

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

September 19, 2011

Present: L. Beale; R. Brown; D. Kessel; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano;
A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: V. Dallas

Guest: Steven Kahn, Director of the Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of September 19, 2011.

1. Report from the Chair:

- a. Search for the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Provost Brown updated the Policy Committee on the search for the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Barbara Redman, Dean of Nursing, is chairing the Search Committee. Heidrick and Struggles International Incorporated is assisting in the search. A member of the Policy Committee reported that there were problems with the voting system when faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were voting for their representatives for the search committee; the system was not operational for most of the voting period. Provost Brown will ask that the deadline for voting be extended and the faculty be notified that the system was now working.
- b. Search for the Dean of Social Work: The search committee is being formed. A search firm is not involved in the process.
- c. Search for the Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning (OTL): Some applications have been received. The search committee will contact people at teaching and learning centers at other institutions. The OTL provides assistance to faculty to enhance their teaching. Provost Brown wants to expand the services that the Office provides. The Office reports directly to the Provost.
- d. Task Force for Online Instruction: Last week the Policy Committee and the Provost discussed having the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Committee develop principles for online courses. Provost Brown learned that an online task force was formed in the winter 2010 term, but that it had not met in the past year. The Provost asked that it be reconvened and complete its work. He would like Veronica Bielat, the Chair of the Senate's C&I Committee, to join the task force. When the task force completes its work, its report/recommendations would be given to the C&I Committee to discuss implementation. Mr. Romano asked the Provost for the membership of the task force and the charge that it was given.
- e. Student Success Committee: President Gilmour is reviewing the report of the Student Success Committee, which made recommendations about admission standards. The Offices of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Financial Aid were involved in the work of the Committee.
- f. Human Resources: The Huron Consulting Group will appoint an interim head of Human Resources. The University will conduct a national search for a permanent Associate Vice President for Human Resources.

[Steven Kahn joined the meeting.]

2. The Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics (CEEM): Mr. Kahn was invited to the meeting to discuss issues related in the CEEM. He informed the Policy Committee that the Center was built on what previously had been called the Pipeline. The programs have been in existence since the early 1990s. The Center's mission is to change the course of math education at WSU. The CEEM consists of the Emerging Scholars/Pre-emerging Scholars Program (ESP/PREP), the Rising Scholars Program (RSP), and the Math Corps. ESP/PREP and RSP are programs for WSU students. ESP serves pre-calculus (MAT 1800), calculus (MAT 2010), and calculus II (MAT 2020). The Emerging Scholars Program was started as a way to teach calculus by a faculty member at the University of California-Berkeley. After using the method one year, it was clear that students at Wayne State needed assistance at the pre-calculus level. The Math Corps is a program used in public schools. The Math Corps has always been supported by external funding. Mr. Kahn believes that the teaching method used is revolutionary, that it is a method that can teach math to people at all levels. He distributed the passing rates for students in courses comparing students in ESP math courses with students in the same math course that is not an ESP section. The ESP students with a lower high school grade point average and a lower ACT score performed better on the uniform department final examination for pre-calculus and calculus I than students in non-ESP sections who have a higher high school GPA and higher ACT scores.

Policy Committee raised a number of issues. They asked about the Program's long-term success rate. They asked what distinguished the way that ESP students are taught compared with the way other students are taught. They asked about the primary characteristics that indicate a student would succeed in an ESP course. Mr. Kahn said that lecturers who teach ESP are dedicated to teaching. They are not doing research or have other departmental responsibilities. The Program simplified the way concepts are taught. The courses are for six credits: four in-classroom instruction hours and two hours for the workshop that students must attend. The student's responsibilities are structured and they have a lot of support from the Center staff.

Policy Committee members asked Mr. Kahn to provide information that compared the cost per student for ESP with the cost to teach students in the regular format. Provost Brown asked for data confirming that the Program works and the mechanism that makes it work. Policy Committee members were not convinced that the Program was successful because of the teaching method. They thought the intense attention given to students may be the reason for its success. They asked Mr. Kahn for citations in the literature that deal with the issues raised.

[Mr. Kahn left the meeting.]

- *3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of September 12, 2011, were approved as submitted.

4. Board of Governors Meeting:

a. State Hall 4th Floor Classroom Renovation: On the agenda of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Governors is a recommendation to authorize the President to award contracts to design the renovation of the fourth floor of State Hall, converting the space from offices to various types and sizes of general-purpose instructional space. The instructional spaces will be equipped with the latest academic technologies. The Policy Committee asked the Provost if faculty would be consulted about the technology. The Technology Resource Center will be involved in the outfitting of the rooms with technology. The Provost will ask Dean Yee to contact Mr. Romano.

b. Dissolution of the Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences Program: On the agenda for the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board was the recommendation to close the Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences Program in the Department of Health Care Sciences, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (EACPHS). Provost Brown reported that no tenured faculty would lose their positions. The Program graduates very few students and it is a very expensive Program. The Provost said that the Dean had consulted with the faculty in the Program and in the College. However, faculty told members of the Policy Committee that there was little consultation, that the costs were much less than reported in the documents submitted to the Board of Governors, and that the Program makes a profit. Provost Brown pointed out that the Dean of EACPHS and the Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis had agreed on the costs of the Program. In addition, the Program has no research grants. Members of the Policy Committee suggested that the tuition for the Program be increased. A member asked that the Policy Committee be informed early in the process of discussion within the Provost's Office about closing academic programs. In that way, Policy can help ensure that there is broad consultation within the affected school or college. The Provost indicated that earlier notice should generally be possible.

5. Review of Programs: The Provost said that the administration is calculating ratios about what the University collects from programs and how many students the programs are graduating. This does not mean that any programs will be closed. The Provost would like to have faculty on the Policy Committee provide advice.

[The Provost left the meeting.]

6. Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee: Policy Committee reviewed the results of last week's nominations for the Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee – I. It made additional nominations. Mr. Romano will contact the nominees to determine if they are able to serve on the Committee.

7. University Library Committee: Policy Committee was asked to provide nominations for the University Library Committee. It will do so at its next meeting.

8. Academic Senate Meeting: The Policy Committee approved the drafted agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of October 5, 2011.

9. Huron Consulting Group: The Huron Consulting Group will present its recommendations to the Policy Committee on October 12, 2011.
-

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of October 3, 2011

Revised and approved at the Policy Committee meeting of October 18, 2011