

**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE**

Official Proceedings

November 1, 2023

Members Present: Mark Kornbluh, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Linda Beale, President, Academic Senate; Joan Beaudoin; Juliann Binienda; Cathryn Bock; Pynthia Caffee; Stephen Calkins; Fernando Charro; Wei Chen; Erin Comartin; Daisy Cordero; Alan Dombkowski; Damecia Donahue; Sujay Dutta; Jessika Edgar; Brian Edwards; Erica Edwards; Haidong Gu; Weilong Hao; Marisa Henderson; Lenuel Hernandez; Sean Hickey; renée hoogland; Arun Iyer; Christine Jackson; Kristen Kaszeta; Satinder Kaur; Pramod Khosla; Chris Kleithermes; Christine Knapp; Shelly Jo Kraft; Jennifer Lewis; Cynthia Merritt; Georgia Michalopoulou; Bharati Mitra; Ramzi Mohammad; David Moss; Paul Neirink; Rachel Pawlowski; Sean Peters; Richard Pineau; Kami Pothukuchi; Tamme Quinn-Grzebyk; Shauna Reeves; Robert Reynolds; Joseph Roche; Brad Roth; Ali Salamey; Andrea Sankar; Gina Shreve; Naida Simon; Cheryl Somers; Elizabeth Stoycheff; Wassim Tarraf; Ellen Tisdale; Stephanie Tong; Nicole Wheeler; Hossein Yarandi; Dongxiao Zhu

Members Absent with Notice: Heather Abraham; Suresh Balasubramanian; Maria Bykhovskaia; Stephanie Chastain; Stephen Chrisomalis; Paul Dubinsky; Ewa Golebiowska; Michael Horn; Feng Lin; Lisa O'Donnell; Noreen Rossi; Le Yi Wang; Jeffery Withey

Members Absent: Chris Collins; David Edelman; Cynthia McNeill; Gamal Mostafa; Erika Robinson

Guests: Ali Abolmaali; Danielle Aubert; Klaus Bryant-Friedrich; Rob Davenport; Kelly Dormer; Darin Ellis; David Massaron; David McGrann; Mary Paquette-Abt; Sarah Schrag; Rob Thompson; Nancy Welter

I. APPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the proceedings of the Academic Senate plenary session of October 4, 2023. PASSED.

II. GREETINGS FROM DEAN OF ENGINEERING ALI ABOLMAALI

Abolmaali has had the honor and pleasure of serving as the dean of the College of Engineering since August 1, 2022. His path was clearly defined to increase enrollment, research, and ranking. The college has eight academic departments with over 50 degree programs and is one of the most comprehensive colleges of engineering in the country. The charge is to move forward with full thrust to bring it to the highest level of

excellence.

When Abolmaali became dean, college enrollment was 3368. Over 300 students graduated last year, and this year enrollment was positive at 3468 students as of Census Day. Increasing enrollment was a priority of his first-year efforts. Another priority is research, with an implemented research incentive program to reward faculty for increased research. Although research has increased by 14%, with approximately 140 faculty and nearly 3500 students, there need to be further increases. The college is working to hire top-notch faculty to add to the strength of the current faculty and to spur research. We have one new undergraduate program in general engineering that allows students to select minors in many areas of engineering as well as law, business and entrepreneurship: that program has been very successful this year.

Considerable effort has also been put into the master's program. There are now five new online master's programs. Engineering has one of the highest numbers of new master's enrollments this year. There are two advisors that recruit master's students, one of which was recently promoted to manager of recruitment and enrollment. The associate dean for research and other members of the research team assist with that. We worked with administration to convert the application system from EngineeringCAS back to Slate. Last year, prospects received waiver codes for the application fee through social media and event promotions. Thanks to the administration, this year all application fees for graduate admissions have been waived.

