

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE
Official Proceedings
September 14, 2022

Members Present: Mark Kornbluh, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Linda Beale, President, Academic Senate; Heather Abraham; Leela Arava; Nicole Audritsh; Suresh Balasubramanian; Michael Barnes; Joan Beaudoin; Pynthia Caffee; Stephen Calkins; Stephanie Chastain; Wei Chen; Stephen Chrisomalis; Chris Collins; Erin Comartin; Alan Dombkowski; Damecia Donahue; Paul Dubinsky; David Edelman; Brian Edwards; Jane Fitzgibbon; Ewa Golebiowska; Daniel Golodner; Haidong Gu; Robert Harr; Lance Heilbrun; reneé hoogland; Arun Iyer; Christine Jackson; Barbara Jones; Satinder Kaur; Pramod Khosla; Christine Knapp; Shelly Jo Kraft; Nasser Lakkis; Amy Latawiec; Jennifer Lewis; Abhijit Majumder; Neena Marupudi; Cynthia Merritt; Georgia Michalopoulou; Bharati Mitra; Rachel Pawlowski; Sean Peters; Richard Pineau; Tammie Quinn-Grzebyk; Shauna Reeves; Joseph Roche; Noreen Rossi; Brad Roth; Ali Salamey; Debra Schutte; Bo Shen; Gina Shreve; Naida Simon; Cheryl Somers; Jennifer Stockdill; Ellen Tisdale; Stephanie Tong; Hossein Yarandi

Members Absent with Notice: Juliann Binienda; Nancy Chi Cantalupo; Marisa Henderson; Michael Horn; Carol Miller; Lisa O'Donnell; Shane Perrine; Robert Reynolds; Elizabeth Stoycheff; Wassim Tarraf; Ricardo Villarosa; William Volz; Le Yi Wang

Members Absent: Erica Edwards; Ramzi Mohammad; Jeffery Withey

Guests: Laurie Lauzon-Clabo; Laura Lynch; Mary Paquette-Abt; Sarah Schrag; Karen Tarpenning; M. Roy Wilson

I. WELCOME TO NEW SENATE MEMBERS

Provost Mark Kornbluh welcomed the audience to the first Academic Senate meeting of the year. It was the first in-person Senate meeting in over two years. New Senate members were introduced and received a round of applause.

II. ELECTION OF 2022-23 POLICY COMMITTEE

Voting members of the Academic Senate cast paper ballots for the election of the 2022-23 Policy Committee. The makeup of the 2022-23 Policy Committee consists of: Michael J. Barnes (Fine, Performing and Communication Arts), Linda Beale (Academic Senate President/Law), reneé hoogland (Liberal Arts and Sciences), Pramod Khosla (Liberal Arts and Sciences), Jennifer Lewis (Education), Brad Roth (Liberal Arts and Sciences), Noreen Rossi (Medicine), and Naida Simon (Office of the Provost). Naida Simon was elected to the three-year term.

III. STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

President Wilson began by acknowledging that the Senate is such a well-informed group that it is a challenge to provide new information.

Campus Health and Safety: The New Student Convocation, held as an in-person event on August 29, was an inspiring event. Wilson commented on the importance of achieving a good balance between having a vibrant, active campus and a campus that is safe. Flexible work arrangements for both staff and faculty have been developed to provide greater flexibility while achieving a thriving campus. Chief Health Officer Clabo and the Campus Health Committee meet on a regular basis to monitor the local situation as well as what's going on nationally so that we have up-to-date information to keep the campus community as safe as possible.

Leadership Changes: Wilson pointed out various leadership changes, including his own announcement six weeks ago that he will step down July 31, 2023, at the end of his current contract. He will take a sabbatical and return to research, writing grants and mentoring students and junior faculty. The Board of Governors plans to announce some details about the presidential search at its September 30 meeting. There will be a search firm, and a search committee with diverse members will be appointed in the next month, with the plan to have identified the next president by next May.

Mike Poterala, the new vice president and general counsel, will begin on October 24. We are privileged that someone with his qualifications is coming to Wayne. Laura Johnston has done an outstanding job in the interim period.

Vice President for Research Steve Lanier is stepping down on September 30, and Timothy Stemmler will serve as interim VPR. The VPR search will continue with some delay so that a president can be identified prior to the completion of the VPR search.

There are also several decanal changes. Tom Walker has become interim dean of the School of Information Sciences and head of the libraries, and a search for a new dean is expected to conclude by July 31, 2023. Outstanding new deans include Hasan Elani in the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts (CFPCA); Virginia Kleist in Business; and Ali Abolamaali in Engineering. Wilson expressed his appreciation for the three outgoing deans: Matthew Seeger (CFPCA), Farshad Fotouhi (Engineering), and Robert Forsythe (Business).

