

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
September 11, 2023

Present: D. Aubert; L. Beale; S. Chrisomalis; r. hoogland; P. Khosla; M. Kornbluh; J. Lewis; N. Rossi; B. Roth; S. Schrag; N. Simon

I. APPROVAL OF POLICY PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of the August 28, 2023 Policy Committee meeting were approved as revised.

II. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Committee nominees: At the last meeting, the Policy Committee discussed seeking nominees for the Age Friendly University Steering Committee and the Tuition and Fees Appeals Board Committee. Members agreed on an appointee for the Age Friendly University group. Policy is still seeking nominations for the Tuition and Fees Appeals Board Committee so will delay that until the next meeting.

GenTech AI: Linda Beale received an email from Microsoft announcing GenTech AI, a new AI technology that will not only write a paper but also suggest sources, quotations, footnotes, etcetera. The information claims to have reviewed 200 million resources to provide the best papers to reference. This will add to the information the expanded AI committee should address.

Post doc minimum salary: An announcement from the provost and VPR went out about the new post doc minimum salary of \$51,000 for new hires, which will make the university more competitive in recruiting post-docs. While it does not automatically apply to existing post-docs, supervisors are encouraged to raise those to the minimum if possible given budgetary resources. This may be difficult if grant and departmental resources are already maxed out, resulting in a two-tier class.

Athletic liaisons: Athletic liaisons are needed to work with students on a team and talk to them, go to their events and be a faculty mentor. There is usually an event for students that faculty attend, and those liaisons receive free passes to games. The idea is that they serve in some sense as a faculty mentor to the student athletes in the game group that they are liaisons for. Beale was hopeful a member of Policy would volunteer to serve.

Charter requests: Neither the Levinson Institute for Brain Health nor the Center for Emerging and Infectious Diseases have come back to Policy yet with the requested changes. Beale will follow up with Provost Kornbluh and interim VPR Tim Stemmler to encourage the directors to follow through.

Detroit Equity Action Lab (DEAL): The Keith Center is hiring a new associate director for the Detroit Equity Action Lab. It is primarily a fellowship program working in Detroit.

Gerontology town hall: There will be a Gerontology town hall on October 9 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Interim event coordinator: A notice went out announcing Jack Raab's departure as event coordinator. Tina Lyles (Development Office) is now serving as interim.

Resident physicians' union: The resident physicians' union was recognized and is affiliated with AFT.

Recognition of service: Policy members discussed possible ways to formalize recognition of service on the Policy Committee.

The South End: The Policy Committee agreed to ask standing committees to interview appropriate people and consider what kinds of policies would be appropriate to ensure a genuine student journalistic experience. Ideas include having a governing board selected by students as well as an advisory board of faculty that includes a representative from the Office of General Counsel.

Brad Roth noted that the Student Senate made another statement about Israel/Palestine last month. This prompted an op-ed in the local *Jewish News* by the president of the Jewish Student Organization asserting that the statement made her, “as an active supporter of Israel,” feel unwelcome at Wayne State. An anonymous individual subsequently forwarded to numerous recipients a link to the article, along with attached images of Nazi Germany.

Beale pointed out that this has become a general approach to any controversial issue: it is distorted and warped by social media as a way to squelch the conversations. Criticism of the Israeli state is no different from criticism of any other country and does not, in itself, constitute antisemitism.

Charges to standing committees: Beale shared a draft of the charges to standing committees with Policy. She encouraged suggested changes of wording by noon Tuesday when they will be emailed to the chairs of the committees. The intent is to add consideration of the South End to the charges for FAC, CIC and SAC.

III. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Presidential onboarding: Provost Kornbluh has been spending much of his time onboarding the new president.

Enrollment: Kornbluh reported enrollment numbers finished well. Consultants from R&L will be coming to campus in early October to strategize next steps in thinking about undergraduate enrollment. It is important to recognize new students are only one fifth of the class. Above all, our strategy is to solidify these gains in enrollment. If we bring in a freshman class of 3000 each year, we will see a significant increase over the next four years in total numbers of students. Just a 3% increase would be a big achievement. We will work to gain a better understanding of the recruitment successes so that we can solidify those gains and determine the steps to continued growth.