The college strives to provide the best customer service with Abolmaali personally responding to students who approach him through the social media posts. There were many efforts to connect with the applicants and with those who were admitted. Every semester, college information sessions were held: most were online because 90% of our master's students are international. Admissions staff present the college's strengths, including its location in downtown Detroit, which is one of the tech capitals of the world. Open houses are held with different breakout sessions in each area, and faculty and advisors participate to answer students' questions. They anticipate an open house event to be held this week to have more than 500 prospective students in attendance. Newly admitted master's students can attend Dialogue with the Dean online with Abolmaali answering questions. They can also enroll through that process because advisors are in place to meet with them in a separate breakout room. The university can enroll international students before they arrive in the United States. Q&A sessions for continuing enrollment are being held for new and continuing students as well as for new engineering graduate students with a representative from the Office of International Students and Scholars present to respond to questions. Newly admitted students

can also join virtual drop-in Q&A sessions.

The new online master's programs are being heavily advertised and marketed on social media (LinkedIn and Instagram). In the fall of 2023, engineering had the highest number of applications at 1376 with 887 admitted students and 164 new master's students. Although this was the highest number of applicants over the last four years, the yield was still not there. There were some issues with the admission system, so engineering has worked with C&IT to resolve that issue to ensure that applicants receive admission letters as soon as possible. This is important for students in engineering, particularly international students, because they receive admission letters and I-20 forms that are required to obtain an F-1 visa. We need to be much more competitive on that front in order to increase our yield rate (yield rates: winter 2021 56%; fall 2021 21%; winter 2022 39%; fall 2022 24%, winter 23 23%; fall 2023 18%). These statistics are not entirely clear, since the highest yield (winter 2021 at 56%) occurred when there were fewer applications and admits (81). Despite the low yield for fall 2023, engineering still brought in the most master's students. Efforts will continue to increase master's enrollments. Abolmaali shared examples of posts on social media including Master of Science in Computer Science: Artificial Intelligence, Master of Science in Robotics: Industrial Automation, Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering: Energy Storage and Vehicle Science. Admissions criteria have not been reduced, but the focus has shifted to student satisfaction.

Not only have we been working on enrollment, but we are also working to increase research expenditures. That is a factor in increasing the college's ranking and attracting top-notch faculty. The university generally provides strong start-up packages for faculty. It is important to recruit the best faculty for best performance.

Beale asked whether there was a particular program or a group of programs that seem to be attracting more students to engineering. Abolmaali confirmed that computer science is the program with the highest number of applications. Setting that aside, the other areas of engineering have experienced similar increases.

Reynolds (Engineering) commented that he recently attended a meeting in which statistics about engineering enrollment and graduation rates were presented. It struck him that the retention rate is high for the students who enroll. A very small number of students leave the

program. Retention is a key issue that we have been focusing on successfully. Also, there is a new computer science online program in artificial intelligence with double-digit enrollment of students. Faculty are exploring developing an undergraduate correspondent online program to go with it.

Cordero (Financial Aid) asked about scholarships for engineering students. Abolmaali explained they award many scholarships at the undergraduate level; however, at the graduate level there are not many available. An engineering clinic was established last year for master's students, though it is not yet fully functional. It is modeled after the medical school in which students go through two years of training and two years of hospital rotation. The engineering clinic is like an engineering firm within the university, with projects brought in from industry for master's students to work on. A majority of the funding for that project goes to the students as graduate research assistantships.

Shreve (Engineering) asked what advice Abolmaali could share with the Senate on developing online graduate programs. He responded that the majority of the curricula were designed with industry. For example, the vehicle science and energy storage program is a collaboration with Tata Motors, the semiconductor engineering is a collaboration with Tata and Ford, and construction management was developed working with the construction industry. The majority of the programs were designed to respond directly to current and future industry needs. For example, the college plans to add vertical aerospace engineering with electrification for vertical takeoff and landing for aircraft. That program is not currently available in any institution. It will be developed with Eaton Aerospace, which provides equipment to Boeing and Airbus. The goal is also to establish a center that will support research from that industry.

III. RESOLUTION APPROVING REVISIONS TO MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL POLICY

The current medical withdrawal policy is archaic and punishes students who get sick. If students get sick early in the semester, they can receive a full tuition refund, while getting sick in the middle of the semester means they get only a partial refund or getting sick towards

semester end results in no refund. Simon (Office of the Provost) met with the Medical Withdrawal Committee, Office of Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar, advisors, and administrators to develop needed revisions.

