

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

September 27, 2010

Present: R. Brown; V. Dallas; R. MacArthur; C. Parrish; L. Romano; A. Vlasopolos;
W. Volz; A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: D. Kessel

Guests: D. Cinabro, Physics, Liberal Arts and Sciences (Chair of the Academic Senate Research Committee); M. Dickson, Psychology, Liberal Arts and Sciences; D. Isaksen, Mathematics, Liberal Arts and Sciences; J. Klein, Mathematics, Liberal Arts and Sciences; J. Wadehra, Physics, Liberal Arts and Sciences; M. Wardell, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of September 27, 2010.

- *1. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of September 20, 2010, were approved as submitted.

[Provost Brown arrived during the discussion of item 2.]

2. Selection Committee for the Chief Financial Officer: Policy Committee discussed issues related to the selection of the chief financial officer.

[Dean Wardell, Mr. Cinabro, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Isaksen, Mr. Klein, and Mr. Wadehra joined the meeting.]

3. University Graduate Research Fellowships: Some departments had concerns about the procedures used for the allocation of University Graduate Research Fellowships (UGRF) for the 2010-2011 academic year. The Policy Committee invited Dean Wardell to the meeting to learn the statistics about the awards offered. It invited the graduate directors from some departments to hear about their experiences with the process.

The URGF program is a University-wide competition to recruit the best students. Some of the Rumble Fellowships were used to fund the UGRF awards. Traditionally, the Rumble Fellowships were awarded to departments that historically have had very successful programs. Dean Wardell wanted to give every department the opportunity to recruit excellent students and receive an award. Several of the graduate directors complained that housing allowances, which had been part of the Rumble Fellowships in the past, were discontinued and that money was used to support the URGF program. For some programs, the housing allowance was an important component of their recruiting efforts.

Dean Wardell explained that the funding of graduate research awards increased 20% in fall 2010 over fall 2009. Twenty-seven of the 53 doctoral programs nominated

students for the awards. Eighty-five percent of the 27 departments received at least one award. The money that was not used in the fall term is being used for winter dissertation fellowships.

In general the graduate directors found the application process time consuming and too slow because only one application could be submitted at a time. One faculty member said that in the past, when the funding was given to departments to award, they knew how much money they had to work with. With this year's process, there was uncertainty. Some departments had no change in the number of awards they received while others, which had received awards in the past, received none this year. Graduate officers reported that the process was slow and actually interfered with their attempts to attract graduate students. One officer reported that two applicants to his department with average GPAs of 3.92 were turned down by the Graduate Dean's committee.

For some departments recruiting fellowships are important, while for others it is more important to have support for graduate students in the later stages of their work when they are writing their dissertations. The recruiting fellowships provide support for students while they are taking courses and before they are involved in research. It is after a student passes the qualifying examination and has worked in a laboratory that faculty are better able to assess whether he or she should be supported through the completion of the dissertation.

Dean Wardell said that the process would be changed so that departments would be able to submit two nominations concurrently.

There was disagreement among Policy Committee members whether a University-wide competition or whether awarding of fellowships at the department level was the most effective way of supporting graduate students. Another member suggested that a combination of the programs might be a strategy to use, i.e., having a University-wide competition to recruit the best students and funding designated to the programs that have been successful in the past.

[Mr. Volz left the meeting.]

The consensus was that the stipends should be awarded to departments and the recruiting done at the department level. When asked how the Rumble Fellowships were allocated, Mark Wardell stated he had no idea how this was done. Provost Brown and Dean Wardell will look into the allocation of the Rumble Fellowships. The Provost will bring the revised program back to the Policy Committee.

A member of the Policy Committee mentioned that a related concern is the awarding of graduate teaching assistantships. They are awarded based on an historical model, which has not been revised in many years. Each college is designated a certain number of teaching assistantships. Despite large increases in student enrollment in some departments, the number of assistantships has not changed. The Provost and Dean Wardell will look into this. Provost Brown also proposed that the Policy

Committee might meet with the Deans to review their policies for allocating teaching assistantships.

[Dean Wardell, Mr. Cinabro, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Isaksen, Mr. Klein, and Mr. Wadehra left the meeting.]

4. Report from the Chair: Provost Brown is considering an incentive program to encourage schools/colleges to increase their enrollment. If colleges show increased enrollment, they should share in the increased tuition revenue. And when colleges lose enrollment, the extra funding would be removed. It is in the early stages of planning. The Provost noted that this is not the strict Delaware enrollment model. He will distribute the proposal widely for comment before it is implemented.
5. Committees Reviewing Funding Proposals: The Policy Committee will nominate two faculty to serve on the committee that will select the proposals that will fund faculty positions with the 2% tuition increase and proposals for the enhancement of academic programs, faculty lines, and graduate assistantships.
6. Agenda for the Senate Meeting: Policy Committee revised the drafted agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of October 6, 2010.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of October 4, 2010