

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

July 25, 2016

Present: J. Artiss; L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; N. Simon;
W. Volz; K. Whitfield; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: B. Roth

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of July 25.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Math Competency: Provost Whitfield had considered forming an ad hoc committee to evaluate options for fulfilling the mathematics competency requirement in the general education program. However, rather than forming a new committee, the General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC), which is responsible for the gen ed curriculum, will evaluate them in the fall.
- b. Data: Provost Whitfield's office and the Division of Computing and Information Technology are working to improve the accessing of data.
- c. Faculty Searches: The deadline for colleges to submit the information about the faculty they are hiring for the coming academic year has passed. The Provost will report to the Policy Committee the number of offers made and the number of faculty who accepted the offers. When positions are not filled, departments often use the salary from the faculty line for other departmental needs, such as to pay the salaries of part-time faculty. Mr. Romano mentioned that, several years ago, the administration and the Senate set a timeline in which departments were to fill faculty positions. If the positions were not filled within that time frame, the authorization would be withdrawn.

2. Report from the Senate President:

- a. FTIAC Parking Program: Mr. Romano distributed the survey that the FTIAC Parking Assessment Committee drafted to assess the experiences of entering freshmen with the so-called "free parking" program during the fall 2016 term. Provost Whitfield suggested that students who cannot participate in the program because they are not entering freshmen also be surveyed. The opinions of students who have been attending for a while would be useful in assessing the program. The Parking Assessment Committee will conduct that survey, as well.
- b. Sesquicentennial Celebration: The Sesquicentennial Committee held its first meeting. There are three Chairs: Julie Miller, Secretary to the Board of Governors and Secretary of the University; Jeff Block, Assistant Vice President of Special Events, and Marc Kruman, Professor and former Chair of the Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. We will have a year-long celebration encompassing the events that are held every year as well as special events to mark the anniversary. The celebration will culminate on November 3, 2018, which coincides with the end of the capital campaign.

- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: Policy Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of July 11, 2016, as submitted.
- 4. Enrollment Decline at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh (UW-Oshkosh): The General Education Reform Committee (GERC) based its recommendations for revising our general education program on the general education program at UW-Oshkosh. A chart of the new freshman headcount for the medium and small UW universities between the 2011-12 academic year and the 2015-16 academic year showed that UW-Oshkosh had the largest decline among the twelve universities in that category. Oshkosh's general education program began in the 2013-14 academic year. Policy Committee again discussed the possible merits and deficits of the general education program proposed by the GERC. A proposal for the new program must specify what is needed for implementation, including the budget. Mr. Romano asked the Provost that his staff provide the time frame for implementation of the program and the plans for carrying out the implementation.
- 5. Strategic Planning Implementation Committee: Mr. Romano will invite the Chair of the Strategic Planning Implementation Committee to discuss the plan with Policy Committee.
- 6. Institute for Leadership and Diversity: At the time of this Policy Committee meeting of July 25, it was thought that the Institute had not gone through the process of being granted a temporary charter as a college center. Policy Committee discussed with Provost Whitfield the need for a temporary charter. However, after the meeting it was learned that Provost Margaret Winters had authorized the chartering of the Institute for one year, and that she had informed the Senate Office of her action.
- 7. TravelWayne: Associate Vice President for Finance James Barbret asked that faculty be appointed to serve on a faculty-led committee to complete a review of the TravelWayne (Concur) application. The new committee will build on the work of an earlier group, the TravelWayne Advisory Group.
- 8. Huron Report on Teaching Assistant Distributions: Mr. Romano had heard that the Huron Consulting Group analyzed how the University distributes graduate teaching assistants among departments. He noted that it is crucial that no major changes in the distribution be made without considering the potential consequences to departments. In some departments the graduate assistants teach many laboratory courses and discussion sections. They contribute to the national rankings of departments. Mr. Romano believes that if departments need more teaching assistants they should be given additional funding to support them. He asked that the Senate be given a copy of the report. Provost Whitfield will provide the report.
- 9. Fair Labor Standards Act Project Committee: The Office of Human Resources is forming a committee to develop strategies to address the impact of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that increased the salary threshold for employees considered exempt from receiving overtime pay from \$23,600 to \$47,476 effective December 1, 2016. About 68% of the University's employees who are affected by the regulation

are in the research assistant/associate/scientist and post-doctoral classifications. Alicia Pendleton, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, asked that faculty be appointed to join the group that is developing strategies to comply with the new rules. Mr. Romano will contact the faculty members that Policy Committee members recommended.

10. Report on Daycare: Mr. Artiss is one of the Chairs of the ad hoc committee that evaluated the need for and the daycare facilities available for students, faculty, and staff. He summarized the committee's work. Provost Whitfield has asked for additional information from the Merrill-Palmer Skillman Institute and the College of Education about their early childhood education programs and their ability to provide services to children. The Policy Committee believes that having affordable daycare on or near campus will increase enrollment. The Provost and the Vice President for Finance and Business Operations William Decatur will form an implementation committee.

[Provost Whitfield left the meeting.]

11. Committee Assignments for the 2016-2017 Academic Year: The staff in the Senate Office solicited Senate members' preferences for their committee assignment. Policy Committee reviewed the first draft of the assignments. They made some changes to the list and began the process of selecting the Chairs of the committees.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of August 8, 2016