

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 20, 2020

Present: L. Beale; P. Beavers; V. Dallas; r. hoogland; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; B. Roth; N. Simon; W. Volz; K. Whitfield; A. Wisniewski

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Action of April 20, 2020.

1. Report from the Chair: Provost Whitfield said that the administration is planning for the fall semester. It is likely that the state appropriation for higher education will be reduced because it has incurred expenses fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The spring term, the spring/summer term, and the summer term will be taught remotely. A decision has not been made about the fall term. We must plan how the university would react if we have a resurgence of the coronavirus. The Provost is forming the Restart Committee that is charged with formulating different plans to respond to the needs of the various academic programs. There will be nine subcommittees dealing with such issues as academics, research, and student affairs. Provost Whitfield will meet with the chairs of the subcommittees biweekly. He asked Policy Committee to appoint two faculty to serve on the committee.
2. Report from the Senate President:
  - a. Ms. Beale reported that the Budget Planning Council (BPC) discussed the budget for fiscal year 2021. It is difficult to plan when we do not know what the state appropriation will be. It is expected that there will be no new money from the state and that our base budget might be cut. Money to cover fixed expenses is likely to increase \$20 million. The BPC recommended a cut in the discretionary salary increases. In an announcement, President Wilson mentioned the possibility of taking such action and eliminating student fees for the fall term.
  - b. The Capital Planning and Priorities Committee discussed which capital projects should be given priority and the renovation of State Hall. It is unlikely that the state will fund significant capital projects. Other universities have announced that they will cease work on all capital projects.
  - c. Registration for the fall term is down compared with last year at this time. However, it is early in the registration process.
  - d. A faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics notified Ms. Beale that the University Pediatricians contract with the university was officially terminated as of April 19.
  - e. The Student Senate passed a resolution "Supporting the Creation of a Campus-wide Provisional Land Acknowledgment and to Respect the Legacy of Native Peoples." Ms. Beale asked PC members to send their comments on the resolution to her.
- \*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The committee approved the proceedings of its meeting of April 6, 2020, as submitted.
4. Membership of the Anti-Bullying Committee: Policy Committee nominated faculty and academic staff to serve on the committee. They will complete the selection process after the meeting and Ms. Beale will contact the nominees to find out if they are willing to serve.

- \*5. Replacements for the General Education Oversight Committee: Policy Committee and Provost Whitfield jointly selected faculty to serve on the GEOC for the term beginning August 2020 until August 2023. The new members are Anne Duggan, Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Mary T. Rodgers, Professor, Chemistry, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Billicia Hines, Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; Asli Ozgun-Koca, Professor, Teacher Education, Education; and Norma Schropshire, Lecturer, Social Work.
6. The Bookstore’s Digital “Inclusive Access” Program: Members of Policy Committee were skeptical about the Bookstore’s program of providing Inclusive Access (IA) to faculty and students for textbooks. This is similar to a program the bookstore proposed last year. Mr. Roth believes that, when considering such programs, the people who propose them should defer to the librarians who are knowledgeable about textbooks. Jodi Young, the manager of the bookstore, works for a for-profit company. The bookstore reports to Timothy Michael, the Associate Vice President for Business Operations. Neither Ms. Young nor Mr. Michael should pursue an agenda that is different from that of the faculty. Mr. Beavers was skeptical about pricing for the textbooks. There have been no negotiations about pricing or the timeline for increasing prices on textbooks. Students are able to purchase textbooks from other sources at lower prices than the bookstore charges. Students are able to re-sell hard copies of books. Some may want to use a book in another class or may want to keep it for future reference. Many companies that sell online textbooks charge an additional \$25.00 if students who participate in IA want a print copy of the book. There is an assumption that students want everything online, but most do not. Ms. Hoogland said that when she, as the instructor, wants to order an earlier version of a textbook, the bookstore will not order it because publishers will not sell the older version to the bookstore. Barnes & Noble identified the publishers from whom they would purchase digital textbooks. They are conglomerates. The Faculty Affairs Committee discussed how this might affect smaller publishers. There is some confusion about Open Educational Resources (OER) and IA compounded because the bookstore mentions OER in some of its handouts about IA. Ms. Hoogland suggested that even if faculty opt out of using IA, a dean or department chair might decide all faculty have to use it. This is more likely to happen in multi-section courses taught by several faculty. Ms. Beale said that the bookstore should not communicate directly to faculty about such things. Mr. Michael and Ms. Young need to listen to input from faculty Senate. Opting out must be easy for students and faculty. The bookstore has to guarantee that this is a pilot program for the coming academic year.

