WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 29, 2018

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

W. Volz; K. Whitfield; A. Wisniewski

Guest: Darin Ellis, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness

The item marked with an asterisk constitutes the Action of October 29, 2018.

1. Graduation Rates: Mr. Ellis presented retention and graduation data for the full-time first-time-in-any-college cohorts for the academic years 2003-2004 through 2017-2018. The data also was broken down for black and for white students. The six-year overall graduation rate for the cohort that started in fall 2012 was 47%. The graduation rate for black students was 22.3% and for white students 55.8%. Mr. Ellis attributes the increase to multiple reasons: a slight increase in ACT scores, the hiring of additional advisors, some changes in policy. Provost Whitfield mentioned that, although the number of Latinos/Latinas is small (we have 1266 students who identify as Hispanic) there has been a significant increase in the numbers who have graduated. We need to drill down to find out the reasons for the increase in the graduation rates of black students and Latino/Latina students and why the overall increase is higher than for either of the two identified groups. That suggests that other groups are experiencing significantly higher graduation rates. Mr. Ellis responded that we have 4000 students who identify as Asian. The four-year graduation rate for Asians is 30% and the six-year graduation rate is 60%. The five-year graduation rate for students who did not indicate their race is 49% and the four-year graduation rate is 43%. There is an increase in the number of credits that full-time students attempt and complete successfully, from a little over 10 to over 12 credits per semester. Mr. Ellis attributes the increase to advising by professional staff and faculty and to other programs that are available to students. Participation in EAA is at an all-time high. There also has been improvement in reducing failures and withdrawal rates in gateway courses. Mr. Ellis has observed that some students who start as full-time students change to part-time when they are juniors and seniors or even drop out for a semester or more because of financial concerns. They continue to be counted in the FTIAC cohort with which they entered. Seventy-five percent of our students graduate with 135 credits but without additional credentials such as a minor or a co-major. One reason is that students are unable to register for required courses on schedule so they take additional courses to maintain a scholarship. Departments may not be able to offer additional upper-level courses to reduce that hurdle.

Ms. Beale would like to see the completion rates for students who enter as part-time. They are not included in the cohort. Mr. Ellis also was asked to provide data on the ten-year graduation rate according to gender.

[Mr. Ellis left the meeting.]

1. Report from the Chair:
2. The last Sesquicentennial symposium was on free speech with Lee Bollinger, President of Columbia University, the featured speaker. The closing celebration was Friday evening.

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – October 29, 2018 Page 2

1. Several students who returned this fall because of the Warrior Way Back program will graduate in December. It is troubling that these students were so close to graduation and we did not reach out to them earlier.
2. Report from the Senate President:
3. A lunch for international guests was held as part of the Sesquicentennial celebration. Ms. Beale was the only faculty member at the lunch. At the closing ceremonies she noted that the reserved seating was for the President’s Cabinet and the Board of Governors, but no faculty. This is an embarrassment for the institution, since an educational institution should consider itself first and foremost as made up of faculty and students. Wayne State too often simply does not even consider including faculty, whether on important administratively appointed committees or in events such as recognizing our 150th year as an academic institution. Provost Whitfield has told the members of the President’s Cabinet that they need to include faculty on committees and in activities.
4. Michanda Gant, student, Sara Mahmood, alumna, and Beena Sood, M.D., faculty, will receive the WSU Women of Distinction Awards at the Wayne Women Lead ceremony on November 1.
5. Mr. Roth, a member of the General Education Oversight Committee representing the Senate ex officio, cannot attend the November 7 meeting. Ms. hoogland will attend in his place.

\*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Committee approved the Proceedings of its meeting of October 22, 2018, as corrected.