Dormer (Assoc. Dir., Strategic Academic Initiatives) noted that the current policy is oddly referenced in a number of places, and only exists in the tuition and fee regulations approved by the Board of Governors. The goal was to draft a more robust written policy that outlines the application and review processes and establishes clarity around responsibility and requirements for review, including deadlines for decisions and an appeals process. The goal is to publish the policy to direct students, staff, and faculty and to provide greater transparency for students in crisis. The links included in the policy will be active if and when the revisions to the policy go into effect.

Simon added that the current medical withdrawal policy requires a student to withdraw from all courses, whereas the proposed change allows students to withdraw on a class-by-class basis. All medical withdrawals need medical documentation from an M.D. or a health care professional. If medical withdrawal is granted, all tuition is refunded to the sources from which it was paid. Medical withdrawals are not noted on transcripts. It is expected that a webpage on the websites of the Dean of Students Office and Office of the Provost will provide easy access to a medical withdrawal link for initiating the process. If the Medical Withdrawal Committee denies a student's request, the student can appeal to the Office of the Provost, with a record kept in MAXIENT. If a student misses the deadline, the Office of the Registrar will have discretion to allow a withdrawal based on professional judgment.

Somers (Education) questioned how the policy interfaces with the proper use of the incomplete. For example, College of Education faculty tend to use incompletes for students doing well who encounter a medical situation. Can they finish the next semester? Simon explained the incomplete is between the faculty and the student. Sometimes a student is so sick that they may not be able to complete an incomplete within the 12-month period, and then it changes to an F. The result of a medical withdrawal is as if the student was never in the course—the course is not included at all on the transcript.

Pineau (CLAS) asked how these changes will be announced and why these changes will not be effective for the winter 2024 term. Simon responded that it will require a training period for advisors who generally are

the first to suggest a medical withdrawal. Academic affairs staff will do the training. If a student falls ill before the changes go into effect, an exception can be made to apply this policy, but a clear change to the tuition refund policy is expected to go before the Board of Governors as part of the tuition and fee regulations in June. She added that the financial aid office will track classes that are removed through medical withdrawal in determining satisfactory academic progress, and it will take some time to work out a system.

Caffee (University Advising Center) noted her appreciation for the revisions. In the past she has had students who had to wait a long time for a final decision, creating new problems when it went into another semester. She asked whether there is also a deadline for processing an appeal, and Simon noted that it is 30 days.

The resolution approving revisions to the medical withdrawal policy was unanimously passed by a show of hands.

IV. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Policy Committee's statutory role in reviewing university centers and institutes is an important function. Regrettably, prior provosts and VPs for research had tended to let reviews and even initial charterings of centers and institutes lag. In addition, the reviews of existing centers/institutes under the VP for research (VPR) sometimes lacked an in-depth review of changes that had occurred over time or the recognition that new inputs were needed. One example is the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics (CMMG) which is a cross-college center (CIAC II) under the VPR. In recent years CMMG lost through attrition most of its connections with schools/colleges other than medicine and had not vigorously sought T32 or larger institutional center-focused grants in addition to the funding that individual PIs were regularly seeking. As a result, in this review Policy and interim VPR Tim Stemmler recommended a shorter-term rechartering with expectations for improvements in these areas. Another part of the effort is to ensure adequate budget reporting and reasonable and consistent university support for expanded grant-writing efforts expected from centers. The VPR will now play a role in using indirect cost recovery/facilities and administration funds (ICR/F&A) to provide a centralized center/institute support staff to assist with broad, center-focused grants. In this fall term, Policy and VPR have been able to work with directors of the centers and planned centers to approve renewals or

original charters for Merrill-Palmer Skillman Institute, CMMG, and the Silberstein Institute for Brain Research. This is good progress that should auger well for increased grant funding and faculty work within these centers and institutes.

There is good news on another front: the medical school has passed its accreditation with flying colors—eight years and a clean slate.

