WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

December 9, 2019

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 Actions of December 9, 2019.

\*1. Article XXX: Policy Committee and Provost Whitfield jointly selected the members of the university-wide Sabbatical Leaves Committee and General Education Oversight Committee. Last week they selected the members of the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee. After the meeting they learned that one of the faculty selected was ineligible to serve because he had served on his college committee. In departmentalized colleges faculty who serve on the college committee cannot serve on the university committee. Policy Committee and the Provost selected the replacement.

2. Report from the Chair:

a. Provost Whitfield asked the Policy Committee members their reaction to their meeting with the finalist for the position of Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine.

Policy Committee was impressed with his curriculum vita and his responses to their questions.

b. The Provost reported that the response rate of the student evaluation of teaching for the fall term was the same for the online evaluation and the in-person evaluation. Ms. hoogland pointed out that might be because the deadline for submitting the form was the day before the holiday break for Thanksgiving. Some students were already away for the holiday. She objects to the deadline being two weeks before the end of classes. It was mentioned that despite the deadline, some instructors give the evaluations to students at the end of the course. Processing by the Testing, Evaluation and Research Services office is not delayed.

3. Report from the Senate President:

a. Ms. Beale reminded members that nominations for the distinguished service faculty award are due soon.

b. There were several problems in buildings last week. Water in the Welcome Center was turned off. Instead of letting employees go home, they were told to use restrooms in the Maccabees Building (5057 Woodward). Going to another building might be difficult for some people. The restroom on the first floor is not easy to access. Accommodations should be made for people who need them. The College of Education had no heat last Wednesday because the boiler broke. Only the freight elevator in Scott Hall was working. Employees could use it but there was no one at the elevator to assist them. Ms. Beale was told that there was a custodial room nearby where people could get a key to the elevator but there are no signs posted directing people to the room. When such situations arise a sign should be posted telling people what to do. Policies about how to handle such situations should be developed and, if needed, information should be posted telling people what to do. Mr. Parrish said that since January 140 people have been trapped in elevators in campus buildings. That number does not include elevators in the parking structures. The last figure Mr. Volz heard was that the university had $1.5 billion in deferred maintenance.

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4. Sustainability: Ms. hoogland advocated for reducing the amount of swag given out at various university functions and the use of plastic plates and plastic utensils by Aramark. The university should have a centralized overall plan supporting sustainability. Ms. hoogland would rather the money spent on swag be donated to a food pantry or to the Warrior wardrobe. Ms. Beale has communicated with Student Senate President Stuart Baum about Aramark being more environmentally conscious. Mr. Baum has a meeting scheduled with the head of dining services about the use of plastic containers, utensils, cups, etc. Provost Whitfield thinks we should begin addressing the issue with a campus-wide awareness program.

5. Board of Governors Meeting: Policy Committee members expressed their disappointment in the planned demonstration in support of President Wilson at the December 6 Board of Governors meeting. The meeting was packed with supporters (including various staff from administrative offices), and campaign-style buttons with MRW in large letters were handed out by VP Staebler. (The money spent on the lapel buttons could better have been donated to student scholarships.) Such a display aggravates the existing schism among the two factions of the Board and the President. This seemed to be part of the general university PR campaign, which seems to cast one faction of the Board in the negative and actively seek coverage to that effect, whereas fault lies with each of the three parties—the President and both factions of the Board.

\*6. Approval of Proceedings: Policy Committee approved the proceedings of its meeting of December 2, 2019, as amended.

\*7. Computer Use Policy Group: Policy Committee completed the selection of faculty representa-tives to the Committee to Revise the Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources Policy. The faculty representatives are Rafael Fridman, Professor of Pathology and Oncology, Medicine, Scott Tainsky, Associate Professor, Management and Information Sciences, Mike Ilitch School of Business, John Rothchild, Professor, Law, and William Volz, Distinguished Service Professor, Accounting, Mike Ilitch School of Business. The representatives from the Division of Computing and Information Technology are Cindy Sulad, Director, Enterprise Projects, Robert Thompson, Senior Director, Enterprise Applications, and Curtis Kratt, Director, Desk Top Engineering. Daren Hubbard will call the meeting.

8. Initial Discussion of RaiseMe: RaiseMe is a program that offers micro-scholarships for first-time-in-any-college students. Wayne State has partnered with the program since 2017. It is now expanding the partnership by piloting RaiseMe’s “new program focused on decreasing summer melt, increasing yield, and positively impacting persistence and retention through graduation.” Students are ostensibly awarded micro-scholarships for completing various activities. The amount depends on the activity. RaiseMe tracks the student’s participation in these activities, but it does not distribute any money. The money is part of the student’s financial aid package and likely represents no real increase in financial aid funding (i.e., the students likely would get the same amount without having certain portions being attributed to their ‘RaiseMe’ activities). Provost Whitfield suggested that the program is valuable because it helps high school students overcome their fear that they aren’t eligible for financial aid while they learn what they need to do to attend college. One of the important activities is submitting a FAFSA, which perhaps encourages parents to provide the information the student needs. Students have to register and set up an account with RaiseMe for the schools in which they are interested. Each school determines the activities for which they will give points. Some activities are self-reported. Some students may sign up for activities but not attend.