Mr. Michael and Ms. Young need to listen to the faculty. Ms. Beale believes that the university has to negotiate certain items before a pilot is initiated. There must be an easy, clearly defined way to opt out for faculty and students. There has to be a promise of price savings. A digital book should not cost more than a used book purchased online. There has to be no fee for OER. We should require that students be able to print certain segments. Require a statement specifying what conditions would allow a price markup and the cap on the markup. Ms. Young must consult with the librarians to identify the wide-range of issues that need to be covered before a pilot program is begun.

Provost Whitfield agreed that we should have a pilot program with metrics. There are instructors, particularly in large classes, who are concerned about the price of textbooks. We have to find ways to save students money, to make getting a degree less expensive.

The Student Senate, Ms. Beale said, is supportive of the recommendation of the Policy Committee.

Ms. Young had written a message to send to faculty about IA, but it was not sent.

7. Academic Works Online Matching System: Academic Works is an online portal that assists students who are searching for scholarships. A PC member said that the number of students in her department who apply for scholarships has dropped since the university began using Academic Works. Students find the process counter-intuitive and laborious. The rate of rejection of applications is high although, according to the criteria, students do qualify. The problem affects undergraduate and graduate level students. Another member mentioned that a team of employees in the Office of Student Financial Aid worked with her department and resolved the problems. Provost Whitfield said that departments find the system beneficial in identifying students who qualify for scholarships. Prior to Academic Works, in some departments one person decided who would receive the scholarships. We must distribute funds fairly. Academic Works automatically matches students with scholarships. The Provost stated that some departments view the system as a benefit. Previously, many students did not know what was available and the money was not awarded. The system has been very helpful in awarding endowed scholarships. A PC member suggested that Financial Aid conduct a survey to find out where the system is not working well and work with the staff in those departments to improve the process.

PC members have had different experiences related to the recipients thanking the donors for the scholarship. When applying for scholarships, Academic Works asks students if they are willing to thank the donor. Staff in departments should follow up with the students to send a thank you note. Another member asked Provost Wilson to find out how much money is available for scholarships and how much is awarded every year. The Provost will speak with Susan Burns, the Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs, about the issues raised by Policy Committee.

8. Synchronous Course Designation: Policy Committee suggested that University Policy 14-1 Policy on Course Schedule Types, Credit Hours and Delivery Modes be revised to include a new course delivery code “Traditional/Synchronous (TR/SYNC)” for traditional face-to-face courses that may have to change to distance delivery because of public health concerns or weather conditions. Mr. Parrish raised problems about cheating when all instruction was moved online this winter term. The Provost mentioned that some schools have engaged second parties to have secure websites.
9. Fall Semester and Restart Planning Group: Provost Whitfield is forming a group to plan for restarting the university in the fall as related to teaching and learning. His plan for a thirteen-member committee includes two faculty representatives appointed by the Senate. As Linda pointed out, the committee will cover a breadth of academic issues but most committee members are administrators. She objected to the use of an ad hoc committee when we have a shared governance process to advise on academic issues. More faculty representing the different disciplines could develop ideas. The ideas should be given to the Senate’s Curriculum and Instruction, Faculty Affairs, Student Affairs, and Policy Committees and the Student Senate early for input. More faculty on the ad hoc committee would bring broader perspectives to the issues. We need a process that involves the Senate committees even if the ad hoc committee is created. Mr. Parrish noted that the recommendations of the ad hoc committee affect the terms and

conditions of employment and are subject to the Agreement between the university and the AAUP-AFT. One person from the AAUP-AFT cannot represent all faculty in the union. There are legal issues and the union will enforce them. Ideally, Ms. Beale said, the committee would develop ideas and alternatives, consult with the Senate's committees and the academic units. Mr. Roth pointed out that a distinction needs to be drawn between undergraduate and graduate education. Faculty think teaching graduate courses online could lead to terrible consequences for graduate programs. Policy Committee appointed Linda M. Beale, Professor of Law, and Judith A. Moldenhauer, Professor of Graphic Design, Art and Art History, to serve on this subcommittee.

