WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

April 14, 2014

Present: J. Artiss; L. Beale; V. Dallas; D. Kessel; C. Parrish; L. Romano; W. Volz; M. Winters; A. Wisniewski

Absent with notice: R. MacArthur

Guests: David Cinabro, Physics and Astronomy, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Freda Giblin, Office of the Vice President for Research; Patrick Gossman, Computing and Information Technology

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of April 14, 2014.

1. Report from the Chair:
    a. Provost Winters reported that the first of 23 budget hearings begins today. Hearings will be held with each Dean, each Vice President, and the senior directors of some units. President Wilson, Provost Winters, Vice President for Research Hilary Ratner, Vice President for Budget, Planning and Analysis Robert Kohrman, Vice President for Finance and Business Operations Rick Nork, and Lou Romano, representing the Academic Senate, will hear the budget plans of the Deans and Vice Presidents for fiscal year 2015. The Deans may bring the business officer of their unit and a faculty representative, usually a member of the unit's budget committee, to the meeting. Some schools and colleges will have new Deans next fiscal year. In those cases the Provost asked the Deans to bring an observer to the meetings to provide continuity.
    b. Catherine Lysack has been appointed Acting Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences while Dean Lloyd Young is on leave. Ms. Lysack is a faculty member in the College and serves as the Associate Director of the Institute of Gerontology,
    c. Two candidates for the deanship of the Law School and two for the deanship of the School of Business Administration will be invited back for additional interviews.

2. Report from the Senate President:
    a. Linda Beale and William Volz will represent the faculty at the May 2 commencement ceremonies.
    b. Ms. Beale will attend the Graduate Council meeting of April 16, replacing Mr. Romano because he will be at a budget hearing.
    c. Mr. Romano is trying to schedule a meeting between the President's Cabinet and the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee believes these meetings are an important form of communication.

*3. Proceedings of the Policy Committee Meeting of March 24, 2014: The Proceedings were approved as amended.

*4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee Meeting of March 31, 2014: The Proceedings
     were approved as submitted.

 5. Faculty Mentoring: The Committee continued its discussion about how to
     determine if junior faculty are being mentored and whether the mentoring is
     effective. Several suggestions were made. The issue will be discussed at a later
     meeting.

 6. Retention Activities for Faculty: Policy Committee received a list of suggestions
     that faculty might follow to aid in retention of students. Provost Winters asked for
     comments from the Committee. Policy Committee will provide its suggestions and
     will send the list to the Faculty Affairs Committee for input. When a list is ready it
     will be distributed to all faculty. The Provost expects the list to be revised as new
     ideas come forward.

 7. Graduate Council Agenda: Policy Committee received the agenda and backup
     materials for the Graduate Council meeting of April 16, 2014.

[Mr. Gossman, Mr. Cinabro, and Ms. Giblin joined the meeting.]

 8. Research Computing Assessment: The guests informed the Policy Committee
     about the results of the survey of researchers to assess research computing on
     campus. The survey was sent to all faculty and researchers. It compared WSU's
     research computing against maturity benchmarks developed by the EDUCAUSE
     Center for Analysis and Research (ECAR).

     Ninety-eight researchers completed the survey that ran from October 2012 to
     January 2013. The survey looked at infrastructure, whether the institution puts a
     priority on research computing, and whether the investment by the University
     bolsters research. The survey told C&IT how well it is doing in the service and
     support it provides.

     Fewer than half of the respondents have the computer resources they need and only
     34% had adequate staff support. While they agreed that research computing is
     important, only 31% agreed that Wayne State placed a high priority on research
     computing. Some people saw C&IT as being important and responsive but others
     were unaware of its existence.

     Researchers make do. The survey revealed that deferred maintenance and lack of
     growth in support, computing, networking, data management, and security needed to
     be addressed. The major needs cited were for the backup, storage, and archiving of
     data. Although the need for improved security was lowest on the list, it is probably
     one of the greatest needs. Security breaches are expensive to correct. Also
     identified as a need is help with statistics. Faculty, Mr. Gossman said, may not know
     that statistical support is available in the Department of Psychology.

     Mr. Gossman listed the types of support that C&IT provides. He explained the
     sources of funding for computing activities and the benefits of faculty and

departments working with C&IT when purchasing equipment and setting up laboratories.

Wayne State scored average on the Maturity Index. ECAR recommended how to improve the infrastructure, culture, and investment in research computing.

Mr. Gossman proposed creating a research computing IT strategic plan, which the University is required to have for certain applications when seeking funding from the National Science Foundation. He would like to set up an advisory group that would include representatives from the Academic Senate. The IT Steering Committee drafted a charge to such a group. It will be forwarded to the Policy Committee for comments and suggestions.

_____

Approved as submitted at the Policy Committee meeting of April 21, 2014