

ACADEMIC SENATE – WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Official Proceedings

October 10, 2012

Members Present: Ronald T. Brown, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Chair; Louis J. Romano, President, Academic Senate; Basim Asmar; Ivan Avrutsky; Linda Beale; Paul Beavers; Jennifer Beebe-Dimmer; Abhijit Biswas; Barbara Bosch; Tamara Bray; David Cinabro; Chardin Claybourne; Mary Cooney; Victoria Dallas; Donald DeGracia; Heather Dillaway; Karen Feathers; Maria Ferreira; Jane Fitzgibbon; Moira Fracassa; Judith Fry-McComish; Andre Furtado; Nancy George; Ewa Golebiowska; Michael Horn; David Kessel; Liza Lagman-Sperl; Lawrence Lemke; Rodger MacArthur; Brian Madigan; Kypros Markou; James Martin; Jason Mateika; Howard Matthew; Boris Mordukhovich; Bryan Morrow; James Moseley; Jennifer Sheridan Moss; Abhilash Pandya; Victoria Pardo; Charles Parrish; Debra Patterson; Alexey Petrov; T. R. Reddy; Robert Reynolds; Brad Roth; Linea Rydstedt; Heather Sandlin; Ghulam Saydain; Mary Sengstock; Naida Simon; William Slater; James Sondheimer; Senthil Sundaram; Ronald Thomas; Ellen Tisdale; Ricardo Villarosa; William Volz; Barrett Watten; Judith Whittum-Hudson; Mary Width; Jeffrey Withey; James Woodyard; Lee Wurm

Members Absent with Notice: Nabanita Datta; Cheryl Dove; Judith Fouladbakhsh; Avril Genene Holt; Renee Hoogland; Maik Huttemann; Kafi Kumasi; Michael McIntyre; Patrick Mueller; Michele Ronnick; Beena Sood; Karen Tonso; Eileen Trzcinski; Anca Vlasopolos

Members Absent: David Oupicky; Jeffrey Potoff; Elizabeth Puscheck; Daniel Rappolee; Harley Tse; Derek Wildman

Others Present: Robert Berman, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Lisa Dobbs, Office of the Registrar; Alan Jacobson, Office of Budget, Planning and Analysis; Geraldine Johnson, Academic Pathways for Excellence; Tahrima Khanom, Office of the Academic Senate; Ambika Mathur, Interim Dean, Graduate School; Henry Robinson, Academic Pathways for Excellence; Angela Wisniewski, Office of the Academic Senate

CALL TO ORDER: Provost Brown called this regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate to order at 1:35 p.m. The meeting was held in the Bernath Auditorium in the Undergraduate Library.

I. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE

STARS – Student Tracking, Advising and Retention System

Provost Brown introduced Robert Berman, Professor of Mathematics, who developed STARS, a program that aids in the retention of students.

Mr. Berman explained that STARS has four modules: the faculty module, the student advising module, the reports module, and the administrative module. He described the features and the layout of the faculty module and alluded to the connections between the student profile and the reporting module and indicated the enhancements that are planned for the future.

Students, faculty, and advisors have access to STARS. When an individual who has been given access to the system logs on, it determines which modules should be available to the individual. Mr. Berman explained the information on the screens in the faculty module. He briefly explained the information available in the reports module that is available to advisors.

Mr. Berman responded to questions from the Senate members.

II. CONFIRMATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Bylaws of the Academic Senate gives to the Policy Committee the responsibility of electing the Parliamentarian and submitting the choice to the full Senate for confirmation. Policy Committee elected Mary Sengstock. It was MOVED and SECONDED to CONFIRM Ms. Sengstock as the Parliamentarian for the 2012-2013 academic year. PASSED.

III. CONFIRMATION OF THE VICE CHAIR

The Bylaws gives to the Policy Committee the responsibility of electing the Vice Chair of the Senate and submitting the choice to the full Senate for confirmation. 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 he or she is unable to serve. The Policy Committee elected Rodger MacArthur to serve as the Vice Chair. It was MOVED and SECONDED to CONFIRM Mr. MacArthur as the Vice Chair for the 2012-2013 academic year. PASSED.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

September 5, 2012

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the Proceedings of the Academic Senate meeting of September 5, 2012. Three typographical errors were called to the attention of the secretary. The Proceedings were APPROVED as CORRECTED.

V. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

A. Report and Announcements

1. Motion Passed at the September 5 Meeting

At the September 2012 meeting, the Academic Senate passed a motion directing the Policy Committee to determine if a motion of censure should be developed against Vice President Richard Nork and Associate Vice President Robert Kohrman because they did not provide the requested information about the budget and did not change the information in the fiscal year 2012 Budget Book.

After the September 5 Senate meeting, Mr. Romano exchanged several e-mail messages with President Gilmour. At a meeting with President Gilmour, Provost Brown, and Mr. Kohrman, it was decided that Mr. Kohrman would make some changes to the Budget Book. He changed the enrollment statistics and promised to insert a footnote to indicate when the changes were made. In addition the Policy Committee was given some assurance that there would be more transparency in the budget in the future. Mr. Nork is using a new budget analysis tool to develop the budget and to access budget information more easily. Hopefully, it will enable the administration to show where transfers are made in the budget during fiscal year.

The Policy Committee accepted the changes in the Budget Book as a measure of good faith that the administration would try to make the budget more transparent. The Policy Committee thus voted not to proceed with a recommendation of censure at this time.

2. Student Survey

Mr. Romano thanked Mr. Woodyard for his hard work developing a student survey. Mr. Woodyard is working with the Senate's Student Affairs Committee, the administration, and the Center for Urban Studies to develop a survey instrument. He

has secured funding from the administration to conduct the survey and to have it analyzed.

The Policy Committee reviewed the survey questions and recommended changes. The survey will ask students about their general experiences at Wayne State, their plans for a degree, and the University's services, courses, and resources. The survey will be conducted yearly.

3. Board of Governors Meeting

Mr. Romano reported actions taken at the Board of Governors meeting of October 3, 2012. First, Phyllis Vroom was appointed Deputy President.

Second, the administration recommended that the Board's Budget and Finance Committee approve increasing the funding for the Division of Development and Alumni Affairs from its current level of \$8 million to \$13 million. Mr. McIntyre, who is the faculty representative to the Board Committee and the Chair of the Senate's Budget Committee, asked the Board Committee to pass a motion indicating that, before such a large increase was approved, there would be consultation with the Academic Senate. The Senate had not been informed about the administration's proposal to increase the funding prior to the distribution of the agenda for the Board meeting. The Board Budget Committee agreed that the Senate should have an opportunity to review the proposal, and they postponed taking action until their next meeting on December 5.

The Policy Committee set up an ad hoc committee to review the recommendation, to get information about the plans for spending the extra money, and to get a history of how Development has proceeded in the past. The Policy Committee is interested in the correlation between the money raised and the money spent by Development as well as the amount of money the Division raises and the amount of the general fund money that it receives.

The third item of interest on the Board's agenda was the Multi-disciplinary Biomedical Research Building. This building has been in the planning stages for years. The Senate's Budget Committee has advocated for more research space because it believes the amount of research the University produces and the amount of funding it receives is correlated to the amount of research space. The University cannot hire more researchers if there is no space to house them. The Budget Committee has recommended that the University increase the space especially for biomedical research. The National Institute of Health (NIH) is the largest

granting agency to which the University has access.

The Budget Committee recommended one of two locations depending upon who would be housed in the building: (1) near Scott Hall or (2) near the basic science buildings on the main campus. The University scaled back its original plans, reducing the size and cost because it did not have the necessary funding. At one time the University was negotiating with the Henry Ford Health System (HFHS), which would contribute \$50 million to the construction of the building and in return the University would move the building closer to Henry Ford Hospital so their researchers would have easier access to it. The site chosen was that of the former Dagleish Cadillac dealership, which is three blocks north of the I-94 freeway. The HFHS decided not to participate in the project and to not give the University \$50 million. The administration did not change the location of the building.

The rationale for constructing the building is the decline in the University's national research ranking. Over the last 20 years there was an increase in research expenditures as more facilities were constructed and remodeled. Between 2002 and 2005, hiring of faculty in the Medical School slowed because space was not available. All universities report the amount of money spent on research to the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF tracks all research expenditure funding, not only funding by NSF, and ranks universities based on how much they spend. Between 2002 and 2009 the national ranking dropped from 70 to 91. The justification for the MBRB is the need for more research space to raise the University's ranking.