The provost has authorized money to be spent on advertising to sophomores and juniors in high school. Historically, we have conducted limited outreach before the beginning of senior year. Today is Census Day and clearinghouse data will be available in a few weeks, which will show us where we stand in the individual high schools. Of the students we accept that do not enroll here, the majority go nowhere; the second largest group go to MSU; the third largest group go to U-M; the fourth largest group go to Oakland. We will follow national best practices and do more to convince students to come to college.

Roth asked about those who start applications without completing them. Kornbluh explained the test-optional applications required letters of recommendation and essays, which likely led to incomplete applications. We admitted those with partial applications who had a high school GPA above 3.0 if we received transcripts.

Beale suggested removing the requirement for letters and essays for test-optional admission, especially now that those may so easily be mass-produced with ChatGPT and provide little information. Kornbluh agreed. We joined the new Michigan Assured Admission Pact with a number of other universities which allows an automatic admit for those with 3.0 GPAs. The governor is going to have a press conference to announce that soon.

Dean of University Libraries and School of Information Science: Paul Bracke begins the deanship on October 15. Paul Beavers (University Libraries) was appointed as acting dean for six weeks, as former interim dean Tom Walker began his administrative leave. Beavers and Bracke are working to hire a consultant to help with the accreditation for the School of Information Science.

Centers: Kornbluh confirmed that centers require bylaws. There are centers that report to the provost's office that have always received general fund support. Some of them were originally in CLAS and took refuge in the provost's office, and all of those have bylaws and budgets. The previous VPR created centers that were removed from the schools/colleges. Most of these centers received a rather substantial amount of money from the VPR in any given year because faculty salaries are paid in the OVPR, and if they get grants, the OVPR gets all the salary release dollars. Stemmler and Kornbluh are trying to delicately undo that and change the budget structure. For example, salary dollars will go for some center personnel who are psychology professors, but are in one of these central centers. They teach in psychology, participate in psychology, but right now CLAS does not pay any of their salaries and they are only paid through the centers. The provost wants them to be more embedded in the departments. It makes sense for the people who work there, too.

Most new CIAC-II centers that report to OVPR would not have the same level of university support as the current centers. The goal is to provide minimal financial support centrally to pay for someone to help write grants and to run the shop. The faculty should be members of their departments and their salaries would be mostly covered by their departments comparably to the centers that report to the Office of the Provost. For example, Simone Chess' 9-month salary as a professor is under CLAS, but her administrative increment as director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality comes from the Office of the Provost. The new CIAC-II centers could be set up that way as well.

VPR search: The ad for the VPR search has been out since April. There is not a very large pool of candidates, but there are a number of good candidates. The search committee was expanded to include another humanist and a couple more faculty voices. Soon, the search committee will be looking at these candidates to decide if there are enough to move to the next phase of making recommendations for interviews in the next two to three weeks. The plan is for a fully open search when candidates are brought to campus. Beale noted faculty would appreciate that because of concerns about past problems with OVPR. The Policy Committee will certainly meet with the finalist candidates.

IV. CMMG CHARTER RENEWAL

Policy discussed the CIAC committee's review. There are a number of findings for 2023, and there are two in particular that are concerning to Beale. First, they did not make an effort to go after a T32 grant, even though that was a clear recommendation six years ago. Second, there are no joint members outside of the School of Medicine, which is problematic. The CIAC committee supports renewal, and Beale recommended Policy support renewal on the condition that those two issues be addressed within a few years of the renewal date and a statement that Policy will not support renewal beyond this additional charter period if they do not expand their faculty involvement and grant proposals. The primary purpose of having a center is to create a collaborative research environment that will enable grants that faculty could not otherwise get as individual PIs.

Kornbluh agreed and noted the oddity that this is a center rather than a department in the medical school since its webpage redirects to the medical school's educational programs with no information about the center's research efforts. Beale noted that implies the center is not acting as a center.

Beale and renee hoogland will work together on a memo with the assumption that Policy is approving the rechartering with a strong statement the approval being contingent on a plan to address these concerns during the next 3 years. It is clearly a valuable part of Wayne State, but it is not clear why it should be listed as a research center as opposed to simply being a department within the School of Medicine.

