

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY – ACADEMIC SENATE
Official Proceedings
April 5, 2017

Members Present: Keith Whitfield, Provost; Louis J. Romano, President, Academic Senate; Robert Ackerman; Poonam Arya; Ivan Avrutsky; Douglas Barnett; Linda Beale; Paul Beavers; Stephen Calkins; Victoria Dallas; Susan Davis; Donald DeGracia; Brian Edwards; Susan Eggly; Jane Fitzgibbon; Moira Fracassa; Nancy George; Daniel Golodner; Jennifer Hart; Carolyn Herrington; Ellen Holmes; Michael Horn; Barbara Jones; Mahendra Kavdia; Fayette Keys; Qin Lai; Stephen Lerner; Katheryn Maguire; Kypros Markou; Aaron Martin; Santanu Mitra; Bryan Morrow; S. Asli Ozgun-Koca; Victoria Pardo; Alexey Petrov; Lori Pile; Izabela Podgorski; Michele Porter; T. R. Reddy; Robert Reynolds; Brad Roth; Heather Sandlin; Bo Shen; Naida Simon; Richard Smith; Beena Sood; Amanuel Tekleab; Ronald Thomas; Sokol Todi; Mark VanBerkum; William Volz; Jennifer Wareham; Barrett Watten; Jeffrey Withey; Xin Wu; Jinping Xu

Members Absent with Notice: Cathryn Bock; Tamara Bray; Krista Brumley; Margit Chadwell; Andrew Fribley; Ewa Golebiowska; Smiti Gupta; Peter Hook; Donna Kashian; David Kessel; Christopher Lund; Karen MacDonell; Ellen Tisdale; Xin Wu

Members Absent: Mary Anderson; Ashok Kumar; Todd Leff; Diane Levine; Leonard Lipovich; Jason Mateika; Charles Parrish; Elizabeth Puscheck; Susil Putatunda; Jeffrey Rebudal; Michele Ronnick; Anne Rothe; Gail Stanford

Others Present: Thomas Anderson, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Alan Jacobson, Office of Budget, Planning and Analysis; Stephen Lanier, Vice President for Research; Karin Tarpenning, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Susan Titus, School of Social Work; Ricardo Villarosa, Dean of Students Office; Angela Wisniewski, Office of the Academic Senate

CALL TO ORDER: This regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Provost Keith Whitfield at 1:30 P.M.

I. ATHLETICS

Robert Ackerman is the Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA. One of his responsibilities is to report yearly to the Academic Senate. The six-year graduation rate of our student athletes is 76%. The average grade point average for all student athletes in the fall semester was 3.25 and 46.7% of them had a GPA of 3.5 or higher. More than 73% of the athletes had a GPA above 3.0. Fourteen of the seventeen teams had cumulative GPAs above 3.0 with the lowest

team being football with a GPA of 2.95. The athletes performed 12,354 community service hours last year, more than any team in the conference which includes the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Pennsylvania State University.

In the last two years five schools have withdrawn from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Another school is leaving in a year and there is rumor that another may be leaving. Two schools are joining the conference. The loss of the schools is of concern.

Division I of the NCAA is undergoing realignment. It is likely that changes in Division I will affect Division II. As conferences enlarge and acquire more schools, there is less need for them to schedule games with teams outside their conference. If all of the schools that have been rumored to leave the GLIAC do so, only eight of the remaining schools have football teams. Wayne State has only seven teams against which to compete. The season is eleven games. Games would have to be scheduled with conferences that have twelve teams.

Kristin Dunbar, who is the athletic director at Lake Superior State University, has been named the new commissioner of the conference. Mr. Ackerman is confident that she will be a good leader.

Mr. Reynolds asked how the loss of the schools would impact men's and women's athletics either at WSU or across the conference. Mr. Ackerman is the faculty liaison to the football team and it is the sport with which he is most familiar. Mr. Horn said that, besides the football team, the men's baseball team and the women's softball team would be most affected. The volleyball, golf, fencing, and cross-country teams compete within the region more than within the conference. Mr. Ackerman mentioned that all ten teams in the conference have both men's and women's basketball teams. They would not have the same scheduling problem.

This completed Mr. Ackerman's report.

