

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
October 25, 2021

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

Guest: B. Baltes

1. Article XXX Committee Appointments. Policy members discussed their tentative selections for the committees with the Provost and AVP Baltes. Several selections were adjusted to better reflect the diverse perspectives needed. The Academic Staff and Faculty hearing panels will be selected by elections to be run by the Academic Senate Election Committee. Letters will be prepared as in the past for these appointments.
2. CIAC-I Appointments. Beale noted that the Provost and Policy each need to select two new nominees for the 2023 and 2024 terms due to the oversight last year in appointing members for the 2023 term. Peter Lichtenberg and Carolyn Bock have one remaining year on their terms. Policy and AVP Baltes agreed that Peter Lichtenberg should continue to chair the group. The Provost's Office and Policy agreed on the four nominees to be contacted. Beale will contact the two Senate representatives immediately to see if they are willing to serve: one will be appointed to the 3-year term through 2024 and one to the 2-year term through 2023.
3. MI-DDI Review. Beale had shared the draft memo requesting more information on the institute with Provost Kornbluh prior to the meeting. The information requested primarily has to do with the federal mandate for educational projects and the lack of information about i) referrals from SDS, ii) graduate certificate applicants and recipients, and iii) the numbers and time involved in the mentorship program in the medical school. It is also not clear that the institute has a faculty advisory committee that could encourage more faculty to become voluntary participants in the institute's educational programming. The Provost noted he would ensure that a faculty advisory committee was created if non-existent and asked whether Policy could approve at this point, given the good funding record and favorable CIAC-I report. Beale noted that we have traditionally used a written memo to ask any questions about the report prior to approval, but she thinks that can be expedited and finalized within a few weeks given how late the report was in coming to Policy. Baltes asked whether it would be necessary to request a revision to the CIAC-I report. Policy indicated that these issues should be easily resolved by expedited answers from the CIAC-I chair and institute director, so that we could reach a final decision at one of the next few Policy meetings.

*AVP Baltes left the meeting.*

4. Approval of PC Proceedings. Policy Members approved the draft of the October 11 proceedings. Given the lack of time for review, the October 18 proceedings will be edited and approved via email.
5. Chair's Report.
  - a. Strategic Planning. Provost Kornbluh informed Policy that a first draft of the new Strategic Plan is expected to be sent to members of the Steering Committee later today in preparation for a meeting to discuss the draft on Wednesday. He believes

that it pays appropriate attention to issues raised by the Policy Committee in its memorandum on academic excellence and attention to faculty and student needs. He is particularly interested in ensuring that there is appropriate mention of actions needed to preserve and enhance doctoral programming at Wayne State, as well as programs that create pipelines for recruitment of students, including more focus on international students at both the undergraduate and graduate level and a broadening of the geographic reach of the university beyond the 100-mile radius from which most of our students currently come. He also considers the programs aimed at developing a more diverse faculty—including cluster hires of faculty in areas that respond to our urban research mission and programs for moving post-docs into faculty positions—will be very important to our future.

- b. Vaccination Mandate for All and Limitation on Fully Remote Work. A second issue that Provost Kornbluh is concerned about is the requirement that all faculty and staff satisfy the vaccine mandate for the winter term. An announcement will go out soon to this effect. The expectation is that few faculty or staff will be approved for working 100% remotely after the fall term. Kornbluh asked how the exceptions permitting fully remote work should be described. There was some discussion and a consensus that the fairest approach was to offer exceptions only for those who are or who caretake for immunocompromised individuals who are unable to be vaccinated and who must take strong steps to avoid exposure to the virus. That would not generally cover faculty or staff who simply have young children: many with small children have already been required to work on campus this fall. Policy also briefly discussed the proper office to make any exemption decisions since decisions regarding caretakers for others are not generally covered in the Office of Equal Opportunity. Suggestions included the Provost's Office or the Public Health Committee.

## 6. President's Report

- a. C&IT Centralization. Beale noted the continuing concerns from faculty about C&IT centralization, including emails that are rather tone-deaf in informing faculty about upcoming planned actions. For example, the faculty are not convinced about the benefits of computer migration programs.
- b. Campus Police Oversight. Beale noted that the Policy Committee has not yet officially responded to the two Senate representatives' memo regarding various recommendations about the current public safety Advisory Council and the need to comply with the 1991 Michigan statute about campus police oversight by establishing an elected committee of two faculty, two staff, and two students that can hear grievances and other complaints and operate in the oversight regard independently of the advisory council. She has shared the background material with the Provost. This will be a topic for a future meeting.
- c. Meeting with OBI Director Matt Roling and Tech Commercialization staff Lindsay Klee. Beale described her meeting with Roling and Klee as a pleasant exchange regarding their plans for better expedited responses to corporate research programs. There is now a staff attorney in the office as well who Roling expects, in the future, to be able to sign off on corporate research projects without extended review by the Office of General Counsel.
- d. Center Reviews. The Provost had mentioned a spreadsheet that has been developed on the status of center charters and reviews. That will be a topic for a Policy meeting in the near future.

7. Ad Hoc Academic Senate Student Data Privacy Committee. One of the nominees selected by Policy cannot serve and another is still considering. Policy suggested other names, so Beale will contact as needed.
8. Student Success Summit Planning Committee. Monica Brockmeyer's assistant reached out to request a Senate representative for the planning committee for a summit to be held in the spring. Beale asked Naida Simon as chair of the Student Affairs Committee to see if a committee member is interested in serving.
9. Academic Senate November 3 Plenary Session. Beale noted that both Massaron and Kornbluh/Ezzeddine had agreed to speak on the suggested issues at the plenary session. Kornbluh suggested that the two presentations will work well together, since the enrollment management presentation will be focused mainly on strategies to increase our recruitment success and thus our tuition revenues.
10. Capital Outlay Plan. The Policy Committee had not received an updated capital plan in time to review prior to the meeting. It will be submitted by the administration to the State by the October 31 deadline, so there is no real opportunity for input on the priorities set forth in the plan.

Due to a conflict for several members, the Policy Committee ended at 3:10 instead of our usual 3:30 time and there were no liaison reports.

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*Approved as amended by the Policy Committee, November 1, 2021*