WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

August 6, 2018

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

N. Simon; W. Volz; K. Whitfield

Guests: William Decatur, Vice President for Finance and Business Operations; Jeff Bolton, Senior Director, Office of University Budget; Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of August 6, 2018.

1. RCM Planning and Subvention Committee: Mr. Bolton and Mr. Decatur reviewed the draft recommendations for the RCM (responsibility centered management) budget model being developed by the task forces. They discussed a draft proposal for distributing the state appropriation and general fund revenue, tuition, ICR funds, student fees, differential tuition, and undergraduate and graduate financial aid. There is more work to do. In the fall they will discuss the draft recommendations with the Deans and with the Academic Senate.

[Mr. Ezzeddine joined the meeting. Mr. Bolton and Mr. Decatur left the meeting.]

1. TOEFL: Mr. Ezzeddine was invited to the meeting to discuss whether the TOEFL could be waived for some graduate students. Some Policy Committee members have experienced difficulty when trying to waive the TOEFL requirement for graduate students. In the past, graduate directors in schools/colleges/departments were able to get a waiver from the Dean of the Graduate School if they recom-mended that the applicant could speak and understand English well. Recently getting a waiver has become more difficult and graduate directors have been told they have to tell the incoming students that they must take the TOEFL although they have been judged to have a good command of English.

Mr. Ezzeddine told the Policy Committee that the faculty could contact the Graduate School Dean for a waiver of the requirement and that it should take only a few minutes. The graduate director does not have to talk with the staff in the English Language Institute and that no communications to the schools and colleges have required this.

Foreign students cannot be admitted conditionally to attend the English Language Institute. They have to be full-time students to get a visa. Students must pay to take the TOEFL. It is an unnecessary expense for those whose English is good. The federal government is increasing fees. The cost for issuing foreign visas and I-20s is jumping from $600 to $1300.

International students are charged $50.00 each semester for the SERVIS fee. Ms. Beale asked the purpose of these funds. Mr. Ezzeddine explained that the money

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pays the costs the University incurs in dealing with the federal government. This fee was instituted in 1997.

 3. Report from the Chair:

1. The Provost reported that 3,019 FTIACS (first-time in any college students) have registered for the fall term. Typically, FTIAC enrollment is about 2,650. The Administration has set a goal of 30,000 students in 2021. That will be a significant increase and will have to include increases in the numbers of transfer students and graduate students to compensate for increased graduation rates that are contributing to the reductions in continuing students. The Provost’s Office, in consultation with the Deans, is developing strategies to increase enrollment.
2. Boris Baltes (Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS)) will join the senior staff in the Provost’s Office. He will be responsible for faculty affairs in the areas of labor relations and human resources that were previously handled by Ellen Barton, who will be returning to the English Department. Annmarie Cano (Psychology, CLAS) will join the Provost’s Office to lead faculty development efforts. Monica Brockmeyer will be elevated to the position of Senior Associate Provost for Student Success. The improvement in our graduation rate is among the best in the U.S. Ms. Brockmeyer will work on ways to better engage faculty as the leaders in student success. Wayne Raskind, who is leaving the position of Dean of CLAS, has been very active in working with other Deans to recruit faculty for interdisciplinary research. He will continue to assist the Provost in interdisciplinary hiring during his paid administrative leave.

4. Report from the Senate President:

1. The Commencement Committee met for the second time. They are looking at the models other universities use for commencement exercises. The report to the President is due October 1. A Policy Committee member asked that the Committee see the plan for comment prior to its being given to the President. Mr. Romano will make the request.
2. The Foundation Board met. A fairly high percentage of investments have been made in hedge funds. The return on those investments has been very low while the stock market was up 20%. The Investment Committee of the Foundation Board told the consulting firm that manages the investments to decrease the percentage invested in hedge funds. It will take some time to make the change.

\*5. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of July 16, 2018, as corrected.

 6. Science and Engineering Library: Policy Committee is concerned that faculty will have easy access to the books that are now stored in the SEL when the building is converted into the STEM Innovation Learning Center. Policy Committee will invite Jon Cawthorne, the Dean of the University Library System, to a meeting to discuss the plans.

7. Fall 2017 Enrollment: The Policy Committee reviewed the data comparing enrollment for fall 2017 with fall 2018 as of July 30. Despite enrollment being up 11.67% for FTIACS, undergraduate enrollment overall is up only 3% and enrollment for all levels

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 (undergraduate, graduate, and professional) is up 2.1%. Transfer students are down,

but the Provost said that transfer students and graduate students enroll later although these numbers represent a comparison with last year’s enrollment. Some advisors have reported that many of the introductory classes were full at the time of orientation. The Provost’s Office is working with departments to open more classes. Asked about housing, Provost Whitfield said that construction of the new apartments is on schedule. Students will begin moving into the new housing section on

August 25.

 8. Cooling Towers: Asked about the status of remediation of the facilities that tested positive for legionella, the Provost said the University continues to work on the problem. Three more buildings have tested positive for elevated levels of legionella; they have been remediated. The Provost noted that over the past year Michigan has had an increase in the number of cases of legionellosis.

 9. Administration Process for Choosing Committee Membership: Mr. Romano mentioned issues related to the selection of faculty and academic staff for committee service. A new committee was recently formed in the Division of Research and the Academic Senate was not consulted about appointing faculty to that committee. The Administration forms many committees without consulting the Policy Committee, which is against Board policy. Mr. Romano suggested that Ms. Beale and the Policy Committee press to be consulted in the selection of faculty for committees. Ms. Beale said that the Academic Senate should suggest and be viewed by the Adminis-tration as the body to nominate faculty representatives. The Senate is best qualified to suggest faculty with particular expertise in an area. It should be routine that when the Administration wants to establish a committee, it asks if there is a Senate committee that deals with the issue and from which a subcommittee could be formed. If the Administration concludes that they need a task force or an ad hoc committee they should draft a charge and ask the Policy Committee to look at the charge and to suggest faculty to serve on the committee. Years ago, the Administration was more likely to consult with the Policy Committee for appointing faculty representatives to University committees than they have been in the past several Administrations. Provost Whitfield is aware of and sensitive to the concerns. He agreed that there are times when some units do not consider faculty governance. Mr. Romano will forward information about the new Research committee to the Provost.

[Provost Whitfield left the meeting.]

\*10. Agenda for the Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed and approved the draft agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of September 10.

11. Standing Committees: Policy Committee reviewed the revised charts of committee assignments for the 2018-19 academic year. They changed some of the assignments to better balance the membership and they began the process of selecting Chairs.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of August 20, 2018