

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
June 22, 2015

Present: J. Artiss; L. Beale; V. Dallas; R. N. Frank; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano;  
A. Sankar; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: W. Volz

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of June 22.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Provost Winters reported that, in response to questions raised by the Policy Committee, the Mathematics Department is looking at nationally-normed placement tests. There have been no changes in the competency examination students take to meet the general education requirement. Members of Policy Committee believe that resolving the problems with the math competency is urgent. It affects enrollment, retention, and credit hours. Students take the equivalent math course at community colleges to fulfill the competency, and Wayne State loses those credit hours. The procedure for completing the competency here is a negative experience for students. The Provost said that the problem would be resolved.
- b. Planning for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission is increasing. Last week a meeting of administrations who work on the academic side of the University was held. The group is gathering data. Students and faculty will be added in the fall when they return to campus.
- c. The strategic plan is on the agenda of the Board of Governors meeting of June 26. The Deans were charged with aligning their colleges' strategic plans with the University's plan, or if their college did not have a plan, to develop one.
- d. It is too early in the registration process to predict enrollment for the fall term. At the end of June, the data should be clearer.
- e. The search for the Dean of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is progressing. Finalists are returning to campus for the second round of interviews.

2. Report from the Senate President:

- a. Mr. Romano attended a special finance meeting with members of the Board of Governors. The Budget was presented to the Board; the figures for the schools and colleges have improved a little compared with an earlier version.
- b. The Library Acquisitions Committee submitted its final report. It recommended that the budget contain a fixed yearly increase for acquisitions. The cost of journals increases at least 5% per year. The Provost said that this would be done.

\*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of May 11, 2015, were approved as submitted.

4. APEX-Bridge Program: Mark Jackson, Director of the APEX Scholars Program, met with the Policy Committee on May 11. His staff is computing the grade point averages for students in the APEX-Bridge program. The Provost will check on the status of the report.

5. Board of Governors Meeting: Mr. Romano reviewed the agenda for the Board of Governors meeting of June 26. He pointed out that tuition for undergraduate and graduate students would be increased 3.2% in the 2015-2016 academic year. Tuition for incoming Medical School students was being increased 2%. There is a recommendation to repair the Fountain Court, which is in the middle of campus near the Student Center Building and the Mort Harris Recreation and Fitness Center. The administration is recommending an increase of 25 cents in the parking fee for students.
6. Capital Expenditures Committee: For some time, members of the Senate have asked to be involved in decisions about which capital projects will be funded. Mr. Artiss brought up the suggestion again when James Sears, Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management, attended a meeting of the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee. Mr. Sears recently contacted Mr. Artiss about having some Senate members meet with him and Vice President for Finance and Business Operations William Decatur to discuss how the Senate might be involved in the next master plan and the five-year capital outlay priorities. Mr. Artiss and Mr. Romano will meet with Mr. Sears.
7. Child Care Committee: The administration will be setting up a committee of three graduate students, three administrators, and three faculty to work on the issue of child care on campus. The committee will begin meeting in the fall when the graduate students return to campus. Either the Senate or the AAUP-AFT will select the faculty representatives.
8. Reports from Liaisons
  - a. Mr. Kessel, who chairs the Research Committee, reported that Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance Phil Cunningham and System Executive Director in the Detroit Medical Center Clinical and Translational Research Office Monica Malian met with the Committee on May 19. The DMC is concerned with billing and liability issues related to clinical trials. There have been long delays in approving clinical trials, resulting in problems for clinical faculty. The Research Committee also talked about the facilities at the IBIO building.
  - b. Ms. Beale and Mr. Artiss serve on the Information Systems Management Committee (ISMC) that recommends major new administrative information technology initiatives and policies. Ms. Beale reported that at the meeting held on June 22, they talked about the problems users experience with TravelWayne. One suggestion was to have a document of frequently asked questions that would be updated as changes are made. Two groups that are working to resolve the problems have developed a series of proposals. Chief Information Officer Joseph Sawasky suggested that Wayne State partner with the University of Michigan, which also uses the Concur system, in approaching the company about the problems.