V. MPSI CHARTER RENEWAL

Beale pointed out the institute's research focuses on and promotes interdisciplinary research and provides high quality undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral research training. Policy will support a renewal of the charter and commend them on their community and national status, but the memo will also encourage working to achieve a T32 grant and to diversify the faculty involved in terms of both schools/colleges and fields of expertise.

Beale and hoogland will work together on the memo.

VI. APPOINTMENT OF BOG COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Policy appointed the 2023-24 academic year faculty and academic staff representatives.

Academic Affairs Committee: Jennifer Lewis (representative); renée hoogland (alternate)

Budget and Finance Committee: Linda Beale (representative); Andrea Sankar, CLAS (alternate)

Personnel Committee: Noreen Rossi (representative); Pramod Khosla (alternate)

Student Affairs Committee: Naida Simon (representative); Stephen Chrisomalis (alternate)

VII. SELECTION OF VICE CHAIR; PARLIAMENTARIAN; AND STANDING COMMITTEE LIAISONS

hoogland agreed to serve again as vice chair of the Academic Senate.

hoogland will reach out to Stephen Calkins (Law) to determine his willingness to serve again as parliamentarian for the Academic Senate.

Policy determined the liaisons to each of the standing committees.

Linda Beale, Budget Committee; Brad Roth, Curriculum and Instruction Committee; Pramod Khosla, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee; Linda Beale, Elections Committee; Naida Simon, Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee; Linda Beale, Faculty Affairs Committee; Stephen Chrisomalis, Research Committee; Jennifer Lewis, Student Affairs Committee

VIII. ACADEMIC SENATE 10/04 PLENARY IDEAS

The president normally addresses the first and last plenary sessions of the year. In the future, Kornbluh recommended the president's presentation be moved to the beginning of the meeting, if feasible. Traditionally, the first meeting starts with the Policy election, but Naida Simon confirmed this can take place at the end of the meeting. Policy members agreed with the recommended format change. Additionally, Beale will ask the Elections Committee to consider better voting methods at future plenaries.

Beale asked Policy members for ideas about what kinds of things should be included to make plenary more dynamic and less wasted time. She would like to continue inviting Board of Governors members and deans to speak at two or three of our meetings during the year. Board member Danielle Atkinson will be invited to the October plenary, an opportunity to introduce herself to the Senate and the Senate introduce themselves to her.

Beale suggested inviting College of Education dean Denise Taliaferro Baszile and Engineering dean Ali Abolmaali to each speak at one of the meetings later in the year, as well as the Student Senate president.

The provost has agreed to continue to provide lunches.

Jennifer Lewis recommended setting 20 minutes aside during a plenary to allow senators to hold an open discussion of a chosen topic. She would like to see the Senate split into small groups for this to support equity of voice. Hoogland suggested meetings could also schedule a specific time slot for free and open discussion. Stephen Chrisomalis agreed more involvement of Senators would be good but suggested an open mic would just encourage people to complain to the provost. There should be a topic to focus discussion on a point to consider. Ideas could be solicited in advance. Beale suggested we try holding a session with Lewis moderating at the end of the 10/4 plenary on free speech and academic freedom. Lewis agreed to facilitate the discussion. Beale noted that if that goes over well, depending on other business that must be addressed, future discussion topics include graduate admissions, AI and emeritus status. Hoogland suggested including censorship as a more specific academic freedom topic.

Kornbluh suggested that the Senate hear from Ahmad Ezzeddine (VP Academic Student & Global Engagement) after the census is final to discuss enrollment and block-tuition. With the FAFSA changing so radically, Simon suggested inviting Cathy Kay (Sr. Dir., Financial Aid) to explain the changes and the impact on our students.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Faculty Affairs held their first meeting and agreed on the topics this semester and in the winter semester. Hoogland reported that the topic of faculty and academic staff well-being—a topic the committee worked on last year—will be included on the agenda throughout the year. Another topic they will work on is the creation of a faculty club.

Approved as revised at the Policy Committee meeting of September 25, 2023.