

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 27, 2015

Present: L. Beale; V. Dallas; R. N. Frank; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Sankar; W. Volz; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: J. Artiss; D. Kessel

Guests: Monica Brockmeyer, Associate Provost for Student Success; Daniel Frohardt, Chair of the Department of Mathematics

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of April 27.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Enrollment overall for the fall term is about the same as it was last year at this time, but it is too early to predict if the numbers will remain the same. The success of the initiatives to recruit and retain students will be assessed.
- b. Provost Winters will soon announce the recipients of the Kresge Provost's Fellows. Thirty faculty applied; four grants will be awarded. The Fellows will work to increase student retention and improve time to graduation.
- c. The budget hearings for all schools/colleges/divisions have begun.
- d. The Provost attended the luncheon to honor student athletes who have a GPA of 3.5 or better.
- e. The Employee Recognition Program is April 28 and the Academic Recognition Program is April 30.
- f. Excellence Schools Detroit is bringing graduating seniors in the Detroit Public Schools to campus on May 1, which is Signing College Day. First Lady Michelle Obama will address the students, stressing the importance of completing some form of higher education.

2. Report from the Senate President:

- a. The Office for Teaching and Learning had a luncheon for members of the faculty and academic staff identified as being involved in teaching initiatives and good teaching techniques.
- b. The Parking Advisory Committee met for the first time last week. Joseph Artiss, Ivan Avrutsky, and Mr. Romano represent the faculty on the Committee. At the meeting, Timothy Michael, Associate Vice President for Business Operations, presented information about the budget and business plan for parking. Mr. Romano spoke to the Parking Committee about including the parking fee in the student activities fee. If this were done only for incoming freshmen, it would not count as an increase in tuition. The concern is that there would not be enough parking spaces if many more students were to drive to campus. Jon Frederick, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, has been charged with analyzing parking usage by week in the semester, by day in the week, and by hour in the day.

[Ms. Brockmeyer and Mr. Frohardt joined the meeting.]

3. Mathematics Competency Examination: Policy Committee invited Ms. Brockmeyer and Mr. Frohardt to the meeting to discuss the difficulty students have in completing the Math competency requirement in the general education requirements. Students have to pass the Math competency course, MAT 1000, but the competency exam is a higher level than that course. Policy Committee members believe that the test is too difficult. The exam was not written to meet the competency requirement. It was not intended for that purpose, but when the Math requirements were revised some years ago, it was used for the gen ed requirement. Policy Committee asked for data about the number of students who take the various entry level courses, the passing rates of the courses and the passing rate of the exam. It was suggested that a test be developed that meets the outcomes of MAT 1000. Provost Winters charged Ms. Brockmeyer and Mr. Frohardt with developing a suitable exam. The Policy Committee requested the following information:
 - a. The number of students who take the Math placement test
 - b. The passing rates for parts A, B, and C
 - c. The passing rates for FTIACS and for transfer students
 - d. The percentage of transfer students who have completed the competency exam
 - e. The pass rate for MAT 0990 and MAT 0993
 - f. How well does WSU do with remedial Math students?
 - g. How many students take MAT 0900 per semester?
 - h. How many students take the regular MAT 0993 per semester?
 - i. How many students take the Rising Scholars Program MAT 0993 per semester?
 - j. How many Michigan public universities require a course like MAT 0993 or higher?

[Ms. Brockmeyer and Mr. Frohardt left the meeting.]

- *4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of April 13, 2015, were approved as submitted.
5. Disciplinary Action: A question arose whether a school or college may have criteria for disciplining a student for reasons other than those specified in University Statute 2.31.02 Student Code of Conduct. A situation arose where the faculty and administrators in a school did not believe they could take action against a student for a lack of professionalism. However, a school's professionalism committee may set local requirements that would be reviewed by the Dean of Students Office, and action may be taken against a student. Linda Galante, Assistant General Counsel, is working with the professional schools to rewrite and clarify their professionalism standards.
6. Board of Governors Meeting: Dean of Business Administration Robert Forsythe will make a presentation about the School to the Board on May 1. Also on the agenda of the Board meeting are the Medical School tuition rates for next year.
7. Agenda for the Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed the agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of May 6.

8. Schedule of Senate Meetings: Policy Committee set the schedule of meetings for the 2015-2016 academic year.
9. Summer Policy Committee Meetings: The Committee scheduled its summer meetings.
10. Report from the Liaison to the Budget Committee: Mr. Volz reported that, at the Budget Committee meeting of April 27, the members talked about the effect on university budgets if Proposal 1 is defeated.

Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of May 11, 2015