The building will cost \$93 million, making it the most expensive building the University has ever constructed. WSU received \$30 million from the state for its construction. The HFHS may donate \$5 million for the use of some space in the building. The administration projected that it would raise \$20 million from philanthropy. The University has spent or committed about \$6 million to the project and will bond \$60 million. If HFHS does not contribute to the cost of the building and if the University does not raise the amount expected from philanthropy, the full \$60 million in bonds will be used for this project.

The building will be about 205,000 square feet, which is a little less than one-half the size of Scott Hall. Remodeling of the Cadillac building will result in 127,000 square feet and 78,000 square feet will come from new construction. Remodeling the

Cadillac building will cost less than constructing a new building.

About 68 research groups will be housed in the building, 55 will be new groups and 13 will be current groups. The building will hold about 400 people. Over a five-year period five professors, 20 associate professors, and 30 assistant professors are to be hired.

The source of the funds to hire new faculty has not been identified, but the Medical School has a number of vacant faculty positions. Thirty-five million dollars has been budgeted for start-up funds. It is projected that when the building is fully occupied, the University will generate about \$15 million in new funding. Currently the School of Medicine has about \$33 million in NIH research grants that are primarily RO1 and R21. It is proposed that 55% of the indirect costs for anyone housed in the building be used to pay off the bonds issued to construct the building.

The overriding theme of the research to be housed in the building is translational research, which is a target for NIH funding. NIH is interested in proposals that show a direct connection between a basic science project and a clinical outcome. Some of the faculty in the Clinical and Translational Science Department will be in the new building. Other themes for the building are bio-informatics, biomedical engineering, cardiovascular, diabetes, and systems biology. Mr. Romano showed slides of the physical layout of the building and the areas where the various units would be housed.

Mr. Romano expressed the hope that the MBRB would increase the University's research ranking. The construction of the building and the hiring of the researchers are long-term projects and will not raise the research ranking immediately.

Mr. Parrish was concerned about the vulnerability of the general fund relative to the cost of the building. If HFHS were not to contribute the \$5 million and the University were unable to raise \$20 million through philanthropy, that money would have to be bonded. In the future the majority of the general fund will not be from the state appropriation. The major source will be tuition, and undergraduate students pay the majority of the tuition. While using undergraduate tuition to underwrite a building for the Medical School may be justifiable, the University should be prepared to explain why it is important. Mr. Parrish recommended that the Senate's Budget Committee spell out the vulnerability of the general fund to the project.

Mr. Romano said that the Board has approved a business plan and has identified the sources of funding and how the money will be spent. However, the Senate Budget Committee could look at the plans.

Mr. Avrutsky asked how the cost of the proposed building compared with the cost of other buildings. Mr. Romano said that the cost of any building is not always clear. The cost includes the building as well as other things in the building, such as the furnishings. The \$93 million includes the building, the furnishings, and 10% for the cost overrun reserve.

Mr. Reynolds asked if new degree programs were planned in conjunction with the research activities. Mr. Romano said there was no mention of that in the information given to the Board of Governors.

In response to a question, Mr. Romano explained that by definition translational science is multidisciplinary. As an example, four areas of research might be needed to develop a drug: a chemist to make the drug, a biochemist to look at the drug mechanism, a structural biologist to see how the drug interacts with its target, and a clinician to see how the drug is used in animal or human studies. In addition, some projects might need bioinformatics to analyze clinical studies.

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Brown reviewed the areas on which he focused his attention since he joined the University 26 months ago. One was improving student success. Another was increasing the accountability of Deans and academic administrators by measuring outcomes as well as transparency about issues related to the budget and the master plan. He also wanted to bring about a renaissance with regard to the academic vitality of the University by hiring new tenure track faculty, hiring clusters of faculty, focusing on specific themes in the areas of health care, energy, transportation, and technology, invigorating research, and reallocating faculty lines from colleges that are not successful in hiring. The Provost is focusing on enhancing the social sciences and doing strategic hiring in that area.

