

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
April 25, 2022

Present: D. Aubert; L. Beale; P. Beavers; J. Fitzgibbon; M. Kornbluh; J. Lewis; N. Rossi; B. Roth; N. Simon; R. Villarosa; S. Schrag

I. PROCEEDINGS OF THE APRIL 18 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The proceedings were approved as revised.

II. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Searches. A finalist MISB candidate has been invited back for another interview this week. Policy will be meeting with the final engineering dean candidate tomorrow. Mark Kornbluh complimented the committee on its recommendations and encouraged a quick submission on the engineering candidates. They are all good, with no obvious choice, so Policy's feedback is valuable. Beale encouraged Policy members who have attended these interviews to send comments to her as soon as possible so she can begin drafting the report. In the College of Education, Kornbluh has begun the process of choosing a dean search committee. He has solicited information from the college's faculty and staff regarding an interim dean and an external candidate is preferred. Walter Edwards is stepping down as director of the Humanities Center. There will be an internal search and Kornbluh will send out a request for nominations or self-nominations for the search committee. One of the charges for the new director is to have an active Board.

Connecting with Colleges. Kornbluh said he is moving more aggressively to break down silos in the Provost's Office to connect better with the schools and colleges. There will be a reorganization of student services under Ahmad Ezzaddine, VP of Academic Student & Global Engagement, to work more closely with the colleges. The plan is to increase admissions staff to include dedicated people with a dual reporting line in the colleges. The idea is to connect tutoring to the colleges with the faculty who are doing this and to determine where advising support is needed. Policy members agreed this was needed.

STEM Innovation Learning Center. Jennifer Lewis asked if there will be a search for a new STEM center director, and if there was a plan to continue integrated STEM initiatives. Beale noted that Policy had, in fact, pointed out that there was no chartered STEM center and the person appointed as director had not gone through any process. Kornbluh said there was no plan for a center, but he was working with departments to allocate space. The first floor is for freshman engineering classes hands-on work. The Student Center staff manages the building. The K12 programs remain a component of the building. Plans are uncertain for the top floor, which is an open and flexible space.

III. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Tuition Increase. An announcement was made at the budget meeting that the medical school rate will increase tuition by 1.5%. At this point, the plan is to ask the Board for a 4.5% increase in tuition for other schools.

Enrollments. The latest enrollment reports show a continued decline in numbers, particularly in the graduate programs.

Global Entrepreneurs in Residence. Beale noted an announcement about a Global Entrepreneurs in Residence program in the Office of Business Innovation and Technology Commercialization to help place foreign-born start-up founders at the university as teachers and mentors. Apparently, one person from Germany is already here. Beale questioned how this program has been brought on with no discussion and how it fits in with other academic programming. Kornbluh explained that he had also learned of this through the same announcement and planned to follow up.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS

A. Student Code of Conduct Revisions

The Office of General Council (OGC) suggested a change intended to accommodate our demand for information about administrative override of faculty grades due to academic misconduct. It provides for an administrative report that includes the numbers of such overrides by units as well as a general account of the basis for such overrides. The OGC wants to avoid regulatory attention, so having this somewhat vague language in the student code of conduct may not impede the faculty's ability to assess the processes. Accordingly, Roth recommended accepting these revisions. This change will provide a better sense of the size of the problem and will allow the committee to take further action in the future if necessary. The committee supports presenting this to the Senate plenary for recommendation to the Board of Governors. Kornbluh requested that the subcommittee draft a letter providing guidance from the provost to deans and chairs on grade appeals and their use of the power to override. Beale said the provision provides the fundamental information: the number of times grades are modified within each school/college and some statement of the reasons for grade modification. She thought the guidance letter was important. Policy members agreed to support this final version of the revisions and put it on the agenda for the May plenary.

B. Third Draft of A.S. 0504 Plenary

Committee members agreed on the final agenda.

C. Senate Appointments to ad hoc Faculty P&T Factors Committee (Provost, Union and Senate)

Beale informed Policy members about the discussion with Danielle Aubert and Boris Baltes about an ad hoc Provost Faculty P&T Factors Committee. They concluded it would be a 12-person committee: four chosen by the Office of the Provost, four chosen by the Union and four chosen by the Academic Senate. Aubert and Beale thought they should work together to ensure the Union and Senate appointments cover a broad spectrum, and asked for suggestions for appointees.

Kornbluh said that one of the priority issues would be recommendations for different factors for non-tenure-track clinical faculty. The university has a problem, in that it has left too many clinical faculty in assistant professor (clinical) positions for years without promotions, even when they act as directors of programs. The committee could consider something similar to the new model developed for the new category of teaching faculty for the non-tenure-track clinical and research faculty. Villarosa suggested that there are very different types of clinical faculty around campus. Aubert pointed out that clinical is included, but the goal was to look at tenure-track university-level factors after having done the teaching faculty factors. She said it was important to look at the factors through a DEI lens and the consideration for public scholarship, as well as the breakdown across colleges and job categories. After some discussion, Kornbluh suggested a separate 2N committee to consider non-tenure track clinical factors. Clinical faculty who are tenured have to be promoted or are out, but clinical faculty who are not on the tenure track have stagnated here. Aubert said she does think clinical non-tenure track faculty do want to do something separate but wants to discuss this with a few more people and get back with the provost.

D. Senate Appointments to OVPR Search

Because the OVPR search is so important, Beale recommended the president of the Senate serve on this committee. The other representative should be in one of the STEM sciences, so she recommended Howard Matthew in engineering. Policy members agreed that Beale should be on the committee to ensure a broader view across schools and colleges. As an alternate if Howard cannot serve, Naida Simon recommended Associate Dean of Engineering, Leslie Monplaisir.

E. Alternate for BOG Student Affairs Committee April 29

An alternate Policy member is needed to attend Board of Governors committee meetings this Friday. Villarosa agreed to substitute as alternate for Academic Affairs and Jane Fitzgibbon will substitute as alternate for Student Affairs. Beale will inform Julie Miller.

F. Memo to Co-Directors of Center for Emerging and Infectious Diseases

It was determined that the center must go through the CIAC-I process for charter approval before coming to Policy for a vote. Kornbluh suggested that the memo with questions about the center should go to the co-directors, with copies to the provost and interim dean.

Approved via email by Policy Committee