PC wants faculty from a wide array of disciplines to serve on the committee and a process that recognizes the role of the Senate committees. The ideas the sub-committee discusses should be cycled through the CIC, FAC, SAC, and PC and the AAUP-AFT.

Mr. Beale objected to the number of administrators on the subcommittee some of whom have never taught. They both believe more faculty should be on the subcommittee to cover the many disciplines.

The Provost plans to hold town halls where faculty will be able to discuss the ideas and state their needs and concerns. The subcommittee has to be small so it is nimble. There is not time, he said, to cycle ideas through other committees. Some decisions have to be made relatively quickly.

Mr. Volz spoke to the need that the strictures the subcommittee recommends be as flexible as possible. Wayne State is a complicated university that delivers instruction in many different ways. It is very difficult for a central committee to develop guidelines that would be appropriate for the all the disciplines.

Linda did not think town halls would provide the kind of input needed. She urged the Provost to expand the committee to get a broader understanding of the needs of the various disciplines.

Provost Whitfield said that he would set up the committee as he proposed. The committee as to be nimble and works quickly. There was not enough time to cycle ideas through the Senate committees. He will solicit input from as many different groups as possible. There will be a lot of information about the ideas.

Linda persisted. She asked for a commitment that, as the subcommittee discusses ideas, they be shared quickly with the appropriate governance committee of the Academic Senate. Mr. Parrish asked that the curricular committees in the schools and colleges be involved. He cautioned about pushing rules from the restart committee that does not take into account information from the unit.

The Provost will convene the subcommittee as he had planned.

10. LGBTQ+ Resolution Follow-up: At the March Senate meeting, members voted to support a resolution passed by the Student Senate "calling upon the University to support LGBTQ+ Student and Academic Life in its mission to promote Diversity and Inclusion." Policy Committee asked Provost Whitfield for an update on the work that had been done since the March meeting. He explained that there are two issues: academic scholarship and student affairs. The student affairs component is split between the Dean of Students Office and the Office of Multicultural

Student Engagement. They should be combined into one entity. At one time the university had a more formal structure for academics. Over time the faculty were absorbed into departments.

Ms. Hoogland believes it is very important that students have a sense of belonging. As far as scholarship, LGBTQ+ studies is a well developed field. The academic part should be involved in the student life aspect. Someone should be responsible for developing programming and events. The Provost said the goal is to unite the two student affairs organizations and then to combine that with the academic portion.

Mr. Volz mentioned that when the diversity, equity and inclusion inquiry was added to the general education requirements he learned that we have people in a wide variety of disciplines who are actively engaged in the work. Ms. Hoogland said that when she checked the rubric for the requirement, there was no mention of sexuality.

The Provost will keep Policy Committee informed work progresses.

11. Report from the Liaison to the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee: Ms. Dallas reported that Kurt Kruschinska, the Registrar, informed the committee that his office is testing a pilot program to replace the current room scheduling software. The current system does not function well with other systems on campus. They are using EMS Software in the Student Center Building, and it is working well. People can see what the rooms look like online. Classroom technology was moved from the Library System to the Division of Computing and Information Technology.
12. SAT and ACT Exams: Wayne State has waived the requirement that entering freshmen take the exams for fall 2020 because the exams scheduled for April, May, and June were cancelled. It is expected that 40 or 50 students who have applied have not taken the exam. Other universities have suspended the requirement for fall 2020 and some have suspended it for fall 2021. The Provost wants to get the faculty perspective about waiving the requirement for the fall 2021 term.
13. FY 2021 Budget: Mr. Parrish asked if the university had received the \$19 million allocated from the CARES Act. Provost Whitfield said that it had not. There are two parts to the allocation. \$9.4 million is for students. It is not clear how the remainder is to be spent. Administrators are looking into the uses. There is a lot concern about state funding for higher education. The state appropriation covers twenty-seven percent of our budget. Enrollment and unemployment affect the budget. When unemployment is high students tend to take classes to improve their chances for employment. Also, this year students may opt to take classes close to home.
14. Online Instruction: Policy discussed problems with the teaching of online classes.
15. Knowledge on Demand: The Office of the Provost is offering \$25,000 block grants to the schools and colleges to create online degree programs.