

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

June 1, 2009

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

Members and Liaisons of the Budget Committee: J. Davis; D. DeGracia; T. Killion;
W. Koo; R. Kohrman; R. Needleman; F. Pearson; L. Rydstedt; V. Sardesai; A. Shisheva; L. Spang

Also attending: J. Noren

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of June 1, 2009.

1. Joint Meeting of the Policy Committee and Budget Committee: This joint meeting was held as part of the consultative process that President Noren is carrying out in developing the budget for the 2010 fiscal year. Mr. Kohrman reviewed the projected state revenues for FY 2010. He summarized the state's application for federal stimulus money and how that money would affect the appropriation to WSU.

Mr. Kohrman commented on information that had been distributed via e-mail within the Budget Committee and the Policy Committee. That information, prepared by members of the Budget Committee, indicated that WSU had more administrators than the universities with which it was compared. Mr. Kohrman said that the variance is due to the fact that the institutions determine how to categorize the employee classifications. One had to look at the total salaries for persons in administrative categories. He maintained that Wayne State had a comparable number of executive, administrative, and managerial positions to the other universities with which it was compared.

Mr. Kohrman reviewed scenarios showing how WSU's revenue in FY 2010 would vary depending upon the tuition rate, investment income, enrollment, and the state appropriation. He noted that many universities are considering a tuition strategy for two or three years because of the impact of the government stimulus money.

The administration will be consulting with other groups of faculty, with the Deans, and again with the Senate Budget Committee on June 22 prior to submitting its recommendation for tuition to the Board of Governors for the July 1 meeting.

Mr. Kohrman agreed to send his presentation to the Senate President so the Budget and Policy Committees might use it in making recommendations about the FY 2010 budget.

[President Noren joined the meeting.]

President Noren reviewed the discussions that had occurred between state officials and the University Presidents regarding the state appropriation for FY 2010 and
Proceedings of the Policy Committee ♦ June 1, 2009

Page 2

tuition increases. State officials have made it clear that there will be at least a 3% cut in the appropriation to higher education in FY 2010.

The President was asked what standards would determine where reductions would be made if the University were to receive a 3% cut in the state appropriation. The President responded that he would continue to consult with the Deans and the Vice Presidents. The President is discussing with them what they would cut in their units and what new investments they would make. The decision will be made from a University-wide perspective. When pressed on who would be making these decisions, he was not able to indicate how any changes would be decided.

A member expressed concern about the consultation process in the various colleges. The President said that the Deans are expected to consult with their colleges' budget committees and with their department chairs.

Another member noted that over the past ten years there had been a re-allocation of funds within the University. The schools and colleges had received a smaller percentage of the budget than the administrative side of the University. He suggested that the units that have benefited with increases in their budgets over the past ten years should experience cuts proportionate to those increases.

President Noren said that there are a number of issues that will determine where cuts and where investments will be made. High priority will be given to projects that have the potential for garnering private resources, for generating extramural funding, or for increasing enrollment and tuition.

A member noted that faculty know what would help them in their research. For example, the upgrading of existing laboratories would help investigators in securing extramural funding. He suggested that a web site where faculty and employees could send their suggestions directly to the central administration could provide important feedback.

A member stated that what increases the quality of the University is the hiring and retention of full-time tenure track faculty who are involved in research, program development, and the University's outreach mission. This should be the guiding principle on which the budget is based. President Noren said that Deans have presented proposals for additional faculty. There are start-up costs in the budgets for the Provost and for the Vice President for Research. The hiring of additional faculty will require a re-allocation of funds within the overall structure of the University.

Another member mentioned the quality of the students and the need to improve the graduation rate. This is an issue that the Deans may not address if they are not asked to do so. It also is an issue that may have to be addressed as a whole and not by individual Deans.

President Noren said that he welcomed suggestions from the Academic Senate as far as an overall vision statement and standards it thought should be used in preparing the budget. He welcomed views on how to improve the graduation rate.

Proceedings of the Policy Committee ◆ June 1, 2009

Page 3

In making cuts to the FY 2009 budget, President Noren had established some priorities. Those remain in place for the FY 2010 budget: preserve the number of faculty and employees; preserve and enhance the factors that will increase enrollment; provide support for successful research enterprises. The President said that budget decisions will be made to enhance the quality of the educational, research, and outreach missions of the University.

A member mentioned rumors that a committee formed by the President had recommended that the University take over a large number of schools in the Detroit Public Schools system. The President said that a task force has been considering what the University could do to assist the DPS in addition to the more than one hundred programs that the University currently has with the school

system. However, there is no budget, contract, or agreement for such an undertaking. President Noren assured everyone that the University would not fund such a project; funding would come from outside the University.

[President Noren left the meeting.]

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Kohrman said that \$31.6 million of initiatives have been proposed by the Deans. However, that is not the amount that will be funded.

The Provost said that the initiatives were developed as a result of the Strategic Thinking Retreat. Members of the Budget Committee asked if those initiatives could be available for their next meeting on June 8. Mr. Kohrman agreed to send those to the Policy Committee.

[The members of the Budget Committee left the meeting.]

2. Undergraduate Research Program: The names of the undergraduate students who were awarded research support for the summer were distributed to the Policy Committee. Members of the Senate Research Committee participated in the review of the proposals and in the selection process. Sixty-five grants and a total of \$192,150 were distributed. Policy Committee members asked for additional information: the college, the department, the name of the faculty advisor, and the major coding.
3. Meeting with President Noren: Policy Committee finalized the list of topics it would like to discuss with President Noren when they meet June 8.
- *4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of May 18, 2009, were approved as submitted.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of June 8, 2009