Another important issue that the Policy Committee has been working on for some months is the Foreign Influence and Conflict of Commitment Policy. This is a policy needed to satisfy more rigorous disclosure requirements set forth by the federal government under presidential memoranda and NIH and other agency guidelines. It is being established in a way that is intended to protect faculty members doing sensitive research that may involve foreign partners or taking on funded or voluntary positions made possible by governments that are of concern to the United States, such as China or North Korea. The Policy Committee was concerned that the initial draft of the formal university policy did not adequately define the types of foreign relationships that must be reported. We are continuing to work with the Office of General Counsel and VPR to achieve a clear definition and a FAQ that will provide helpful examples to faculty, as well as corresponding changes to the annual consulting form. We have also emphasized the importance of clarity in the communications sent to faculty about the policy.

Policy had an initial discussion about grade appeals policies and referred the matter to Faculty Affairs and Curriculum and Instruction for in-depth consideration. The timing is not clear, but this should come back to the plenary for a full discussion and vote on a recommended resolution.

The university is establishing a new parking committee, and the Policy Committee was pleased to provide faculty and academic staff appointees to help in the consideration of issues.

Senate members received in the distribution for this meeting the charges to the standing committees of the Senate, so that all members would be aware of what Policy has asked each of the hard-working standing committees to consider. These committees are the core “work-horses” of the Senate, where perspectives of the members from different schools/colleges and divisions can be heard and considered. Often there are topics that overlap committees, and the Policy Committee tried to

indicate that in the charges. The hope is that members will take these charges seriously as the committees continue their work this year. Ideally, the standing committees’ consideration will initiate ideas and changes that come up to Policy and may be referred for further consideration to other committees and eventually be brought to the plenary session if appropriate for a resolution for action to be shared with the administration.

The topics that were raised in the October 4 plenary discussion have been reviewed and will continue to be consulted by the Policy Committee in planning. Of course, that was a rather wide-ranging set of points with Senate members and guests/liaisons typing in short or long comments about their own concerns and/or concerns that were raised in the breakout sessions. The expectation is that the plenary may conduct further breakout sessions on appropriate topics (though not at every meeting): it will be important to ensure that there is time at the same meeting for major themes from breakouts to be brought before the full plenary for responses from any administrative presenter, as planned for today’s facilities discussion.

A final announcement: The hearing panel election is ongoing but will conclude on Monday. A reminder email will be sent later today. Members who have not yet had an opportunity to vote should vote by Monday.

In the proceedings of Policy Committee of October 7 there was a discussion of the promotion and tenure factors document. Reynolds asked whether that document is available for Senate members since some are actively involved in the promotion and tenure process right now. Provost Kornbluh responded that this document was a result of a 3N committee that met last spring and summer that included representatives from the administration, the Senate, and the union. There is a draft, and it is now being discussed between the administration and the union to make sure that we are happy with it, and then we will bring it back to share with the Senate. The primary change is to enlarge the types of activities that can be considered in the existing factors to include, for example, publicly oriented scholarship, community engagement, and activities that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. There is no change to what must be considered. After this comes out, colleges and departments will be asked to consider their own guidelines. It does not go into effect this year, since this year’s promotions are already underway.

V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The search committee for the vice president for research position is moving forward with the search. There are airport interviews early next week, and shortly after that campus visits for the candidates will be scheduled.

Faculty, academic staff, and everyone on this campus is cognizant of the impact of events in the Middle East on members of our community. On an hourly basis, those of us in the administration are responding to concerns that come from individual students, individual faculty, and members of the community. This has created tension and turmoil on many college campuses but on our diverse campus where so many students are directly affected, there has been an attitude of civility and polite engagement. The administration will continue reminding students of the services that support them: Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE) continue to have open hours and services to help students cope with the emotional impact of these issues. As part of this effort, an email from the Academic Senate and Provost asked faculty and academic staff to be understanding of the potential impact of this global situation on students' progress this semester. The university will also schedule intellectual events to help students understand the underlying history and issues. Roth (CLAS) was part of a panel dealing with free speech today that had been scheduled before these events—a panel that became highly relevant in light of the ongoing situation. The political science department will also hold a panel on issues in Bernath Auditorium on November 13.

