

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
August 23, 2021

Present: L. Beale; P. Beavers; J. Fitzgibbon; r. hoogland; C. Parrish; N. Rossi; N. Simon;
R. Villarosa; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: M. Kornbluh

Guest: Robert Davenport, Associate Vice President, Facilities Planning and Management

1. Ventilation of Classroom/Office Buildings:

Several people have asked Linda Beale about the functioning of the ventilation systems in classrooms and offices. Earlier in the pandemic Robert Davenport had explained how the systems operated and the improvements in fan speed, filters and pre-filters, and fresh air intake that have been undertaken. The question now is whether the systems are working properly to ensure adequate ventilation in offices and classrooms given the high transmissibility of the Delta variant. Davenport explained that there are two ways to assess the condition of the air coming out of the ducts at the end of the line and whether the system is operating as designed. Each system is designed to provide a certain number of air exchanges per hour. In a business setting and perhaps in a classroom setting that number is 5 air exchanges per hour. It is different in research areas. The hoods in a laboratory are exhausting air. The air conditioning is competing with the air from the hoods. It takes good engineering to know that the air is balanced. One way to know if the air is balanced is whether a door is pushed open by the air in the building as you walk to it from outside. Air balancing is needed every 3 to 5 years. A large construction project in a building will affect the footprint of the HVAC plant. If enough air isn't coming into a room the room may be very close to the HVAC plant or a damper is closed or has failed and is not pushing the air into the room. The further away from a machine you are the smaller the duct work gets so the air can continue to travel at a speed fast enough per minute to that end space.

There are one hundred kinds of mold, not all are destructive to the human body. The Office of Environmental Health performs tests on an as-needed basis.

Facilities uses MERV 13 pre-filters and MERV 13 primary filters; they catch all the contaminants. The typical office and classroom (not lecture hall) standards are around 10% fresh air being introduced into a building. Facilities has been running in the 20 to 40% range. When conditions allow, they will increase the amount beyond that.

When it is hot and humid outside the air temperature has to be reduced and the water in the air has to be removed. The system is not designed to make up that much air. IBIO and some areas of Scott Hall and Elliman Research Building are designed to condition more air than a typical office building. Facilities has placed a lot of focus on ensuring quality air. They have been running above the minimum to assure that the air exchanges that occur on a regular basis are at a minimum of 5 in a regular classroom and office setting.

Davenport responded to questions from the members. If anyone thinks there are problems with the air in a classroom or an office, they can contact him to make sure that the systems are operating properly. The university has building automation systems (BAS), computer HVAC systems that allow communication between boiler plants and cooling plants. They will make

sure they are getting the correct temperature, the correct humidity, and the correct pressure in a particular space. Where we don't have that type of technology, Facilities has manual measurements to make sure the standard is met. The first step is to make sure the fans are working, the dampers are open, the right amount of air is coming into a particular room and the right amount of return is being removed from the room. That can be done on a case-by-case basis. If everything appears to be running properly but there may be an odor, Facilities will bring in a member of the Office of Environmental Health to check if there are contaminants in the space.

Asked about radon testing in offices, Mr. Davenport said if someone thought there was a problem with radon, the staff would check the room.

His division is preparing a new communications plan and a new cleaning matrix to be distributed campus-wide to inform people what work custodians should regularly perform and who to contact when problems arise in their area.

Charles Parrish asked what provisions have been made to replace teaching materials that were damaged in the recent flooding in buildings due to storms. Davenport said that Facilities staff and representatives from the university's insurance carrier, FM Global, met with the business affairs officers in the colleges and with deans, if they were available. The BAOs and FM Global employees are reviewing what was lost and making arrangements to replace immediately what needs to be replaced now and what can be replaced later. Content recovery experts tagged equipment and supplies that were damaged and need to be replaced. There is a well-defined process where faculty work with the BAOs and department chairs.

Robert Davenport left the meeting.

2. Report from the President:

- a. Enrollment: As announced earlier in August the debt threshold for students to register for classes was increased from \$1500 to \$4000 so that anyone with a debt up to \$4000 is able to register for fall classes. Members of Policy Committee reported that student registration has increased slightly.
 - b. Vaccinations: Submissions from students, faculty, and staff proving that they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 are fewer than expected. When classes begin monitors will be at building entrances checking for proof of vaccination when people enter. Faculty may require that students show their vaccination status. Noreen Rossi said that the Michigan Department of Health has a record of all vaccinations given in the state. People can get proof through the website if they have lost their information. The medical system where people received the vaccine will have records also.
3. Thank You Resolution for Essential Workers: Policy Committee approved the drafted resolution to present to the Senate for their approval at the September 15 plenary session, with the addition of "nursing" to the medical and allied fields phrase.
4. Assignment of Senate Membership to Standing Committees: Policy members reviewed the charts of members' preferences for committee service for the academic year. They made changes to balance the committees for size and representation from the different areas and will give final consideration at the next meeting.

5. Reports from Committees: Several members mentioned that other committees on which they are serving as Senate representatives would make their final reports soon. The demands of faculty and academic staff for committee service over the summer have been high and many are exhausted with little time for rest.
6. Committee Assignments: Beale asked members to think of two items for each standing committee to work on this year. Traditionally at the beginning of the academic year Policy sends to the committees topics on which they might work. This will be part of the finalization of committees at the next meeting if possible.

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of August 30, 2021