

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

May 8, 2017

Present: D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Rothe; N. Simon; W. Volz; K. Whitfield;  
A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: V. Dallas; B. Roth

Absent: L. Beale

Guest: R. Darin Ellis, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice  
President for Institutional Effectiveness

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of May 8, 2017.

1. Update on General Education Reform: Mr. Ellis reported on the progress of the General Education Oversight Committee and the General Education Reform Committee to revise the general education requirements. One of the goals of the effort was to reduce the number of gen ed credits students must complete. The current program requires students to take approximately 46 credits. The working reform document requires 32 credits.

Mr. Ellis explained the rationale behind the proposed one-credit Wayne Experience (WE) course. The course would introduce students to the University, to self-directed learning, and how to maximize the college experience. PC discussed the need for oversight of the course. Mr. Ellis said that, when the Statute on General Education is revised, the GEOC would be given the authority to review, assess, and evaluate general education courses and make recommendations for improvement. The current Statute only charges GEOC with recommending courses for approval. [Note that Mr. Ellis is not correct here. This Statute, 2.43.03.250, reads "*IMPLEMENTATION: The president or his/her designee shall establish an Oversight Committee for the purpose of making recommendations on the implementation and review of the General Education curriculum.*"] Policy Committee members discussed the content and management of such a WE course. Provost Whitfield asked that faculty who have suggestions send them to Associate Provost Ellis.

Mr. Ellis discussed the course categories being considered for the curriculum: foundational competencies (communication and quantitative); Wayne experience; and inquiries (cultural inquiry; natural scientific inquiry; social inquiry; first year inquiry; global learning; diversity, equity, inclusion).

Some PC members objected to the elimination of a civic literacy requirement and of a physical science requirement. They discussed the importance of having the best faculty teach the gen ed courses. Of concern is whether we will have a revised gen ed program in place for the fall 2018 term.

Mr. Ellis will return in one month to update the Policy Committee.

[Mr. Ellis left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. The conversion of the Science and Engineering Library building into a STEM building is the first priority on Wayne State's capital outlay budget request to the State of Michigan. Provost Whitfield reported that it is the top-rated capital improvement project among those submitted to the State, but the final decision has not been made. Representatives from WSU, including Mr. Romano, will make a presentation to a legislative committee on May 10.
- b. The searches for the Deans of Law, the Library System, and Social Work are progressing.

3. Report from the Senate President

- a. The Budget Planning Council has completed its meetings with the academic and the administrative units.
- b. The Graduate Assistant Allocation Committee has completed its recommendation for Provost Whitfield.
- c. In addition to Mr. Romano, Greg Bird, the Director of State Relations, and Harry Wyatt, Associate Vice President, Facilities Planning and Management, will attend the legislative hearing on May 10.
- d. The INCLUDES grant application has been submitted to the National Science Foundation.
- e. The Sesquicentennial Committee will fund five symposia for the Celebration.

\*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of April 24, 2017, as submitted.

\*5. Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics: Policy Committee received the CMMG's self-study report, the report of the Type II Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee, and a list of the Center's grants and publication productivity. The Policy Committee passed a motion to approve the rechartering of the Center for five years. In accordance with the Statute governing centers and institutes, Mr. Romano will inform President Wilson and the Director of the Center of the Policy Committee's action.

6. Graduation Rates of Detroit High School Students: The Policy Committee reviewed data about the students who graduated from the Detroit Public Schools and their success at Wayne State. The two DPS schools with the highest six-year graduation rate for first-time-in-any-college students who entered WSU in fall 2008 through fall 2010 are Cass Technical High School and Renaissance High School. PC also reviewed the first term grade point averages of FTIACS from the DPS who entered between fall 2006 and fall 2016. That data vary greatly. If the NSF funds WSU's application for an INCLUDES pilot grant, the University will partner with the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) and the Michigan Science Center to mentor about 100 African American male students in science fields in an effort to

improve the graduation rate of our African American male students. If successful, the pilot could be expanded to the entire DPSCD and possibly nationwide.

7. Office for Teaching and Learning: Associate Provost and Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning Mathew Ouellett sent an update on the activities and programs of the Office.
8. Community Colleges: Policy Committee members asked the Provost for information about credits students take at community colleges. First, how many general education credits do students take at community colleges? Second, how many students fulfill the mathematics competency at a community college?

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee May 22, 2017