

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 22, 2013

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

Absent with notice: M. Winters

Guests: Karen Myhr, Assistant Professor – Research, Biological Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Mathew Ouellett, Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning; Alan Bartlett, Director, Media Services; Richard Dunbar, Media Services

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of April 22, 2013.

The meeting was held in room 426 State Hall.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Bartlett conducted a tour of the new classrooms on the fourth floor of State Hall. Ms. Myhr teaches one of her classes in room 426. She explained the benefits of teaching in the room. To schedule one of the rooms, faculty must write a brief statement how the rooms would aid in their teaching.

[Ms. Myhr, Mr. Ouellett, Mr. Bartlett, and Mr. Dunbar left the meeting.]

1. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Romano reported that the laboratory classroom task force met with the executive committee overseeing plans for constructing the new building. Vice President for Finance and Business Operations Rick Nork addressed the need for the building.
- *2. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of April 8, 2013, were approved as submitted.
3. Fountain Court: Policy Committee looked over the architect's drawings for the renovation of the Fountain Court area that is near the Undergraduate Library, the Student Center Building, the Recreation and Fitness Center, and Deroy Auditorium. Mr. Romano said that the cost of the construction is not yet known. It is hoped that a donor will provide the funding. If a donor does not cover the costs of the project Mr. Romano will oppose the administration's use of general fund money for the project. Some members of the Policy Committee expressed concern that there are costs, such as the architect's fee, that will be covered by the general fund. They thought the Policy Committee or the full Senate should ask that some projects to beautify campus be deferred during this time of limited resources. Mr. Romano reminded the members that the Policy Committee, the Senate, and the Budget Committee have made known to the administration their views about capital projects. Mr. Romano explained that the University has to

issue bonds for the entire \$92 million for the Multi-disciplinary Biomedical Research Building. If Development money covers some of the cost of that building, the other money received from the bonding, will be used for other projects. Members of Policy Committee persisted in wanting to develop a statement, and that will be done.

4. APEX Data: Mr. Woodyard reviewed data from the summer APEX program and from the fall 2012 semester for the students who participated in the summer program. The data were collected by Naida Simon and analyzed by Mr. Woodyard. The ACTs for the students who participated in the summer program ranged from 15 to 23. The overall GPA average of the students in the summer program was 3.29. The overall GPA for the fall semester is 1.92, which is 1.37 points below the average for the summer program. The average cumulative GPA of the students in the summer and fall APEX programs is 2.47. Of the 85 students who completed the summer APEX program, 76 enrolled in the fall 2012 APEX program. Of the 85 students who completed the summer APEX program, 62 enrolled in the winter 2013 APEX program. Mr. Woodyard will analyze the winter grades when they are available. Policy Committee would like to see a comparison of the students in the APEX program with students who have the same ACT scores but are not in the APEX program.
5. Survey in the College of Engineering: Last week, Interim President Vroom reported that another survey of faculty and staff in the College of Engineering would be conducted by the AAUP-AFT. Mr. Parrish reported that the questionnaire was developed by faculty representing the College and by the AAUP-AFT. The American Arbitration Association will conduct the survey and prepare a report summarizing the results.
6. Honors College Review: As requested by Interim Provost Winters, Policy Committee suggested faculty to serve on the review committee for the College.
7. Student Evaluation of Teaching Committee: Policy Committee asked for information about the SET Committee: the names of members and whether they were appointed by the administration or by the AAUP-AFT; the Committee's charge; and the timetable for the review process.
8. Faculty Hearing Panel: A replacement was needed for the University-wide Faculty Hearing Panel. C.J. Rhee (Mathematics, Liberal Arts and Sciences), who was on the ballot in 2012 when the Panel was elected, accepted the position. His term expires in December 2014.
9. Member-at-Large: Anca Vlasopolos is retiring. One year remains in her member-at-large term. The Bylaws state that the person declared the alternate at the time when a member was elected is to assume the position. The Senate Office will contact the alternate.

10. Vacancy on Policy Committee: Ms. Vlasopolos has resigned from the Policy Committee. It is not necessary to fill the position for the remainder of the academic year.
11. May Senate Meeting: The drafted agenda for the May 8 Academic Senate meeting was reviewed. It will be finalized next week.
12. Use of Listservs: Mr. Romano was asked to follow up with Interim Provost Margaret Winters about the use of listservs as discussed on April 8.
13. Reports from Liaisons:
 - a. Ms. Dallas, the liaison to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, informed the Policy Committee that C&I has formed groups to work on various issues. Joseph Rankin, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, asked the Committee to assist in developing guidelines for syllabi that could serve as the basis for faculty in developing their syllabi. Another group will assist in developing course-learning outcomes. The Committee will meet with members of the Registrar's Office to discuss ways to improve the process used to create the schedule of classes. Mr. Romano asked Ms. Dallas to inquire about the status of the proposal to change the times when classes begin. In addition, the Policy Committee suggested that the schedule of final exams be changed.
 - b. Ms. Dallas also serves on the committee studying the retention of students of color, students of low income, and students who are the first members of their families to attend college. The group is considering the establishment of an office for multi-cultural affairs.
 - c. Mr. Woodyard, the liaison to the Student Affairs Committee, mentioned that, at its last meeting, the Committee discussed complaints about the transfer of the undergraduate research program from the Honors College to the Office of the Provost. This year a delay in sending the request for abstracts meant that students did not have the experience of a local research day prior to applying to present at the national conference.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of April 29, 2013