II. RESEARCH UPDATES

Vice President for Research Stephen Lanier updated the Senate on research funding, our research ranking, and the IBio Initiative. The Strategic Plan states that the University will increase strategic integrative research and nurture the broad ecosystem for scholarly inquiry, discovery, creativity, and knowledge

application by leveraging our academic strengths, community engagement mission, and urban location. The goals include: prioritize areas for targeted programmatic growth; integrative thematic thrusts; become a leader in research and development programs that relate to our role as an urban serving university; put in place a platform that empowers people to be the best that they can in this eco system; establish an office of research development; core facilities; and increase research awards.

We want to nurture inquisitiveness among all our undergraduate students. When students are involved in research projects, their chances of completing their four-year degree increases tremendously. In addition, we need to communicate and expand awareness of what is happening at Wayne State. Whenever there is an opportunity to have a conference that relates to research or to the legacy of Detroit, Mr. Lanier tries to have it on campus.

Mr. Lanier listed the key objectives for research growth: identify and support the development of thematic initiatives that leverage strengths across colleges (move beyond silos); strengthen strategic affiliations; recruit and retain; student research; and workforce development. The Research Office supports scholarly activity and creativity that do not necessarily attract large amounts of funding, but they are of equal importance. The Research Office invested about \$280K in the humanities. Mr. Lanier mentioned projects and programs that the Research Office has supported in this area.

Vice President Lanier reported on our research ranking and funding and on the IBio Initiative. The preamble on research in the strategic plan includes the following: increase strategic integrative research and nurture research funding. In the last ten years, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been the largest sponsor of extramural research funding to Wayne State.

The University's research ranking is based on our expenditures report to the National Science Foundation. In 2015 our ranking dropped to 70, but we have increased our expenditures in 2016 and the ranking will improve.

The amount of indirect cost recovery money dropped in the past several years, but it moved upward in 2016. One-half of the ICR goes into the general fund. The ability to draw down our ICR money is critical for our operation. It is important to spend the money rather than to hold it over time.

Extramural funding in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is about \$16 million, in the College of

Engineering it is about \$14 million, and in the School of Medicine it is about \$177 million, with the majority of the funding coming from the NIH. As of 2016 the funding reported for the SoM includes clinical trials conducted at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. In previous years, funding to KCI was not reported in the School's funding.

Vice President Lanier turned to the IBio Initiative. President Wilson and VP Lanier felt that the University was silo-driven and had not competed aggressively for larger programmatic grants across colleges. The Integrative Biosciences Initiative was established to nurture that type of collaborative approach.

IBio was planned as an entity to serve as a home for thematic areas that are relevant to cities like Detroit. The focus areas would include people with different skill sets from different colleges and departments assembled around the challenges of environmental sciences, urban life span, brain and behavior, and metabolic diseases such as obesity and diabetes. Support systems would include a behavioral health component, a discovery driven component, a community component, a translational component, and an implementation sciences component. Health disparities cut across all of these components as part of our broader institutional mission.

The plan is to recruit 25 to 30 faculty for this integrative approach over several years. A group was formed across campus to see where potential applicants for the IBio Initiative could be aligned with colleges and departments. Six faculty whose research is consistent with the integrative theme have been recruited. Vice President Lanier described some of the work that is being done and the partnerships that have been developed among departments and colleges. He mentioned work that has been supported and applications that will be submitted.

The Vice President took questions from members.

With faculty having appointments in two units, Mr. Reynolds asked how start-up costs were distributed among colleges and departments and where the faculty's tenure would reside. Vice President Lanier said that set up funding came from the Provost's Office, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the college with the Provost's Office and the Research Office being the main sources of funding. Indirect cost recovery money would be split between two departments if a faculty member holds an appointment in two departments. Regarding tenure, the Vice President said that a newly-hired faculty member is assigned to a specific department.

Another Senate member suggested that faculty in the humanities could participate in the IBio projects and asked how they might propose collaborative projects. Vice President Lanier agreed that the humanities can contribute to the work and that more would be done in the future.

