WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 2, 2018

Present: L. Beale; B. Roth; V. Dallas; r. hoogland; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano;

N. Simon; W. Volz; K. Whitfield

Guest: Sara Kacin, Director, Office for Teaching and Learning

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of April 2, 2018.

1. Academy of Teachers: Provost Whitfield introduced the topic. Faculty have commented that teaching is not appreciated and is not rewarded as much as research. To some degree that is true in research universities, but the Provost would like to emphasize the value of teaching more than we now do. The Policy Committee has commented on problems associated with the use of the SET to evaluate an instructor’s teaching. Ms. Kacin is attempting to address the issue with the Academy of Teachers.

Ms. Kacin researched nine models of Academies of Teachers across the U.S. Focus groups of faculty identified ways to improve teaching on campus. Teaching needed to be seen as important. There should be an award structure. The University should build a sense of belonging around excellence in teaching and learning. We should have a shared space for discussion.

An announcement was sent seeking nominations for the inaugural members of the Academy of Teachers (AOT). The applications were reviewed and recommenda-tions were made to the Provost, who selected the members. The faculty who were selected are recognized as effective teachers. The goal is to launch the Academy in fall 2018. The inaugural AOT will create the charter and finalize the mission and vision statements. Thereafter the membership will be selected according to the AOT bylaws and with input from the Policy Committee.

A Policy Committee member pointed out that the place for discussion about educational policy, teaching, research, and community engagement is the Academic Senate. The AAUP-AFT facilitates discussions as well. Some of the areas on which the Academy members would advise the Provost are within the purview of the AAUP-AFT.

Other Policy Committee members suggested that the Academic Senate have input into the process. It was decided that the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Curriculum and Instruction Committee would review the proposal.

Provost Whitfield welcomed the input. The inaugural group is charged with figuring out what the Academy should be. The AOT will serve as a source of information for the Provost. He would bring recommendations and possible policies from the AOT to the Academic Senate for its consideration. The Provost will consider additional

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appointments to the AOT. The purpose of the Academy is to promote and reward good teaching.

[Ms. Kacin left the meeting.]

1. Report from the Chair:
2. The interviews with the candidates for the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences have been scheduled.
3. Provost Whitfield has held meetings as a group with the Directors of the centers and institutes that report to him: Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies; Center for Peace and Conflict Studies; Center for Urban Studies; Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies; Developmental Disabilities Institute; Human-ities Center; Center for the Study of Citizenship; and Labor Studies Center. They might work together and, if possible, engage in interdisciplinary research. It was suggested that centers that have not sought external funding apply for grants and that center directors work with department chairs to find areas where the centers and the departments can cooperate in research. It was also suggested that centers work with student organizations.
4. Report from the Senate President:
5. The Big Data symposium was held two weeks ago. President Wilson and Vice President for Research Lanier made comments. The symposium was well done and interesting.
6. The next Presidential Symposium titled “School Choice in Urban America: Prospects and Challenges” is April 18. Faculty and students are encouraged to attend.

\*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of March 19, 2018, as submitted.

1. Electronic Cheating: Mr. Roth reported that faculty from the College of Engineering and staff from the Dean of Students Office have met with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee to discuss various aspects of cheating. The Engineering faculty reported that students are able to buy answers in real time during an exam. A problem is that students may need an electronic device to take an exam. Students are able to buy homework assignments and entire projects. The Student Code of Conduct has an option that an instructor who catches a student cheating may handle the situation within the scope of the course. This is often done when the student says that it’s the first time he’s cheated. It is likely that some faculty are not aware of the newer ways to cheat. Students don’t know that cheating is not only wrong but that it has moral significance. A joint Provost-Academic Senate task force of people with different skill might address the questions that were raised.

1. Student Enrollment: A comparison of the spring/summer enrollment for 2017 to 2018 for the week of March 19, 2018, shows that graduate enrollment is up 6% overall. Early data for the fall term show an increase in acceptances and in students’ signing up for orientation. A Policy Committee member noted that the University

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does not have a budget model that encourages departments to offer graduate courses in the spring/summer terms.

1. Math 1000: An instructor in the Mathematics Department sent a letter in response to concerns expressed by the Policy Committee regarding the English language skills of the graduate assistants who teach MAT 1000. Committee members were unsure of the requirements for teaching assistants whose native language is not English. Provost Whitfield will get clarification of the requirements.
2. Flint Water Study Update: Policy Committee asked the Provost about the University’s response to the accusations made by the professor from Virginia Tech who is doing research on the Flint water crisis against the research claims of a WSU faculty member. Provost Whitfield will report back to the Committee.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of April 16, 2018