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Policy Committee members suggested that students should have to prove they met with an advisor, and the activities used to motivate students should be educational. Mr. Roth mentioned that students might seek an office in an organization so they can include it on their resume but do nothing in the position. There was also concern that the program was in some ways misleading. The information Policy had about the RaiseMe program was developed by our Division of Enrollment Services. Policy members found information about the awarding of aid to be deceptive and confusing. Students are encouraged to believe that they will receive more money by participating than they would otherwise be eligible for, yet there is likely usually no increase in the money RaiseMe participants receive. The information should not be misleading. Ms. hoogland also objected to the basic idea of RaiseMe which is to monetize various parts of the educational process. Students need to learn to value the process of education in itself, rather than being trained to think of every activity as one associated with money.

Policy Committee and the Provost talked about WSU’s bridge programs. Ms. Beale asked whether the Provost’s Office could provide some overview information about the various bridge programs and their success. The Provost responded that there are many bridge programs in the colleges and university-wide, but they are only for one summer. It is expensive to teach students what they didn’t learn in high school. He believes the RaiseMe program offers more to students than bridge programs do and the university’s participation gives us brand recognition. PC would like to know how our bridge programs interact and the cost of the programs in the colleges and in the aggregate. The Provost said the programs were never coordinated. The university would have to decide if a bridge program is a program that is required for admission or one that is optional. The big move is to involve students in programs from the 9th to 12th grades and to have a program between the 12th grade and freshmen year.

PC would like to meet with Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services Dawn Medley to discuss both the RaiseMe program and the Heart of Detroit program.

9. Civic Engagement Working Group: The Student Senate is creating a group of campus leaders to involve more people in civic engagement. They did not specify the activities in which the group would be involved. Policy Committee supports their efforts and asked the students to keep the Academic Senate informed of their activities so the Senate may be involved if appropriate.

10. Proposed Faculty Naming Levels: For many years, the Policy Committee has advocated for the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs to solicit support from donors for named professor-ships. Such support is common in other universities. The Development Office submitted a list of proposed naming levels that are higher than the endowment levels of our peer institutions. Lower levels would be more attractive to donors and more beneficial to the university. In discussing such support at a Budget Committee meeting, Susan Burns, the Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs, had said that it was difficult to get such support for faculty salaries. Ms. Beale had pointed out that the money is not used for salaries but to support research, travel, and conference fees, and to provide money for students to attend conferences. A relatively small amount of the endowment would support these activities. The remainder would support the university. Provost Whitfield asked that a report the Budget Committee had done two years ago that compared Wayne State with some of its peers be updated.

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Ms. Beale noted that it is important that there be more lower-cost faculty titles but with regular donor-connected titles—e.g., the John Doe Faculty Scholar in Business Law. Instead, the Development chart has “faculty fellowships”, a term which does not carry the same prestige. Other universities that are clearly in our peer group have many more named professorships, so it behooves us to move on this issue, as it is a matter of university status when Wayne professors attend conferences or speak at major events. Ms. Beale noted that donors she has talked casually with about these ideas are very responsive: it always helps when there are faculty to share with donors what these kinds of titles mean to the faculty and to the university.

Mr. Volz reported that the Mike Ilitch School of Business has endowed chairs and endowed professorships. He recommended that distinguished senior faculty be involved in contacting donors, that they accompany development officers when they meet with potential donors. Alumni feel a connection with the faculty who taught them. The Development Office should have a list of such faculty and should have initiatives that are attractive to donors. Provost Whitfield also has mentioned the importance of such contacts between faculty and alumni to solicit donations.

Policy Committee will write to Ms. Burns about these suggestions.

11. Parliamentarian: Stephen Calkins served as the parliamentarian in the fall term but he will be on sabbatical in winter. Policy Committee nominated a replacement. Ms. Beale will contact the nominee. Mr. Roth mentioned that the UAW holds training sessions on parliamentary procedure. The parliamentarian, he said, is not an advocate. Rather s/he tells the leaders what needs to be done.

12. Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program: Mr. Roth, who chairs the UROP Advisory Subcommittee, reported that Darryl Gardner, Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics, and Matthew Orr, Program Coordinator, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, met with the subcommittee. They did not know if carryover funds are available to hold a spring/

summer competition and are waiting to hear from the Finance and Business Operations Office. The subcommittee thinks it will have a preliminary report on its work ready at the beginning of the winter semester. The members want to continue their work. Mr. Roth said that schools and colleges provide funding for projects, but the models vary. Many students have benefited from participation in the program.

13. Human Resources: Carolyn Hafner, the Associate Vice President and Chief Audit Executive, has been appointed Interim Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer. Policy Committee and the Provost talked about the requirements for a new chief human resources officer. Some AVPs have not understood the university as an institution. The new head of human resources will have to rebuild trust within the university.

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Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of January 6, 2020