The Provost is recruiting directors for the Office for Teaching and Learning and for the Cohn-Haddow Center for Jewish Studies, and a new Dean for the School of Business Administration. Depending on the outcome of the review by the Huron Consulting Group, there may be a new Dean of the Graduate School. The College of Nursing and the Law School are being reviewed this year. The Center for Urban Studies and the Developmental Disabilities Institute are being

evaluated. A series of town hall meetings will be held to hear opinions about the structure of the Graduate School.

Mr. Romano interjected to encourage faculty to attend the town halls and forums to express their opinions and concerns. Faculty often complain that they are not part of the decision-making process. Mr. Romano urged them to use the opportunities that are available. Whether the Graduate School is separate or combined with the Division of Research is an important question and it behooves the faculty to attend the town halls and make their voices heard.

The Provost continued with his report. The Huron Consulting Group's report on the Division of Research has been released and is posted on the University's website. The draft report of the On-line Task Force has been given to the Policy Committee. Ahmad Ezzeddine, the Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs, and Sandra Yee, Dean of the Library System, will meet with the Policy Committee to discuss the report.

As announced at the October 3 meeting of the Board of Governors, due to President Gilmour's health issues, Phyllis Vroom has been appointed Deputy President. Provost Brown is delighted with the appointment. He and Professor Vroom have worked very well over the past two years. She served as Acting Provost prior to Provost Brown's assuming the position of Provost and she served as Acting President prior to Allan Gilmour's assuming the presidency. She was a good mentor to the Provost and has a calm leadership style.

During her years as Dean of Social Work, she and the Provost advanced the cause of the School. Professor Vroom was a member of the initial retention committee and she helped to advance initiatives to improve student success. She is a passionate supporter of Wayne State and of the City of Detroit. She is an academician and will support the Provost and the academic mission of the University. The Provost noted that President Gilmour has not yet articulated exactly what Professor Vroom's responsibilities will be. The Provost looks forward to working with her as the University continues to improve retention and student services and the many issues regarding faculty affairs.

The Provost took questions from the floor.

Ms. Feathers asked the Provost if his office had gathered the information that a Senate member had requested at the last Senate meeting, specifically the breakdown of enrollment for both undergraduate and graduate students, such as the average age, the average ACT score, and students' residency. The request included data showing whether the University's

recruiting efforts outside the southeast Michigan area were attracting students, how many offers were made to students, and how many students accepted the offers. Also, the member asked, how many students live in campus housing. Provost Brown will provide the information.

Mr. Petrov pointed out that while the University will be hiring faculty who apply for biomedical research grants, there are groups that perform fundamental research that is well funded. Those groups could use additional funding, in fact, they have been promised new funding for fundamental research. He pointed out that faculty in the Department of Physics have received more research support than faculty who are doing translational research.

The Provost addressed the hiring of faculty. The College of Education has hired faculty in Kinesiology and for their programs in autism and rehabilitation. With the appointment of new Department Chairs in the College of Engineering, searches for hiring new faculty have been authorized. Faculty lines have been moved from departments that have been unable to hire faculty to other departments who are hiring. The vitality of the University, Provost Brown said, is its faculty. If hiring proceeds as he would like, at the end of the current academic year, the University will have hired 169 new faculty.

Mr. Reynolds said that with the decline of the student population in the Detroit area, he believes the University needs to increase its collaboration with community colleges and have more on-line courses. These require additional technology. Have these issues been discussed? The Provost said that while money has

been allocated for start-up packages for faculty, the University does not have enough funds. The colleges are doing strategic hiring. If an applicant for a faculty position is outstanding, the University will hire that person.

VII. PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Academic Senate received the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meetings of August 20, 2012, and September 10, 2012. They are attached to these Senate Proceedings as Appendix A.

September 10, 2012

Referring to item #7 in the Proceedings of September 10, about the Policy Committee's recommendation for the renewal of the charter of the Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, Provost Brown reported that the recommendation of the Vice President for Research was consistent with the Policy Committee's recommendation. The Policy Committee recommended that the charter be renewed for three years and the Vice President recommended that it be renewed for 3.5 years.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis J. Romano
President, Academic Senate