WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

September 17, 2018

Present: L. Beale; P. Beavers; V. Dallas; r. hoogland; D. Kessel; C. Parrish;

K. Whitfield; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: B. Roth; W. Volz

Guests: Nathan Chavez, Associate Director, Computing and Information Technology (C&IT), Sara Kacin, Director, Office for Teaching and Learning (OTL); Robert Thompson, Senior Director for Academic Core and Intelligence Applications (C&IT), Tonya Whitehead, Assistant Director (OTL)

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of September 17, 2018.

1. Canvas Rollout and OTL Programs: Members of the Policy Committee had reported problems with the Canvas Learning Management System and invited the guests to meet with them to provide information about the system and to answer questions. Changing the learning management system began four years ago when C&IT surveyed faculty about replacing the Blackboard system. Faculty were asked what was important for them to do, what tools they use, and whether C&IT should consider alternatives to Blackboard. Respondents to the survey were asked if they would be interested in evaluating a new system. All colleges were not represented in the evaluation process because faculty from all colleges did not respond to the request.

Canvas was introduced to the University in August 2017. It was in place for a year before Blackboard was discontinued and all instructors had to use Canvas. Twenty early adapters were identified through the survey process. Some faculty adopted Canvas in fall 2017. Others began using it in the winter 2018 term and others in spring/summer 2018.

Training began in October 2017. The trainers modified the instructions in response to questions raised by the early adopters. C&IT migrated three years of instructors’ data from Blackboard into Canvas. Blackboard was shut down August 31, 2018. Various faculty completed the online course and attended training, but they needed a printed guide to use as a reference. One was created.

Members pointed out that one of the problems that faculty encountered is that there is not an easy way to post the entire syllabus for the term so that students see assignments in context—the ‘modules’ seem to be designed primarily for online instruction. Mr. Thompson responded that this would be a change that the team would work on to allow the entire syllabus to show. Another problem is the inability to easily use iClicker for MACs with Canvas. Mr. Thompson is aware of the problem and they are working on a solution.

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – September 17, 2018 Page 2

A member noted that Canvas was not intuitive but the webinar was very helpful. Mr. Chavez said that Canvas is very different from Blackboard and someone may need to walk people through it. It is intuitive to students. Another member asked that there be a mechanism that shows the number of classes students have missed during a course.

Discussion turned to the Office for Teaching and Learning. Ms. Kacin mentioned the resources that are available for faculty at the various levels of their careers. The OTL and C&IT staff consult with instructors individually to teach them how to use Canvas Basics. There are workshops to teach the more advanced features of Canvas. The OTL created a virtual resource for Canvas Basics. Online webinars are available. The instruction options were revised based on instructors’ feedback. Faculty have asked that services be available for instructors who do not come to campus often. OTL created a WSU teaching handbook that gives suggestions for active engagement in the classroom. They created links to pertinent resources on campus. To accommodate instructors’ schedules OTL has 30-minute lunch time teaching tidbits for all three environments: face-to-face, hybrid, and online. Some days the staff are available until 7:30 p.m. They facilitate face-to-face, online, and telephone consultations. They have a video recording studio to build in videos for all contexts so students are able to re-listen to their classes. The OTL has added two learning communities. One covers large lectures and another covers service learning.

OTL and C&IT are collaborating on having vendors on campus on October 4. The vendors will have various Wayne State-supported technologies, and faculty and OTL staff will be able to show how the different technologies can be used.

In response to questions, Mr. Thompson said that the University Libraries are trying to standardize and upgrade technology in classrooms.

Faculty had heard rumors that the University was eliminating Dropbox. Mr. Thompson said that the University never centrally supported Dropbox as an enterprise service. The cloud service C&IT offers is the OneDrive cloud to Office 365. It ties in with the suite of tools in C&IT. A while ago C&IT got a quote from Dropbox. They did not have a price just for the Dropbox tool and it was very expensive. There is interest again to see what we could do with Dropbox and C&IT will look into it. C&IT has to give guidance to the campus on what tools are safe. They know that OneDrive is safe. In response to the interest in Dropbox, C&IT will issue a statement where it is appropriate to use on campus and the issues related to It.

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum will be on campus on October 10. Prior to her visit OTL is facilitating a book club where faculty will discuss chapters from Dr. Tatum’s book. Dr. Andrew Feig and Dr. Marquita Chamblee will moderate a discussion about race relations.

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – September 17, 2018 Page 3

Provost Whitfield thanked Mr. Thompson, Mr. Chavez, Ms. Kacin, and Ms. Whitehead for coming to the meeting. He appreciates their work and asked that they keep the Policy Committee informed as changes are made in the system.

[The guests left the meeting.]

