk with the parents when the attendees break into small group sessions. Deans' offices have received the announcement about the session.

A member asked if an effort was made to identify at risk students to encourage their parents to attend the session. Family involvement is very important in students' success in college. The Provost said that the University has programs to involve parents of all students, and there are special programs for at risk students. The University is trying to get at risk students into learning communities. The Provost said that more faculty involvement in the learning communities is needed.

- b. Provost Barrett and Mr. Parrish responded to questions that were raised about the handling of merit increases in the Medical School.

2. Smoking Survey: Some members of the faculty and staff reported that the smoking survey sent out by the Academic Senate had been routed to their junk mailbox. Both Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Woodyard have asked staff in Computing and information Technology to look into the matter. However, staff of C&IT noted that the WSU e-mail system is not filtering these messages to junk and it is a person's own machine that identifies e-mail messages as junk mail.

3. Calendar Survey: The Policy Committee had charged the Student Affairs and Elections Committees with surveying faculty and students about the change in the academic calendar for the fall that schedules classes to begin before Labor Day. The committees decided to wait until late in the Fall 2009 semester to administer the survey. Having experienced the change, the community would be able to respond in a meaningful way. Policy Committee agreed with the committees' decision.

- *4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of April 6, 2009, were approved as submitted.

Proceedings of the Policy Committee April 13, 2009

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5. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the agenda and documents for the Graduate Council meeting of April 15, 2009. A member pointed out that the minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of March 25, 2009, state that graduate applications for fall 2009 are down 7.3% and

admissions are down 23.1%. The drop in graduate students needs to be addressed by the schools and colleges.

6. Improving the University's Research Ranking: Policy Committee discussed whether there should be wider distribution of the Research Committee's presentation about improving Wayne State's research ranking. Mr. Wolfson was asked to contact Vice President Ratner for her response to the presentation.
7. Meeting with President Noren: Policy Committee developed a list of issues it would like to discuss with President Noren when he attends the April 27 meeting.
8. May Senate Meeting: President Noren will address the Senate on May 6 and, after the meeting, he will host a reception for members. Policy Committee discussed issues for the agenda.

Approved as modified at the Policy Committee meeting of April 20, 2009