

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 11, 2010

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

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 11, 2010.

- *1. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: It was moved and seconded to approve the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of October 4, 2010. Those Proceedings mention the need for more advisors, which generated discussion at the October 11 meeting. In response to questions, Ms. Dallas explained the role of advisors. They have to be knowledgeable about the requirements and they need to be able to assist students with issues such as time management, setting realistic goals, and family responsibilities. In the larger colleges, coordination at the level of the Dean's Office is needed to assist faculty in departments who are advising students. The Proceedings of the October 4 Policy Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

[Mr. Volz joined the meeting during the discussion of item #1.]

2. Report from the Senate President: Mr. Wolfson reported that Provost Brown would not be able to attend the Academic Senate meeting of November 3, 2010. One of the topics planned for the agenda are issues related to purchasing.
3. Increasing the Limit on the Pro Card: At the September 21, 2010, meeting of the Policy Committee and the President's Cabinet, Vice President Davis was asked about increasing the limit on the Pro Card. He had said that any change would take a few weeks. Policy Committee instructed Mr. Wolfson to contact Mr. Davis about the issue.

[Provost Brown joined the meeting.]

4. Report from the Chair:
 - a. Provost Brown said that Vice President Davis is working on changing the computer system to permit the paying of the salaries of nine-month faculty over twelve months. It should be in place soon.
 - b. At the end of October, the Provost expects to announce which proposals for faculty positions will be funded with the 2% tuition increase and which proposals will be funded for the enhancement of academic programs, faculty lines, and graduate assistantships.
 - c. A member of the Policy Committee asked about the status of the review of journals by the University Libraries that was reported to the Academic Senate last year. Another member noted that last year the Libraries had to cut \$1 million from its budget. The Provost stressed the need to support the Libraries for research and to provide adequate funding to keep it strong. Mr. Wolfson noted that Dean

Yee had updated the Policy Committee on the review of journal subscriptions at its meeting of August 23, 2010.

- d. Provost Brown stated that he does not advocate making cuts to budgets across-the-board, but rather to make strategic cuts to units that are distant from the academic mission.
 - e. The retention group continues to work. The cost of the recommendations are being calculated. One of the recommendations is the hiring of additional advisors. Decisions will have to be made about which recommendations to implement. A member of the Policy Committee suggested that the advising program might be reviewed when new advisors are hired. Another member spoke about the need for Deans to be committed to the retention of undergraduate students. A third member noted that over the last 10 to 12 years the percentage of the general fund budget allocated to schools and colleges decreased significantly while the budgets for other areas increased. He suggested that the work done by the Budget Committee in this area might be helpful when the administration is looking to reduce expenses.
 - f. Provost Brown updated the Policy Committee on the search for the Dean of Engineering.
5. Agenda for the November Senate Meeting: The Committee reviewed the drafted agenda for the November 3 meeting of the Academic Senate. One of the possible presentations had to do with issues related to purchasing. Provost Brown suggested that the Director of Purchasing be invited to a Policy Committee meeting to discuss the problems that faculty and departments have experienced in making various kinds of purchases.
6. COACHE: Wayne State's junior faculty participated in a survey conducted by the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE). Associate Vice President Stephen Calkins and Kelley Skillin, Director of Special Projects in the Provost's Office, presented the survey results for the University as a whole to the Policy Committee on July 26, 2010. Then Acting Provost Vroom had agreed to give the college-specific data to the Policy Committee after the Deans had had an opportunity to present the information to their faculty. Policy Committee will formally request the information from Provost Brown.

[Provost Brown left the meeting to attend to other University business.]

- 7. Housing Consultants: The University received a foundation grant to engage a consulting company to do a market study of current and future housing needs for the University. A group has been formed to work with the consultants and Associate Vice President Shapiro asked the Policy Committee for the names of two faculty to work with the group. Policy Committee recruited James Woodyard (Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering) to serve. It asked the Student Affairs Committee to name another person to the group.
- 8. Reports from Liaisons:
 - a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Ms. Vlasopolos reported that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee discussed the issue of students' publishing

- of research. Some members of C&I were opposed to developing a policy because it would be too diffuse to cover all fields. The Committee thought that a consent form that the faculty member has the student sign might solve the problem. After the meeting, Karen Feathers, the Chair of the C&I Committee, found that the situation at Wayne State was not an isolated case. Many universities are dealing with similar problems. The Research and Faculty Affairs Committees also are dealing with the issue.
- b. Research Committee: Mr. MacArthur reported that the Research Committee dealt with the same issue at its meeting of September 30. It was pointed out that the issue was touched upon in some of the programs out of the Office of the Vice President for Research. Faculty may have to alert students to these sites. Some members of the Research Committee thought the situation was a case of scientific misconduct. However, the General Counsel had declined to pursue the case. The Research Committee wants to meet with a representative from the Office of the Vice President for Research and the General Counsel's Office.
- c. Parking Task Force: Mr. Romano serves on the Parking Task Force. He said that Mr. Kohrman, the Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis, told the task force that the administration is considering the development of a plan that would change the way students pay for parking. They are considering transitioning to a system where parking would be included in the fees paid at the time of registration based on the number of credits a student takes. Policy Committee members are in favor of such a move. They think it will increase attendance because now some students do not attend class to avoid paying for parking.
9. Fitness Center Maintenance Fee: Policy Committee charged the Student Affairs Committee with investigating the use of the Fitness Center. Every student pays a fee for the maintenance of the center.

Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of October 18, 2010