1. Report from the Chair:

a. The Big Data and Analytics Town Hall will be held Wednesday, September 19, at the Mike Ilitch School of Business to support the work of faculty in these areas.

b. Provost Whitfield spoke about the need to increase enrollment. We recruit our students from a 100-mile radius. The number of high school graduates within that area is decreasing. We need more effective outreach campaigns. We have a Great Lakes discount but it is not utilized nor marketed well. Two recruiters will spend some time in Chicago to recruit high school students. The Provost wants to create a systematic approach to recruiting students. Relationships should be developed with high school counselors. It would be helpful to know what attracts students. Members noted that student surveys that have been done in past years may be helpful. Ms. Beale mentioned the importance of faculty in recruitment.

1. Report from the Senate President:
2. Ms. Beale is trying to arrange a meeting of Policy with members of the Board of Governors to discuss issues that are important to the faculty and the academic staff. It appears a meeting before the Friday Board meeting is not possible, but she will work for one later in the month.
3. The sesquicentennial symposium “Genes, Urban Environments and Health” was well attended.
4. Provost Whitfield announced the recipients of the Assessment Grants. The topics include designing and piloting an assessment tool to measure growth in student learning outcomes from Gen Ed through completion of the major, developing exit surveys for undergraduate students, and developing a new capstone course. Another project will collect data on the Writing Center to find out which students use it, which do not, and how it impacts student success.
5. The Budget Committee met September 17. The Committee would like to meet with the Vice President of Health Affairs David Hefner about the School of Medicine budgetary situation (including FMRE and the practice plans).

\*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of September 10, 2018, as submitted.

5. Enrollment Report: Policy discussed the Census numbers, as shared with the Budget Committee earlier in the day (attached). Overall undergraduate enrollment has improved in the last week but enrollment of transfer students remains low when compared with last year. Transfers from community colleges are up but transfers from four-year colleges are down. The University has a policy that students who do not have a GPA of 2.0 after three semesters are excluded

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – September 17, 2018 Page 4

for one year. Even if students return and get a good GPA for the semester, because their overall GPA is low, they are excluded again. Members suggested that discretion needs to be used

when making decisions about students’ ability and improvement. The Provost agreed. Graduate enrollments are down, and there appears to be a large increase in non-continuing graduate students (which could be a factor of smaller cohorts, increased degree completion, and/or higher drop out rates). Policy will invite Darin Ellis to get more information on this topic. Quite a few graduate programs and professional programs have lost students. To reach 30,000 students, which is a goal in the strategic plan, will require more personalized recruitment efforts and improved marketing efforts.

\*6. Selection of the Vice Chair: Policy Committee selected renee hoogland to serve as the Vice Chair of the Senate for the 2018-2019 academic year. This action will be submitted to the full Senate for confirmation at its October meeting. The Vice Chair presides over the Policy Committee and the Senate in the absence of the Chair and performs the duties of the Senate President when she is unable to serve.

\*7. Selection of the Parliamentarian: Policy Committee selected Stephen Calkins to serve as the parliamentarian for the 2018-19 academic year. The action will be submitted to the full Senate for confirmation at its October meeting.

8. Liaisons from Policy Committee to the Standing Committees: Members selected the committees on which they will serve as liaisons this academic year.

9. October 2018 Senate Meeting: Policy Committee prepared the agenda for the October 3, 2018, Academic Senate meeting.

10. Board of Governors Meeting: Ms. Beale reviewed some of the items on the agenda for the Board meeting.

a. Requests were made for renovations to bring some buildings up to standard.

b. The Budget Committee discussed the recommendation to amend the Board Statute about the investment policy. The new language gives more discretion to the investment advisor with accountability to the Treasurer William Decatur. The new policy for the cash investment policy covers the University’s working capital pool. There is a liquid pool that is cash equivalents and a somewhat less liquid pool that includes fixed income assets. Tier 3 is less liquid, longer term and includes all kinds of equities, hedge funds, swaps, futures, forward contracts, and derivatives. Ms. Beale expressed the concern that the Board Statute is being amended to remove the concentration limit for Tier 3, as well as any term limit on Tier 3 items. Those limits seem to be within the appropriate authority of the Board, since they have to do with risk protection, independence, and flexibility. How tied will we be to a particular corporate entity or issuer and how will that affect other decisions the University might make?

c. Parking continues to be an issue for the Business School. In contrast to what was expected, faculty and others who get parking permits on campus will have

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – September 17, 2018 Page 5

to pay double if they also park at the Business School. The alternative offered is for students and employees who park in Structure #1 to take a shuttle to the Business School.

d. The Affirmative Action Status Report shows that only 19.5% of full professors are women.

11. Registration: Ms. Dallas reported that the University is adopting a new registration system effective for the winter 2019 term. There will be changes in the way the system looks and works. This is an area that the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee should review and seek information on to ensure that C&IT and the Registrar are quickly informed of any problems encountered.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approved as corrected at the Policy Committee meeting of September 24, 2018

Corrected at the Academic Senate meeting of October 3, 2018