Enrollment: Overall enrollment is down about 5%. Some of the decline is due to increased graduation rates, but that is just one factor. Transfer enrollments were also down, though we remain the leading destination for community college students in the state. Some four-year institutions have fared substantially worse, and others have rebounded nicely this year. Wayne State's enrollment declines seem to be in specific schools/colleges. Wilson noted the importance of actively working to increase enrollments for next year.

Graduation Rates: Wilson noted our continuing improvement in four-and six-year graduation rates. Our 5-year strategic plan had a goal of a 60% graduation rate by 2027, and we have already achieved an overall graduation rate of 60.2%, with increases in all demographic cohorts. The first-generation student graduation rate increased to 57.6% (12.2% over last year's rate).

Housing: Post-pandemic housing occupancy continued to recover for fall 2022 with 2486 students, an increase of 8.3% from last year, though still not up to pre-pandemic levels. The university's contract with Corvias, negotiated by former vice president and chief financial officer Bill Decatur, spared us the financial brunt of housing declines during the pandemic. We will continue discussion with Corvias and bondholders regarding modifications to identify an optimal path forward. There will be some financial impact as less revenues will come to the university, but it will not be as severe as suffered by many other universities.

TechTown: TechTown received a Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant to advance mobility as part of a larger consortium (\$52.2 M)—a great outcome not only for TechTown and Wayne State but also for the region. There were 60 finalists nationwide, and TechTown received one of the largest grants out of the 21 funded. Recently, TechTown Detroit joined forces with the Gilbert Family Foundation's Invest Detroit and the Detroit Development Fund to launch something called Venture 313: a three-year, \$10 million commitment to provide entrepreneurs with capital, mentorship and other opportunities. TechTown will provide ongoing coaching and grants for entrepreneurs ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 that will support the next generation of Detroit start-ups.

Economic Impact: The University Research Corridor, which has combined the economic impact of Wayne State, University of Michigan, and Michigan State over the last 15 years, released its annual Economic Impact Report at the Mackinaw Policy Conference in May. Even in a pandemic recession, our combined economic contributions grew by 60%. Wayne State's economic impact has also increased over the past two years: \$2.4 billion in 2019 to \$2.6 billion for 2021, with \$1.3 billion of that accruing to Wayne County and 90% accruing to Wayne, Oakland and Macomb. Assistant Vice President for Economic Development Kelly Kozlowski and Director of Economic and Community Development Emily Thompson spoke about this successful impact at the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Commission on Economic Community Engagement meeting held on Wayne State's campus.

Transportation Subsidies: Wayne State continues to subsidize four-hour DART and annual MO-GO passes for enrolled students and full-and part-time employees, allowing them to ride DDOT and SMART buses, the Q-Line streetcar and MOGO bikes for free.

Legislative Budget: Wayne State University's state appropriation this year included a \$100 million appropriation for a Karmanos Cancer Institute and School of Medicine building, a result of work by many of our governmental relations and other people. Several sites are under consideration, with environmental studies due soon. Based on those reports, a decision will be made on the location and scope of the project. The project will require additional funding beyond the \$100

million appropriation and some bonding capacity—with the total project likely in the range of \$260 to \$380 million. There is a lot of work to do still.

The only other appropriation at that level went to the University of Michigan, as a result of lobbying by Steve Ross for a Detroit innovation center (not even a priority of the University of Michigan). Wayne State will participate in that initiative even though no funds come directly to us.

IV. UPDATE ON CAMPUS HEALTH PLANS

Chief Health Office Laurie Lauzon Clabo provided an update from the Campus Health Committee.

Trigger Metrics: A series of trigger metrics have been used since early in the pandemic to measure actions on campus but no longer serve us well. As we move into the endemic phase of COVID, the positivity rate that served as a key indicator for making changes on campus needs to be changed: nationally, there is a move to use of incidence. There will be an announcement soon about moving to a measure of incidence as a trigger metric. We have continued to publish data including positivity rates because we believe it's important to be transparent. Positivity rates over the summer reached as high as 20% on campus, though we disproportionately test those who are likely to be positive since we test people with symptoms or who have vaccine mandate waivers. In summer, when the number of people on campus was small, we saw the positivity rate rise disproportionately because we were testing those most likely to be positive.

