

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
September 20, 2021

Present: D. Aubert; L. Beale; P. Beavers; K. Dormer; J. Lewis; N. Rossi; B. Roth; N. Simon; R. Villarosa; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: M. Kornbluh

1. Approval of Proceedings.

The committee approved the proceedings of September 13 as amended.

2. Report from the President.

- a. Senate Appointee to LIS Review Committee: Karen Goodrich accepted our invitation to serve as Senate representative on the LIS Review Committee.
- b. Enrollments: The current enrollment reports continue to show about a 4% drop in undergraduates and larger declines in graduate enrollments. APEX students may or may not be counted. If they take 12 credits they are counted as FTFT (First Time Full Time) students. If they take at most 11 credits, they are not in the count. For several years APEX students were encouraged not to be full time.
- c. Administrative Responses to Actions or Activities Deemed Inflammatory: As we have discussed, the administration's response prohibiting the Student Senate's use of a listserv to send the majority-approved statement on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to the students it represents raises concerns about freedom of expression. Brad Roth engaged in a discussion with constitutional law scholars on this topic, which he shared with the Provost as a step in encouraging administrative consideration of appropriate ways to handle such matters in the future. Beale noted that this is an academic freedom issue, since both the Student Senate and the Academic Senate, as well as other representative bodies, need to be able to communicate to their constituents about important issues, whether the message's content is appreciated or not by the administration. Lewis suggested that the campus obligation to be inclusive is also at issue where hostile expression occurs in campus public areas. Roth agreed, but noted that the university has a fiduciary obligation as a public institution to exercise power in a law-governed way, even where we disagree with the existing legal standards. Roth and Villarosa will follow up on this set of issues.
- d. C&IT Centralization Problems. Beale is meeting with AVP Rob Thompson to discuss the various communication and service-delay problems that faculty have experienced with C&IT centralization. In particular, the ticketing process is extraordinarily frustrating as it floods mailboxes with emails that provide little real information while seeming to justify long delays in service. Further, faculty that depend on a remaining single IT staffer (who must handle matters using these inefficient protocols) are typically quite frustrated. For example, after the flooding of the Law building, our single IT staffer found that he was working many hours without pay because C&IT expected him to quit work at 5, though he knew that would leave faculty unable to handle the IT issues with Echo 360 in the first weeks of class, as well as other issues with printers and Xerox facilities in the Law building. Similarly, faculty in CFPCA were frustrated

with delays in imaging software, since the single IT person expert in Macs had to get a supervisor to file a ticket before carrying out work needed urgently by faculty. Beale noted that the fact that the deans were happy with the general-purpose classroom technology has little to do with the recent C&IT centralization: that was a move of general classroom technology *from* the Library System *to* C&IT that (i) was supported by the Academic Senate at the time considered and (ii) took place at least a year before C&IT centralization of each school/college C&IT function and personnel (resulting in C&IT gathering budget dollars schools/colleges had committed to C&IT functions and reaping the savings from the many layoffs C&IT planned, while various schools/colleges found themselves with too little support).

- e. Additional Meetings Planned. Beale also will schedule a meeting with Sailor Mayes, the Student Senate president, to discuss the issue regarding access to a student listserv and the upcoming Board of Governors meeting materials. The goal is to build rapport and be able to work together on issues. In addition, there will be a meeting with Matt Rolling who now heads the Office of Business Innovation, at his request.
3. Proposed Changes to the Student Center OMSE and personnel. Policy Committee briefly discussed the Provost's email re expanding OMSE space to include a Black Student Cultural Center and several of the Latino/Latina Studies faculty. Beale will put this on the agenda for our next meeting so that we can get a broader understanding of the proposed changes from Provost Kornbluh.
4. Distribution of Senate's Thank-You Resolution for Essential Workers. Beale suggested that it would be a good idea to distribute the resolution to university employees. Simon suggested that the Senate ask the Provost's Office to distribute the resolution to the "employees@Wayne" list. Beale will do so. Another idea is that perhaps the Senate should do a press release to the Detroit Free Press, Crain's, WDET, etc. It could generate some good PR for the university that the Senate is appreciative of those many groups who had to work on campus while almost all academic staff and faculty worked remotely from home.
5. Engineering Dean Search. Policy Committee selected a Senate member from outside the Engineering area to ask to serve as Senate representative on the Engineering Dean search committee. Beale will check on willingness and forward the name to the Provost if the person accepts.
6. Business Dean Search. Policy Committee selected a Senate member from outside the Business School to ask to serve as Senate representative on the upcoming Business Dean search committee. Beale will check on willingness and forward the name to the Provost if the person accepts.
7. 2021-22 Senate Representatives to the Board of Governors (BOG) Committees and Senate Parliamentarian and Vice Chair. The Policy Committee selected Noreen Rossi to serve as Vice Chair of the Senate and Ricardo Villarosa to continue to serve as Parliamentarian. These selections will be confirmed at the next plenary session. It appointed voting and alternate representatives to each of the BOG Committees as follows:
  - a. Academic Affairs: Brad Roth (voting); Jenny Lewis (alternate)
  - b. Budget and Finance: Paul Beavers (voting); Linda Beale (alternate)

- c. Student Affairs: Naida Simon (voting); Kelly Dormer (alternate)
  - d. Personnel: Ricardo Villarosa (voting); Noreen Rossi (alternate)
8. Senate Standing Committee Charges. Policy Committee discussed a draft of charges for each of the standing committees and made revisions to shorten the priority lists and add additional items that committees may address if there is sufficient time. Beale will distribute each committee's charge to the chair of the committee.
9. Academic Senate Plenary Session Agenda for October 6. Policy Committee approved the draft agenda for the 10/6 plenary session. Beale will follow up with David Massaron to see if he is willing to present on the budget that will be approved on October 1 at the BOG meeting and will check with the Provost regarding whether timing is right for a discussion of enrollment management restructuring.

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*As Approved by the Policy Committee October 4, 2021*