In response to another question, Mr. Lanier said that information about undergraduate research is available at the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program website: urop.wayne.edu

Mr. Edwards commented on the Vice President's statement that principal investigators should spend their grant money. Researchers want to have money available for at least one year after the grant ends because it is likely that their initial application for renewal funding will not be approved. Mr. Lanier said that one solution might be to increase the level of bridge funding. He increased bridge funding from \$35,000 to \$50,000. In the fall term, the Vice President received only two applications for bridge funding and both were funded. Mr. Romano mentioned that faculty might not request bridge funding because they have to submit a scored application from the NIH. Although some applications that have not been scored received bridge funding, researchers might not apply because of the requirement. The Vice President acknowledged that might be true. He has changed the process for reviewing requests for bridge funding. At one time, a committee reviewed the applications. Now, Vice President Lanier is the sole reviewer. If applicants disagree with his decision, they should contact him.

This ended the discussion. Vice President Lanier's presentation is attached to these Proceedings as Appendix A.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the Proceedings of the Academic Senate meeting of April 5, 2017. PASSED.

IV. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

A. Report and Announcements

1. The Sesquicentennial Committee is reviewing the proposals that were submitted for the academic symposia. The Committee likely will select three or four for the celebration.
2. The Graduate Assistantship Allocation Committee devised a system for distributing teaching assistants among colleges. The

Committee will discuss the proposal with Provost Whitfield next week.

3. Construction on the new Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments will begin soon. Corvias will manage all of our campus housing.
4. The meetings of the Budget Planning Council with the schools, colleges, and administrative units begin this week. The Council is composed of members of the administration and members of the Academic Senate and the Policy Committee.

B. Proceedings of the Policy Committee

The Academic Senate received the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of February 20, 2017. They are attached to these Senate Proceedings as Appendix B.

V. ELECTION OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Ms. Simon, the Chair of the Elections Committee, conducted the election. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Romano accepted nomination to the Senate Presidency for the 2017-2018 academic year. Ms. Simon opened the floor for additional nominations. There being none, it was MOVED and SECONDED to CLOSE NOMINATIONS. PASSED.

It was MOVED and SECONDED to CONFIRM Mr. Romano as President of the Academic Senate for the 2017-2018 academic year by ACCLIMATION. PASSED. Mr. Romano thanked the Senate members for their continued support.

VI. MEMBER-AT-LARGE ELECTION

Ms. Simon announced the results of the recent election of members-at-large. Victoria Dallas (Academic Services Officer IV, Department of Communication, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts) and Rachel Pawlowski (Academic Advisor II, Honors College) were elected to serve from August 2017 until August 2020. Richard Pineau (Lecturer, Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) was elected the alternate. He will replace Ms. Dallas or Ms. Pawlowski if for any reason they are unable to serve during their three-year term.

VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Whitfield reported that, at the March 24 meeting of the Board of Governors, the Board approved the granting of the title of Distinguished Professor to eight members of the faculty.

Close to 600 people attended the Big Data and Business Analytics Symposium held on campus in

March. The Provost and Vice President Lanier want to involve faculty across the University in events related to big data sciences.

Asked about the process used to nominate faculty to the rank of distinguished faculty, Provost Whitfield said that nominations begin with the Department Chair, who writes a letter of support to the school or college Dean, who, in turn, writes a letter of support to the Provost. Provost Whitfield reviews the submissions and forwards the nominations to President Wilson. The President makes the final decision. Mr. Romano suggested that the procedure might be revised to include nominations from faculty. The Provost suggested that he would review the current procedures with the Policy Committee.

A member reported that four weeks ago his payroll information had been hacked and the problems that arose as a result of the hack. Wayne State's Payroll Office and the Office of Computing and Information Technology could not determine who had done it or how it had been done. Provost Whitfield expressed regret that it had happened. Academic institutions are being targeted for identity theft. Mr. Romano mentioned that last year someone had been able to access the Social Security numbers and identifying information of about 20% of the Senate members and filed fraudulent income tax returns. Individuals may request a PIN from the IRS to use when filing their income tax return. The PIN is another layer of security.

At the March Senate meeting Mr. Edwards brought to the attention of Provost Whitfield two issues that the faculty in the School of Medicine had related to the merger of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Department of Immunology and Microbiology. At today's meeting, he thanked the Provost for his quick action in addressing the concerns.

Mr. Calkins mentioned two instances of recent rumors circulating within the University and on social media. One of the rumors involved the possible de-tenuring of faculty. He spoke about the importance of transparency and openness to reduce and defuse rumors. The Provost replied that the University also needed to preserve the rights and privacy of persons involved. When questions arise, he can be contacted at provost@wayne.edu.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Louis J. Romano
President, Academic Senate