1. Statute Governing the General Education Program: The Senate received nominations for the Article XXX committees. The members of the General Education Oversight Committee are selected according to the Article XXX process. Prior to November 2017, the wording in the Board of Governors Statute meant that 8 faculty from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were to serve on the Oversight Committee and a total of 8 faculty from the other schools and colleges would make up the Committee. The wording was changed when the revisions to the general education program were adopted in November 2017. The revised Statute stated that Liberal Arts and Sciences would have 4 representatives. This change was not pointed out or discussed, since apparently it was made at the last minute. The question before Policy Commit-tee was whether the Senate should request an amendment to the Board Statute to reflect the significantly larger impact of CLAS on Gen Ed courses. Most Policy Committee members thought that the reduction of CLAS membership from 50% to one-third was inappropriate. One member suggested that general education requirements are taught in colleges other than CLAS and considered that the large group of CLAS members had been a roadblock to general education changes, stating that CLAS representatives blocked changes “for 35 years.” Another member suggested that some reduction in CLAS membership might be appropriate, but not such a significant reduction. Other members pointed out that CLAS is a diverse college with more than 20 departments. It offers more general education classes and more credits than the other colleges. It is unlikely that those diverse representatives would consistently vote as a block on curricular issues. There appeared to be a consensus that CLAS should have more than 4 representatives. Ms. Beale asked the Committee members to send their suggestions to revise the Statute to her. Discussion will continue.

6. Parking Use by Audit Office: On October 17, Policy Committee sent a memo to Carolyn Hafner, Associate Vice President and Chief Audit Executive, opposing the use of parking records to

Proceedings of the Policy Committee – October 29, 2018 Page 3

question an employee’s attendance at work and asking that she end the practice immediately. In a memo dated October 23, Ms. Hafner stated that her office received an anonymous tip and was obligated to investigate and claimed that there are procedures to ensure a fair and objective process and that her office seeks evidence from a variety of sources. The memo does not respond to the issues Policy Committee raised. The approach places the burden of production in response to an anonymous allegation on the accused employee, which is inappropriate and makes it possible for a malicious tipster to use the Internal Audit Office to get back at another employee. Policy Committee will respond to Ms. Hafner’s memo. The University needs a thoughtful process to ensure that people who are accused anonymously are treated fairly.

1. Libraries Budget for Journals: Policy Committee had asked Jon Cawthorne, Dean of the Univer-sity Libraries, for the cost of online journals for the past five years and the cost of equipment to digitize existing collections. The information he provided was in the form of expected impact from a steady increase in prices, and information about average increases in select lists of journals, rather than the actual data for our libraries. Ms. Beale explained the difficulty in dealing with the continual increases in journals. Ms. Beale will contact the Dean for clarification. She would like to know what the actual expenditures for journals have been and how those costs have affected other parts of the Libraries.
2. Faculty Competition for Postdoctoral Fellows: The Office of the Vice President for Research announced the faculty competition for postdoctoral fellows. The initiative provides up to $30,000 per year for a maximum of $60,000 for two years. A Policy Committee member noted that this is support for researchers who have some funds for postdoctoral fellows because $30,000 is not enough money to support a fellow. Researchers without discretionary funds could not participate in the competition. Ms. Beale would like the plan to have gone through a consultative process. One thing to have considered was whether non-STEM postdoctoral support was possible. Ms. hoogland and Mr. Parrish will draft a memo to Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier asking how much funding is available and the source of the funding.
3. November 7 Senate Meeting: Policy Committee reviewed the final draft of the agenda for the November 7 meeting.
4. Student Success Meeting: Ms. Dallas and Ms. Simon attended the Student Success meeting on October 29. The Admissions Office purchased a new system for undergraduate admissions called Slate. Director of Undergraduate Admissions Erica Jackson said the system is superior to the one we have been using. Ms. Beale asked how Slate would work under RCM if a college wanted to have standards for admission that are different than the general admissions require-ments. Are colleges able to insert their own requirements in the system? A new program similar to EAA has been launched for small groups of students. The new system is run through EAB. The system sends a letter to the instructor to fill out about a student’s progress. It gathers more information than EAA. Policy Committee would like to talk with Senior Associate Provost for Student Success Monica Brockmeyer about the new system and with Associate Provost Ellis about academic analytics. The University has a new scholarship program, Senior Sprint, to provide financial aid to seniors so they can graduate in August. These issues will be put on the agenda for a future Policy Committee meeting.

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Approved as corrected at the Policy Committee meeting of November 5, 2018