WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

June 3, 2019

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

Absent with notice: B. Roth

Guest: Darin Ellis, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of June 3, 2019.

1. <u>Move of the B.A. in Information Systems Technology (IST) Program</u>: Associate Provost Ellis provided background information on the "orphaning" of the BA in IST in CLAS. When the Department of Computer Science moved from CLAS to the College of Engineering, the BAIST remained in CLAS under the Dean. (Ms. Simon, who was a member of an Academic Senate subcommittee that wrote a report when the proposal was made to move the Department of Computer Science to the College of Engineering, explained that at that time ABET would not accredit a BA program so the BAIST program remained in CLAS.)

    Computer science originated in Mathematics, which focused more on theoretical math, proofs, and algorithms. The BS degree is more application and end-user focused. The students interested in that program want to be experts in the day-to-day technology. The BS program is growing in schools across the U.S. for students who do not want a traditional theoretical computer science degree.

    The College of Engineering wants to broaden its enrollment by offering different types of programs, including the BS in IST. The BAIST in CLAS has had few students for a number of years. It began as an outreach program with Focus Hope. The Ford Motor Company provided some funding and internships for the students. Those relationships ended. If the COE created a new BS degree it would have substantial overlap with the BAIST except that the BAIST requires a minor and two classes in a foreign language. It was decided that the BAIST be moved to Engineering and be converted to a BS degree. Students currently in the BAIST program would be able to finish their degree under the requirements for that program. Current students who want to transfer to the BS degree will be able to do so. The BAIST degree required several business courses, but Engineering considered that inappropriate, since students often do not want the business courses, and the Business School considered the BAIST as diluting their Information Systems Management degree. The BS degree will not require the business courses, permitting students to opt for a business minor or a minor in another discipline. Eventually the BS degree will be accredited by ABET, the accrediting agency for colleges of engineering. The faculty in the Department of Computer Science and in the College of Engineering approved the move.   Policy members agreed that this was the most responsible decision for students interested in this area.

2. Interdisciplinary Hiring: Provost Whitfield and the Policy Committee discussed problems that sometimes arise when faculty are hired in interdisciplinary positions that involve significant research, such as the recent iBio hires. It is difficult for such faculty who are conducting their primary research in iBio but are intended to be connected to multiple departments to establish the kinds of relationships and interactions that support tenure.

[Mr. Ellis left the meeting.]

3. Report from the Chair: Provost Whitfield told the committee that a special meeting of the Board of Governors would be held Friday, June 7, at which time the master plan will be presented to the Board. Because the Senate has had input to the plan, he thought the Policy Committee members might be interested in attending the meeting. Also on the agenda is a recommend-ation to authorize the issuing of bonds.

4. Report from the Senate President:
    a. Ms. Beale reported that the Budget Planning Council reached consensus on recommend-ations for the fiscal year 2020 budget. They are based on the state increasing its appropri-ation by 1.2% and a tuition increase of 3.2%. The state may not approve the university's appropriation until August. The Board of Governors is scheduled to act on the university's budget on June 21. The BPC recommended that cuts not be across the board. As much as possible, whatever money is available should be given to the protected schools and colleges. There was a fairly large group that the council thought should be held in the middle and smaller groups that should be cut more if cuts have to be sustained. The council recom-mended that there be more accountability in the Division of Research to protect the funding of improvements to core facilities. The BPC also recommended that the discretionary salary increase funding (for merit and equity adjustments for the non-rep management positions) should be cut in half. President Wilson approved the basic idea of not applying across-the-board cuts, and established targets for the schools and colleges between 2% and 4.17%, which was close to the BPC's recommendations. The adjustments count differential tuition differently than had been assumed by the BPC, so that some schools were more protected by being able to retain their full differential tuition increase (similar to an RCM model in that respect). Most of the administrative divisions were cut 3.29%. The budgets that President Wilson has given to the units are conservative and not final and are meant to assist them in preparing their budgets until the final budget is known. The Deans and the heads of the divisions have been told the proposed cuts for their units.
    b. Ms. Beale noted the news reports that Stephen Ross, real estate developer, and Dan Gilbert, businessman and founder of Quicken Loans, are talking with the University of Michigan about establishing a manufacturing innovation center in downtown Detroit. This seems like a lost opportunity for Wayne.
    c. Some colleges have been discussing workload standardization and changing the number of courses that faculty must teach. Ms. Beale noted that, although this is primarily an issue for collective bargaining, it is also an academic issue and one of concern, given the fact that different academic fields necessarily have different teaching load expectations. Mr. Parrish told the committee that changes in workload are subject to negotiation because workload falls under the terms and conditions of employment. The AAUP-AFT has filed a grievance against the university. PC talked about the differences in workload among disciplines, faculty morale, and the many current stresses at Wayne relating to the fractured board

situation that should be taken into account by administrators before attempting to make such changes.

d. Ms. Beale noted a recent article about administrative bloat in universities across the country, and asked Provost Whitfield for information on the ratio of administrative salaries to student body per year for the last five years. This would include any attachments but not base faculty salaries of those with attachments.

5. Task Force on Transparency: Policy Committee selected the chair of the task force. Ms. Beale will contact the person to determine if he will chair the group. The task force is to report at the end of the fall semester on data transparency and access, in particular looking at academic analytics. The draft charge will be edited to include a more direct mention of the concern about the encroachment of corporate databases and corporate-produced educational technology.

6. Centers: The College of Education submitted a proposal to establish a college center: The Kaplan Center for Research on Urban Education. The School of Social Work submitted a request to establish a permanent charter for the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice. Policy Committee deferred the review of the proposals until the colleges submit five-year budgets, a more complete charter, and the written recommendation of the faculty committee's review within each college, in accordance with the Board of Governors statute.

7. Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP): The administration had proposed changes to undergraduate research funding, administered through UROP. It was decided that a committee of Senate members from the Curriculum and Instruction, Faculty Affairs, Research, and Student Affairs Committees would serve as an advisory board regarding undergraduate research. Ms. Simon recommended and the Provost agreed that a member of the Student Senate who had participated in the UROP serve as a member. The Chairs of the Senate committees will solicit two volunteers from each committee to serve on the joint subcommittee.

*8. Proceedings of April 29 and May 6: The Proceedings of April 29 were approved as submitted. The committee approved the Proceedings of May 6 as amended.

9. Report from the Liaison to the Student Success Steering Committee: Ms. Simon made the report. It is predicted that when all applications for graduation are received, the graduation rate in the fall 2019 semester will be 47.8%. The graduation rates for African American, Hispanic, first-generation, and Pell grant students are trending up. The increased number of academic advisors, programs to help at-risk students, working with students when they are seniors in high schools, and providing scholarships are factors in improving graduation rates. The steering committee believes that giving multi-year financial packages to students would help them plan. Provost Whitfield said finances have to be evaluated every year because people's financial situations may change from year to year. Students need to improve their financial literacy and the university needs to make structural changes. There are 77 ways that students can be put on hold. The amount of money owed the university before a student gets a financial hold has been increased to $1500.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of June 17, 2019