The Campus Health Committee has been quietly monitoring incidence or the number of cases on campus per 100 population, and trying to match that with national standards. Currently, the incidence in Wayne County is 154.92 per 100,000 population, while the campus incidence is 0.5 cases per 100 or about a third of Wayne County's incidence rate. That is similar to our relationship with Wayne County rates throughout the pandemic: our rate is lower because of the highly vaccinated campus population. When we elected last winter over the holiday break to start the winter term with remote classes, our incidence was 11.84 per 100, a rise that took place over three weeks. The campus has

not had an incidence rate higher than 1.85 since then, and that 1.85 high occurred in the two weeks after the 4th of July holiday—a rather predictable time to see an incidence rate rise. We will continue to monitor incidence.

Campus Daily Screener: Clabo acknowledged that some people are frustrated by continued use of the campus daily screener. It has been important in providing a denominator for the number of people who are doing the screener every day. Although there are anecdotal reports that people have ceased filing the screener, there are in fact significant numbers responding: the day before this meeting there were 13,184 screeners filed. That measure allows a reasonable estimate for incidence. If there is no increase in incidence over the next few weeks, it is likely that the Campus Health Committee will recommend dropping use of the screener for monitoring travel or symptoms and retaining it only for monitoring vaccine mandate compliance. Faculty will continue to have the option of asking to see screeners at any point. Some faculty ask students to upload screeners to their Canvas site or ask to see them at the beginning of class: we continue to recommend that option. The screener also allows us to notify people when they're booster eligible, give them a gentle reminder that their booster is due if they haven't had it yet, and encourage them to get it to get a green screen.

Mask Mandate: Wayne County was identified for four weeks on the CDC site as an area of high transmission where mask use is recommended indoors. The county is now in the second week of being identified as a medium transmission site. We will watch this, and if incidence and the state and local area rates of transmission continue to fall, we will consider what the mask policy might look like moving forward.

Bivalent COVID Booster: Our first shipment of the bivalent boosters has arrived. Senate members who would like to receive a bivalent booster and whose most recent mRNA vaccine was received more than two months ago are eligible. The booster is not required: the campus mandates an initial series and a single booster. Those who would like a booster can make an appointment at the Campus Health Center. The pipeline has its strictures and supplies dwindle at first, but will grow as we move on. The first big national distribution

was to large pharmacy chains, to permit wide distribution. The Campus Health Center has the Pfizer bivalent vaccine now but does not yet have Moderna (it should arrive by next week). Both are likely available at local CVS, Walgreens and Rite-Aid stores.

Monkeypox: There has been a monkeypox outbreak this summer in the United States. The rate of acceleration of cases appears to have slowed. As of last week, there were 22,630 cases in the United States and 231 reported in Michigan. For a time, those numbers were doubling every five days: while that rate has slowed considerably, it cannot be ignored. We learned lessons in COVID that we can translate to the next transmissible disease, and the Campus Health Center is partnering closely with the Detroit Health Department. Currently, the Campus Health Center offers testing (working under a contract with a lab and with appropriate surface precautions), but there is no monkeypox vaccine available on site. Unless there is campus spread, the Campus Health Center will continue to refer people to the Detroit Health Department or to the STI clinic.

What's most important for us is education to dispel the myth that this is a gay disease, solely spread among men who have sex with other men. That is not true. This disease is contact transmitted: anyone who has contact with someone who has active lesions, prolonged contact, or close contact can get the disease. There is a website: health.wayne.edu/monkeypox with easily accessible educational information.

If there were an outbreak on campus, people who live on campus and cannot go home will be able to isolate on campus. We've learned those lessons well from COVID, so our action plans are ready to be activated if and when there is a first identified campus case. If there were an increasing number of cases on campus, the Campus Health Committee would provide information and would also receive the vaccine on campus in order to quickly distribute at first specifically to high-risk groups.

Campus Mental Health: In health and wellness, we're not just looking at physical health, but we are really concerned about mental health needs, especially for students on campus. There is a national explosion in new mental health needs among students. There have been a few changes to the way these services are delivered on campus. A single phone line is available for students needing support: 313-577-CAPS. That gets a student to immediate triage so that they can be referred to an appropriate provider. A student who needs a prescriber may be different from a student who needs long-term talk therapy or a student who needs to participate in a group.

There are also revisions to the system for after-hours residence hall emergencies. That had been a fragmented system that was contracted out but now is in-house after running a successful pilot over the last eight weeks. A student who has an emergency in campus housing (overdose, suicide attempt, or thoughts of harming themselves) will not be contacted by an external firm but by an after-hours CAPS counselor who then can link that student into long-term planning on campus. A student who is transported to Detroit Receiving Hospital and discharged at 3 am will no longer wonder who on campus to contact but will have a campus contact: a CAPS counselor who will link them into ongoing services. Clabo noted that there will be continuing discussion of these mental health issues, but she is pleased to note that the campus is making significant progress in addressing issues.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda M. Beale
President, Academic Senate