WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

June 4, 2018

Present: L. Beale; B. Roth; V. Dallas; r. hoogland; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano;

N. Simon; W. Volz; K. Whitfield

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of June 4, 2018.

1. Report from the Chair:
2. Provost Whitfield mentioned that the Board of Governors would meet June 8 to vote on the proposal to increase tuition by 2.9% for the 2018-2019 academic year. The state set the cap for increasing tuition at 3.8%. The Budget was developed initially with the expectation that the tuition increase would be greater than 2.9%, but the Administration thinks we can have a balanced budget with the lower tuition increase. The Provost talked about how enrollment affects the Budget. The number of students entering does not equal the number who graduate. The drop in the number of Masters students affects the Budget. Some colleges rely on international students, but fewer are coming to the University. We need to diversify the pool of graduate students.
3. The Provost received 40 proposals for interdisciplinary faculty hiring. The Budget must be finalized before he can approve the proposals and the colleges can begin their searches. Some proposals that are similar may be combined.
4. Report from the Senate President:
5. The University needs to increase the number of faculty who receive grant money. For some time, Mr. Romano has suggested that the administration in the Medical School and the Division of Research insist that every grant application to the NIH include a co-principal investigator. NIH, he said, may object to the amount requested for supplies or for the number of animals requested, but it never says there are too many faculty. The co-PIs could learn about new programs and then could submit their own proposals for funding.
6. The Senate’s Budget Committee met June 4 to review the Budget for FY 2019. Across-the-board cuts will not be made. Funds will be transferred between budget categories. That is a short-term solution; it can be done only once. The budgetary decisions were made without input from the Budget Planning Committee (BPC). Last year the BPC did not have input into the decisions because the time was short. This year the meetings with the Deans and Vice Presidents were held earlier in the winter term.

The Provost agreed that the decision-making process for the Budget needed to improve. Under the RCM budget model support units will have to be evaluated. We need to determine the metrics that will be used for the evaluations. The goal is to use the metrics next year.

Ms. Beale had understood that the BPC was formed with a promise of greater transparency and a truly consultative role. Last year recommendations were

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – June 4, 2018 Page 2

discussed. They were not discussed this year. There was no synthesis of ideas.

\*3. Proceedings of April 30: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of

April 30, 2018, were approved as amended.

\*4. Proceedings of May 14: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of

May 14, 2018, were approved as submitted.

5. The Use of the Student Evaluation of Teaching for Tenure and Promotion: Recent studies show that the SET is biased based on race, gender, age, appearance, and ethnicity. Some universities have changed the way they use SETs. Policy Committee wants Wayne State to find other ways to evaluate teaching and wants the University to abandon the use of the SET for that purpose. The following are questions that should be addressed. What can the Administration do unilaterally to address the issue of bias? What can be done to downgrade the importance of the SET in the evaluation of faculty teaching to ensure that we are not emphasizing and re-enforcing the bias? A member suggested that the Provost and the Deans send memos to the faculty who serve on salary committees and on promotion and tenure committees. The memo should set forth some of the research about bias in the SET. Provost Whitfield asked the Academic Senate to provide information about the impact of the SET and actions that can be taken to remedy the situation. It was suggested that the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Student Affairs Committee form a joint subcommittee to address the questions.

6. Daycare Implementation Committee: The Policy Committee asked the Provost for an update on the efforts to provide daycare on campus. Provost Whitfield said that the Implementation Committee was not able to fulfill its original charge. The master planning committee will include a daycare facility in the plan. The University has to allocate support for it. We are likely to pilot a partnership with the Rainbow Childcare Center. The requirements for a daycare center on campus are extensive. Mr. Romano mentioned that he and Ms. Beale participated in the meetings held about the building of the new dormitories. They made a strong case for including daycare facilities in the plans, but it was rejected.

7. Fall Enrollment: Policy Committee received the report of the new and continuing student enrollment that compares enrollment for fall 2018 with fall of 2017 as of May 28. There is an increase of 4.03% overall, but this is early in the registration period. Undergraduate enrollment is up, but overall graduate enrollment is down. The Administration has predicted a 5% increase in undergraduate enrollment for fall but a significant decline in graduate enrollment, especially for international students. Over the last two years, there has been a 42% drop in tuition from international graduate students. Mr. Romano noted that enrollment at the masters level is done mostly by the colleges.

8. Master Planning Committee: Policy Committee nominated Jocelyn Ang (Pediatrics, Medicine) to serve on this Committee. She agreed to serve.

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – June 4, 2018 Page 3

9. Academy of Teachers: Policy Committee received the revised information about the Academy of Teachers. They had many comments and questions. The charge should include the academic governance institutions. The document should charge

the AOT with working with the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Curriculum and Instruction Committee of the Senate. Ms. Beale will draft a modified charge to the AOT.

10. Warrior Way Back Program: The Administration announced a debt-forgiveness program for undergraduate students who left the University before graduating. The program allows former students to “learn” away existing WSU debt by re-enrolling and successfully completing classes. Ms. Beale asked the following questions. Do we know the budgetary impact of the program? If the students have been away for a long time, do they get credit for the courses they took earlier? What is the impact on students who found a $1500 amount a deterrent and now take on new debt because they likely used all of their financial aid? Where did this program originate and what consultation took place?

Provost Whitfield explained that students have to meet with an advisor. The program is limited to the first 100 students who qualify. Many students in the area have some college but no degree. Some have been out too long and will not qualify. The students must have a degree plan that is feasible. Some students who stopped out with the intention of returning may have financial aid available. There are new emergency funds available to assist students. Policy Committee members were concerned that the University might have a public relations problem if the specifics of the program are not explained early. Many more students may want to participate in the program than it can accommodate. If the program is successful, it can be extended. The Provost said that the program would make money, not lose money, for the University.

Ms. Beale was concerned that faculty had not been consulted about the program. The Provost replied that the program was developed in Enrollment Services, and that the Administration would not seek consultation with faculty on everything that is done in that office. Because it is tuition cash positive, it is limited to 100 students. We have to determine if it works. Mr. Romano suggested that as such programs are being developed the Provost mention them in his report to the Policy Committee. The Provost said that outside entities were involved in developing and supporting the program and the University could not discuss it earlier.

Members of Policy Committee believe that the “Bulletin in Effect” policy might affect some students’ returning. The policy states that undergraduate students may graduate under the requirements stated in the Bulletin in effect at the time of their graduation or any of the bulletins in the previous seven academic years. Policy Committee discussed other issues that students have had in completing their degree.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of June 18, 2018