Here and elsewhere, discussions have also centered around questions of safety. We have heard Jewish students' and their family members' concerns about the rise of antisemitism. We have heard Muslim and Middle Eastern students' and their family members' concerns about the rise of Islamophobia. We have tried to respond to each of these concerns individually, usually with a phone call. There has been an increase in the visible presence of the campus police (they usually do not park as many cars on the quad as they do these days): they are there to make sure everything is okay. Our police are a licensed police force, and our chief is briefed by Homeland Security, which ensures that the administration will know if there are credible concerns about security issues in the city or on campus. We continue to reassure members of the community that we are taking their concerns about safety seriously. People who feel strongly on both sides of the issue have been

critical of the university for not taking stronger positions on international issues, but our administration, like that at most campuses, has concluded that issuing pronouncements on international issues is not the role for university administration, especially on a diverse campus. Our focus will remain on trying to support the things we do well, which is to help people understand issues and to provide services for people who need additional services.

Cordero commented that in the financial aid office, she always asks students if they feel safe on this campus. The majority of students say they feel safer here than if they attended any other university. Whether it is daytime or evening they say, "I feel safe in this campus." That is a credit to us, and she agrees with the students; we are doing something right.

Kornbluh thanked Cordero for her comment, noting that this is a significant subject of discussion. Every university is required by federal law under the Cleary Act to report a large set of crimes that take place on campus, in the vicinity or to members of the campus community. The federal website includes crime statistics, so it is possible to compare Wayne State to MSU and U-M. To be clear, there is no comparison: WSU has 1/20th the crimes that take place on those large college campuses. This is important for future enrollment, but it is necessary to tell that story to prospective students. One of the reasons it is important to bring potential recruits to campus is that coming here and seeing the campus erases the prejudices and ideas about Detroit they may have had.

President Espy has established a search committee to look for a chief of staff who will serve as a university relations officer. That person will be over the government relations office, the Board of Governors relationship, and marketing and communications. Many of us have noted the marketing failures and desires for better marketing. Clearly, Espy has recognized the importance of these functions that need to work closely with her on her external relations functions. As the only faculty member serving on this small search committee, Beale noted that this is an important restructuring to make sure that all of those functions that relate to how the university presents itself and its successes to others are working together well. Hopefully, this will address some of the concerns that many faculty and academic staff have expressed about the need to tell Wayne State's story well.

PRIORITIES

Introduction: Professor Gina Shreve, co-chair of the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee (FSST), noted that FSST is one of the eight working committees of the Academic Senate for which the charges for this academic year are listed on the document distributed to Senate members. The Policy Committee suggested that FSST create an accessibility ad hoc working group, and accessibility is also an important part of the Senate’s DEI interests. That accessibility working group includes Mitra (Medicine) as chair, Simon, Dubinsky (Law) and Beaudoin (Library and Information Science). FSST also has a working group focused on other facilities issues (upkeep, HVAC, etc.), and this semester’s two initial meetings and this plenary discussion are focused on those issues, given the number of concerns that have been brought to FSST’s attention. FP&M AVP Davenport has worked with the committee on these concerns. He came to Wayne State in 2019, and has been working to implement organizational changes that will allow facilities personnel to work more efficiently and gradually move the campus to a preventative maintenance approach that will avoid many of the breakdown situations that can make work difficult.

Presentation on Preventative and Deferred Maintenance and Campus Master Plan: Davenport presented a number of slides to update the Senate on operations, capital planning, and the campus plan. The university formerly had a centralized operational maintenance model that led to inefficient handling of tasks. That is now finally being converted to a region and district arrangement that treats the 129 million square foot, 200-acre campus as having six key districts, with the assistance of a committee to advise on the transition. Within the next 30 to 60 days, a 24/7 call center that has operated successfully in pilot form will become fully operable. The call center, similar to the C&IT call center, will generally eliminate the role of the campus police as after-hours responders to facilities issues. The goal is to ensure that a person with a facilities request can speak with a live person at any time of day or day of week so that that person can dispatch the request to the proper individual.

