

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

May 6, 2019

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

Absent with notice: V. Dallas

Guest: Monica Brockmeyer, Senior Associate Provost for Student Success

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of May 6, 2019

1. Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP): Senior Associate Provost Brockmeyer began the meeting by noting the process that the discussion of UROP has undergone. Policy first invited her to meet when she announced that the UROP program was being eliminated and the funding transferred to a new “partnership” with the McNair Scholars program. At the March 4 meeting, the Policy Committee voiced numerous concerns about the change, including lack of clarity regarding what the new program entailed; lack of consultation on the idea of eliminating a successful undergraduate research program, and poor communication with both faculty and students about the need for a change or what the rationale was. Policy members asked for detailed information about the change: what students who had received UROP funding in the past 3 years would no longer be eligible; how would the McNair partnership work, and how would students impacted by the change find replacement funding. Since that meeting, Ms. Brockmeyer also consulted with the Faculty Affairs and the Curriculum and Instruction Committees and met with student leaders. She made commitments to students regarding undergraduate research and gathered data about the number of students who would not be eligible for research funds because of the transfer. As a result of these consultations, she has withdrawn the earlier proposal.

Ms. Brockmeyer reported that about 50 or 60 students yearly participated in the UROP and about 30 students per year participate in McNair. The UROP provides a stipend of \$2300 for the student and \$700 for the academic advisor. The cost for supporting 60 students is \$180,000 per year. 53% of the students who received funding under UROP were in Honors, 45% were either first-generation or low income, and 55% were not first-generation or low income. Accordingly, under the initial proposal for changes to undergraduate research funding, 55% of the students who had received such funding in the past would no longer be eligible in the future. Ms. Beale asked what the income measure was that was used for these determinations and for the McNair program, considering that there are various measures for determining low-income levels. Ms. Brockmeyer indicated that she thought that McNair defines low-income as 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. To be eligible for Pell grants, the income for a family of four is about \$40,000. Ms. Brockmeyer said she will verify the parameters used to determine the data.

Mr. Roth pointed out that the percentage of UROP recipients who are in the Honors program was lower than reported elsewhere: Dean Corvino had indicated that 76% of the students in the UROP were Honors students. Ms. Brockmeyer said that the 53% figure was based on a review

of a longer period of time. 76% was based on more recent years. Policy Committee asked for a breakdown of the percentages of the different groups year-by-year for the last three to five years. Provost Whitfield said that there are three ways students can be in honors: through the Honors College, the schools and colleges, and learning communities. Also important is to know how many students are in the low-income category and the number who are first-generation students.

The faculty's concern was that the change took financial support from a viable program that met an important need and created another program that might meet an important need without considering that a large number of the students who have benefited from the program (as it turns out, 55%) would be excluded from the new program, and this was done without consultation with either the Academic Senate, faculty who've mentored student researchers, or students.

Mr. Roth noted that the missions of the UROP and McNair are not equivalent. The purpose of McNair is to prepare students for doctoral programs. That is not the purpose of UROP.

Mr. Beavers said that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee was concerned that information about the change was not communicated to students in time for them to get other financial support. Notification for a period of about three years is crucial so students and faculty could plan ahead.

Mr. Volz suggested that deans be urged to provide support for research activities of the undergraduates in their schools/colleges. Ms. Brockmeyer will meet with Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier to seek support. There is an endowment that provides support for research and Ms. Brockmeyer will work with the Development Office to raise funds specifically for research programs. The Provost believes undergraduate research should be a priority. Providing research opportunities for undergraduate students is a long-standing practice. Ms. Beale asked about the possibility of faculty supporting undergraduates on their grants. Provost Whitfield said that Wayne State does not have many training grants (and we should have more); however, they provide so little indirect cost that the training grants have to be supported by the institution.

Ms. Brockmeyer planned to create an undergraduate research advisory board, but Ms. Beale and Provost Whitfield suggested she work with the Senate's Research Committee. If other stakeholders want to be involved they can be invited to work with the committee. There are ways, Ms. Beale said, to handle the issue within the existing academic governance framework, which is preferable to creating what is essentially an administratively run advisory structure. Faculty who have mentored undergraduate students in research might work with the Research Committee on a subcommittee for this purpose.

Ms. Beale asked that everyone who was informed about the transfer of funds from the UROP to the McNair program be notified that undergraduate research would be funded as it has been in the past and that the program would be expanded. She asked that Ms. Brockmeyer consult with the Policy Committee prior to sending the announcement, but Ms. Brockmeyer indicated that she would not have time to do so.

[Ms. Brockmeyer left the meeting.]

2. Report from the Chair:

- a. Anita Welch has been appointed Dean of the College of Education effective July 1. She is currently associate dean of Teachers College at Ball State University. Policy Committee will invite Ms. Welch to meet with them to discuss her plans for the college.
- b. Provost Whitfield said that although the commencement ceremonies went well, some improvements were needed. Policy Committee members offered additional suggestions.

3. Report from the Senate President:

- a. Ms. Beale reported that there was controversy at the May 1 Board of Governors meeting about the administration's recommendation to increase tuition for the M.D. program by 3.9% to fund the \$3.2 million needed for the curriculum improvement required for accreditation. The motion ultimately did pass with five Board members voting in favor of the proposal and three opposed.
- b. On May 14 the Damon J. Keith Center is hosting a lecture about the fight for fair housing.
- c. Policy Committee has submitted its nominees for the search committee for the Dean of the Graduate School. Provost Whitfield noted that the committee is not yet appointed, due to other commitments at the end of the semester, but that he will consider all of the names suggested by Policy when making his appointments.

*4. Summer Meetings: Policy Committee scheduled its summer meetings.

*5. Senate Meetings: Policy Committee scheduled the Senate meetings for the 2019-2020 academic year.

*6. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of meeting of April 22, 2019, were approved as amended.

7. Ad Hoc Task Force on Transparency: Policy Committee reviewed the list of faculty who agreed to serve on the task force and noted that several of those suggested were not able given the timing. Two additional faculty were suggested and agreed to serve. The task force is composed of Allen Goodman, Professor, Economics, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Michael Kral, Associate Professor, Social Work; Richard Lerman, Director of Computing Services and Part-time Faculty in Information Systems Management, Mike Ilitch School of Business; John Rothchild, Professor, Law; Loren Schwiebert, Chair and Associate Professor, Computer Science, Engineering; Elizabeth Stoycheff, Associate Professor, Communication, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; James Van Loon, Librarian III, Collection and Scholarly Communication, University Libraries. Policy Committee is looking for one more faculty member to complete the membership. A chair should be chosen at the next meeting, and the charge sent to all the members with information on membership and chair.

8. Title IX: The General Counsel's Office has asked the Policy Committee for its opinion on the development of a policy regarding consensual sexual or amorous relationships. PC reviewed the policies at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Western Michigan University. A key issue is the aspect of power in relationships between supervisors and employees and between faculty and students. It was noted that the issue of spouses on the faculty should be covered, also. Mr. Roth will do legal research to see how others have handled the issue of consensual relationships and Mr. Parrish will draft a policy for the Committee to discuss later in the summer.

9. Student Success Summit: Senior Associate Provost Brockmeyer asked Policy Committee to appoint two faculty to serve on the Event Planning Committee for the Student Success Summit to be held in the fall. Kevin Deegan-Krause, Associate Professor, Political Science, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and renee hoogland, Professor, English, CLAS, accepted appointment.
-

Approved as amended at the Policy Committee meeting of June 3, 2019