Work orders submitted by members of the campus community are important for managing facilities work, and data collected from work orders helps to determine necessary changes: it may show, for example, that the division has not handled requests well in certain districts. As responses to submitted work orders become more reliable, the community—both facilities workers

and those submitting work orders—will be more supportive of the new system. The goal is to ensure that work orders are completed within 30 days, unless it is an emergency that requires more rapid closure. Importantly, work order activity is up as people have become more aware of the process; however, completion rates remain unsatisfactory since the goal is 98% complete within the 30-day expected timeline. The good news is that the division now will have the data to determine where improvement is needed.

Preventative maintenance (PM) work orders are an important part of the new system. They are generated automatically to ensure that the appropriate team inspects equipment and handles required routine PM at appropriate times. The PM closure rate should be 100% within 30 days, but we have not yet accomplished the complete shift to a campus-wide PM approach. FP&M still must respond to situations that arise because of the prior lack of a PM approach while moving toward a full PM approach. This asks for a big commitment from everyone in the department, especially the skilled tradespeople and custodians who must do the repair work that has to be done immediately while beginning to do the standard PM functions that will eventually eliminate most of that non-scheduled repair work. It is slowly beginning to take effect, but this will require a two- to three-year cycle before the university will have a well-oiled PM machine.

Another topic worth noting here is the building coordinator model. It was first developed in 1987, officially chartered in 1999, last refreshed in 2006, and currently under review. The division had established a steering committee, but after discussions at Policy and FSST that will be broadened to be more inclusive. The building coordinators mainly help with communication about building issues, serving as liaisons between FP&M and building occupants. That liaison role will continue, but it needs updated to meet today’s needs and be as impactful as possible. For example, Davenport learned recently the kinds of functions the police department takes on after regular business hours, not the least of which is fielding alarms on lab freezers and dispatching the proper individual to address the problem. Ideally, those calls and notifications in the future will go through the call center, but there is a significant learning curve to reach that point. This is an opportunity to refine the delivery of services.

Reynolds noted that his classes run from 4 to 9 p.m. What should be the process after hours if, for example, the room’s thermostat is at 99 degrees, making the heat

unbearable for the class? Davenport responded that currently the call center is available from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m., but after 5 p.m. the police department continues to respond to calls. Eventually, the 24/7 call center will take those calls on weekdays, weekends, and holidays.

Edwards (Medicine) noted that Scott Hall has a custodian that works only one or two hours per day due to physical infirmities. Edwards suggested to facilities that it might work better to move the various custodians working in Scott Hall to different floors on different weeks, but he was told the custodians are assigned to specific floors, with no flexibility for such schedules. Davenport explained that new hires can be given new shifts, but the division cannot simply move custodial staff to different areas, a challenge resulting from the collective bargaining agreement. There are discussions about developing flexibility and seems to be an openness to address it, so the division will continue to work on that strategy.

Roche (Pharmacy) noted that facilities policies sometimes create hurdles rather than helping. The pharmacy building has issues with flooding in the loading dock area—a chronic issue that affects deliveries. Roche suggested acquisition of a simple pump to remove water from the loading dock, but the response was that FP&M and not the college would have to take such action. Why cannot FP&M partner with colleges and departments to allow them some autonomy to handle certain things by themselves so that the problem is fixed? Davenport noted that FP&M had addressed that particular issue during the summer, and he will follow up to confirm that it is now fixed. Generally, it is FP&M's duty to address all needs concerning the built environment. The problems should not persist as they did in the past: the goal is that this new PM approach will stop those chronic, unaddressed issues and prevent development of future problems. Allow us to work on the faculty and staff's behalf to solve these problems.

As many know, the campus need for capital for deferred maintenance is over \$700 million, in various categories of needs (elevators, HVAC, etc.). The 5-year capital plan and the backlog of projects review has led to about \$100 million of urgent need that must be addressed. There is a robust plan and a reinvigorated relationship with the consultant that helped develop the earlier set of recommendations. The first order of business is to establish appropriate committees with schools, colleges, and divisions for discussions and planning.

Discussion of Breakout Questions/Issues: The Senate broke into small focus groups with FSST breakout leaders to discuss concerns and summarize questions around three areas: (i) soft services (grounds maintenance and custodial services), (ii) sustainability and the campus plan, and (iii) hard services (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and painting).

One of the soft services focus groups raised issues around cleanliness and upkeep as problems across campus, such as Old Main, which has dirty classrooms and bathrooms as well as office spaces with dirty walls and chipped paint. It does not seem that individuals should have to report these cleanliness and basic upkeep problems through a call center. Some people are even purchasing their own cleaning supplies to clean classrooms before class. Further, it is not clear how accountability of the building coordinator positions works—i.e., how will building coordinators and the call system triage requests?

Davenport confirmed his awareness of the challenges at Old Main. A walk-through completed yesterday revealed basic deficiencies, so there will be a cleaning blitz at Old Main this weekend and at FAB the weekend after. Work orders should not be necessary for this basic service. The goal is to be on top of things so that a work order would not be needed. As discussed earlier, though, FP&M is undergoing a paradigm shift, so patience will be necessary (and appreciated) as the transition unfolds. There are real issues, but there is now a plan to address them. After the cleaning blitz, the goal is to maintain an appropriate level of cleaning services. The whiteboards are another issue, since the non-toxic feature in some markers have less alcohol and a longer drying time resulting in a sticky surface. That causes the erasers to get sticky and merely smudge the boards. FP&M is working with procurement to create a standard to ensure the right markers are ordered. Again, the goal will be to clean those boards well or replace them if they cannot be cleaned.

As for the building coordinators, it is hoped that refreshing the charter will introduce a different means of accountability, which will be developed by the steering committee as we go through that process. The partnership between the building coordinators and the call center is one that must work well, so the process will be a part of the revised charter.

The other soft services focus group noted the need for more custodians with 24-hour service and specific instructions so that custodians and department heads are

clear about expectations. There needs to be a more standardized system that makes sense for the way classrooms work: for example, the education building does not have a trash bin in every classroom. Members noted that increasing custodial pay could alleviate some of these issues.

Davenport responded that he would address the trash can issue. The university has had an open requisition for custodians for most of the year—i.e., the posting does not close because about 10% of the positions are always open (10 to 12 open custodial positions out of about 120 across campus). Of the six scheduled interviews recently, only four showed and only two of the four met the qualifications. Custodian pay was increased earlier this year. There is a cleaning matrix that sets forth the items cleaned by custodians and the frequency of cleaning. A problem faced by FP&M is that it is unable to post to its own website but must work through the university communications office.

Temperature control in many campus buildings was the main issue of one of the hard services focus groups. In some buildings like Scott Hall, dysfunction is seasonal, but in other buildings it is random (Nursing sometimes reaches 100 degrees). Building maintenance needs exist across campus, such as mold in ceilings, falling ceiling tiles in Education, and frayed/taped carpets in AAB. What is the campus plan for historic buildings like Education in terms of preservation and maintenance?

Davenport explained that Education is one of the more challenging buildings for HVAC problems, though they exist all over campus. This is a result of deferred maintenance and legacy systems that need to be replaced. Biological Sciences was built in 1989, and the building automation system is antiquated (pneumatic rather than digital): the university has funding to replace the entire system, a project that will begin soon. This situation is replicated across the campus. Replacing the components that need to be replaced will save energy, leading to significant cost savings. Manoogian is example where cleaning duct work solved an air quality problem; the same was true at Scott Hall. FP&M is getting to these important things: the division is as concerned about indoor air quality as the Senate members. At this time, our HVAC systems seem to work properly to prevent excessive humidity that can cause excessive mold growth. There is a plan to change carpet, paint common areas, and replace furniture. Where furniture is specific to a school/college/division, more discussion may be needed to address those things. By and large, the public areas are being addressed.

The other hard services focus group reiterated the need to address humidity levels in buildings, especially where there are the collections of historic materials. Additionally, only two light bulbs are currently functioning in a Manoogian office for which a work order was placed over a year ago. Other Manoogian lighting issues include lights going off in classrooms still in use. Bathrooms on campus are also a concern. There are auto flush toilets that do not flush while others flush three times. Another question is whether the campus harvests greywater to use for flushing toilets.

Davenport confirmed we do not harvest greywater, but there is an opportunity for an energy sustainability program. We have installed bio soils in different areas around campus. A lighting retrofit was done in Manoogian over a year ago, but it is possible some offices were missed. Staff will check on that. Lightning represents a savings opportunity across campus. Little has been done in the last decade, yet it is an area where the most meaningful energy can be achieved. FP&M is working on a plan for retrofits across campus. Admittedly, motion light systems in some buildings can be troublesome (i.e., Mike Ilitch School of Business and Chemistry), but they usually can be resolved. Battery operated auto flush features sometimes fail. If one is not working, a workorder should be submitted and it will be changed. Custodians do check for this, but it can sometimes go unnoticed.

The breakout group discussing sustainability and the master plan noted Wayne State has a reputation as not being inviting to the community. The group had several questions around this community interaction. How does the master plan address this reputation? Does the master plan to address campus safety? Is the cultural corridor idea still viable?

Davenport responded that work is continuing on the cultural corridor, including a temporary set up on the Kresge side of Gullen Mall, but we have to wait until spring for that program to be installed. When Davenport came to WSU at the end of 2018, the plans for the new arena were being finalized. Shortly thereafter he learned that the Woodbridge neighborhood was not happy with the university's approach to building the arena. We hope to avoid that negative response in the future with a steering committee, proper engagement across the university, and clear communication about changes. People have generally said that they feel safe on campus. Davenport took an extensive walk at night to assess campus lighting and calculated that relatively few lights

are out (about 120 out of thousands). There are some areas that need attention. For example, the courtyard between Atchison and Ghafari has no lighting and a broken gate. Additionally, there is a card access project, and Davenport serves on that steering committee. We currently have multiple platforms, so the goal is to adopt a standard platform allowing quick and effective lockdown of all buildings. The potential camera upgrade is a separate initiative, not part of the campus plan.

Kornbluh confirmed that one of the priorities is to bring more businesses to occupy retail spaces on campus. A consultant recently advised about revitalizing the community in the area around the campus. We can work with the storefronts just outside of campus as well as the empty storefronts covered by the Corvias agreement.

Edgar (CFPCA) noted that she finds communication lacking, especially about the campus master plan. For example, as a member of the arts community, she had not heard about the cultural corridor plan nor whether the art department was ever involved in the conversation. There is a failure of communication on campus, so it is especially hard to have good communication with the broader community.

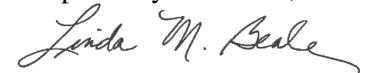
Davenport acknowledged that communication needs to be improved. The corridor project is a large project discussed through the master planning process that took place pre-pandemic. There have been changes with Midtown Inc. and a number of funding issues that have complicated full implementation. The part of the project that will take place is a flower bed in front of Kresge. A sign can be placed to indicate that the current bed is temporary and include information about the cultural garden plan and expected completion dates.

Wayne State has been a major institution in the city of Detroit, but U-M and MSU now have a larger presence in the city. From a marketing standpoint, we are an urban serving R1 institution. The prior master plan called for further consolidation, but a question under discussion is whether that would have the result of encouraging these other institutions to take more space in the city. Kornbluh explained we are talking about consolidating buildings that no longer work for us, so they are not seen as spaces at risk of being taken over by other universities. The administration does consider what the other two research universities are doing. On the one hand, Detroit needs all the help it can get, and there is real value in having both institutions investing in Detroit. On the other hand, WSU is concerned that it may be overshadowed on both sides. The MSU

relationship with Henry Ford is apparently moving forward on a very large scale. That development will not go forward without big tax advantages from the city to the project, so WSU is discussing with Henry Ford Health about ways to continue our relationship with that institution. The MSU-Henry Ford development does not have to be a loss: if the space on the other side of the freeway between WSU and Henry Ford Health turns into a vibrant part of the community, it could be advantageous for the campus. We need to figure out how to make it a winning situation. The U-M development downtown is more complicated, and it is not clear that the projected building will house what they have suggested, since their faculty will not want to move from Ann Arbor to Detroit for that purpose. Wayne State has tried to collaborate with them, but they do not seem interested. President Espy considers that she has a responsibility to work with the larger community and the city. These additional issues, however, are not really relevant to the space consolidation envisioned in the master plan.

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Beale
President, Academic Senate