

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  ACADEMIC SENATE

Official Proceedings

April 8, 2009

---

Members Present: Nancy S. Barrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Seymour J. Wolfson, President, Academic Senate; Muhammad Amjad; Joseph Artiss; Basim Asmar; Tyrone Austin, Ivan Avrutsky; Sarah Bassett; Veronica Bielat; Tamara Bray; Kingsley Browne; David Cinabro; Alfred Cobbs; William Crossland; Victoria Dallas; Gina DeBlase; Donald DeGracia; Cheryl Dove; Brian Edwards; Karen Feathers; Judy Field; Andre Furtado; Doreen Head; Hans Hummer; Patricia Jarosz; Barbara Jones; Loreleigh Keashly; Poco Kernsmith; Thomas Killion; Gloria Kuhn; James Martin; Tej Mattoo; Michael McIntyre; James Moseley; Prahlad Parajuli; Regina Parnell; Charles Parrish; Frederic Pearson; Elizabeth Puscheck; Susil Putatunda; Daniel Rappolee; T. R. Reddy; Louis Romano; Michele Ronnick; Brad Roth; Linea Rydstedt; Anthony Sacco; Vishwanath Sardesai; Nabil Sarhan; Mary Sengstock; Naida Simon; Antoinette Somers; Lothar Spang; Harley Tse; Anca Vlasopolos; William Volz; Arun Wakade; Jianjun Wang; Olivia Washington; Barrett Watten; Judith Whittum-Hudson; Derek Wildman; James Woodyard; Earnestine Young

Members Absent with Notice: Marcus Dickson; Judith Fouladbakhsh; Winston Koo; Lisa Maruca; Assia Shisheva; Mary Width; Russell Yamazaki

Members Absent: Terrence Allen; Monica Brockmeyer; Christopher Collins; Rick Cummins; Ravi Dhar; Jerry Ku; Sean Peters; Aleksandar Popadic; Bo Shen; Renee Van Stavern; Antoinette Wozniak

Others Present: Steve Babson; Johnnie Blunt, Academic Senate Office; Thomas Duszynski, Computing and Information Technology; Gloria Heppner, Associate Vice President for Research; Hilary Ratner, Vice President for Research; Joseph Sawasky, Associate Vice President, Computing and Information Technology, and Chief Information Officer; Kelley Skillin, Office of the Provost; Angela Wisniewski, Academic Senate Office

CALL TO ORDER: This regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Provost Barrett at 1:38 p.m. The meeting was held in the Bernath Auditorium in the Undergraduate Library.

I. APPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

March 8, 2009

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the Proceedings of the Academic Senate meeting of March 8, 2009. PASSED.

II. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

A. Report and Announcements

1. Mr. Wolfson told the Senate that the Policy Committee had suggested to President Noren that faculty participate in meetings of the President's Cabinet. The President invited Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Volz, the Vice Chair, to attend meetings once a month. They attended the meeting last week, which focused on the strategic thinking retreat.
2. President Noren will attend the April 27 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Wolfson asked members to let him know if they had issues they want the Committee to discuss with the President.
3. The Policy Committee is meeting with the candidates for the Dean of the Graduate School. They will send their evaluation of the candidates to Dean of Law Robert Ackerman, who is chairing the search committee.
4. Mr. Wolfson offered comments on behalf of the faculty and academic staff at President Noren's inauguration ceremony on April 7.

B. Proceedings of the Policy Committee

The Academic Senate received the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meetings of March 2, 2009, and March 23, 2009 (Appendix A).

III. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE

A. Election of the President of the Academic Senate for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

Mr. Woodyard, the Chair of the Elections Committee, conducted the election. Mr. Wolfson had been nominated for re-election prior to the meeting. He was asked to speak to the membership.

Mr. Wolfson said that he accepted nomination again because he has good relationships with the University President and with the Provost. During his tenure as President of the Senate, there have been improvements for faculty and academic staff. He wants that to continue.

Mr. Woodyard opened the floor for nominations. There were none and it was MOVED and SECONDED to CLOSE NOMINATIONS. PASSED.

The vote to re-elect Mr. Wolfson as President of the Academic Senate was taken. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Mr. Wolfson thanked the members for their continued support.

#### B. Results of the 2008-09 Information Technology Survey

Joseph Sawasky, Associate Vice President for Computing and Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, presented the results of the 2008-09 IT survey (Appendix B). The feedback, Mr. Sawasky said, is invaluable in helping the Division shape and improve its services. The first annual survey done in 2007-08 serves as a benchmark to see if services are improving or declining and which areas need improvement. The Division, he said, is focused on keeping all of its customers, faculty, students, and staff, happy.

Mr. Sawasky reviewed the level of satisfaction for various services. Students are least satisfied with the service on ResNet, the apartment and residence hall network facility that connects students to both WSU's facilities and facilities outside the University.

Faculty were most dissatisfied with WSU e-mail, Blackboard, telecommunications, and wireless services, with dissatisfaction ratings between 17% and 11%. The satisfaction ratings were good for the Technology Resource Center, C&IT Support Services, Pipeline, the Software Clearinghouse, and C&IT Communications.

The staff were least satisfied with the Cognos Reporting System and the Banner System. They were satisfied with the other services.

Administrators were most dissatisfied with the Cognos Reporting System, followed by the Banner System, WSU e-mail, and wireless services.

Mr. Sawasky compared the 2008-09 survey with the 2007-08 survey. If a service had a 5% increase in satisfaction, C&IT rated the service as improving. If the rating was within plus or minus 5% of last year's scores, there was no significant change. If there was a decrease of 5% or more in the level of satisfaction, it is considered to be declining.

Mr. Wolfson asked if the survey results were considered valid because only about 10% of the faculty completed the survey. Mr. Sawasky said that the statistician on the C&IT staff said the findings were statistically significant within plus or minus 5 percentage points. Mr. Sawasky would like to increase participation in future years, and he welcomed advice on how to get more people to respond.

Students complained about rigid security policies for the residence networking service, bandwidth limits, and the lack of wireless signal in the residence halls. Mr. Sawasky said C&IT has stiff security policies to keep the network clean. C&IT will continue to enforce the policies and it will continue to educate students about the need for the security. Since the survey was carried out in November, bandwidth has been increased. C&IT is investigating the deployment of more wireless access points in the apartments and residence halls. Installing them will be constrained only by funding. In last year's survey students complained that there was no one to respond to their questions about ResNet. C&IT took over ResNet from Business Operations and students did not repeat that complaint this year.

C&IT is adjusting its processes and assessing staffing levels for the PC Clinic to improve service.

There has been no change between last year and this year in the satisfaction levels for WSU e-mail. C&IT is in the process of migrating to a different e-mail and collaboration platform that uses the Zimbra e-mail infrastructure. It is called Wayne Connect. and the migration should be completed by July 2009.

Sometimes, Mr. Sardesai said, the e-mail system identifies mail as spam when it is not spam. Mr. Sawasky said that sometimes large campus mailings are mistaken for spam. C&IT is bringing in Cisco IronPort, considered the premier anti-spam solution, which has reduced the amount of mail identified as spam. In response to another question, Mr. Sawasky said that units with their own e-mail complexes are not required to migrate to Wayne Connect. The Medical School has the second most complex e-mail system on campus. He has a commitment from administrators at the School that they will move to the new system.

Mr. Woodyard mentioned the problems the Senate experienced in using Wayne State logon IDs to send the ballot for the member-at-large election to eligible voters in the Medical School. Mr. Sawasky said that migrating to the new system should alleviate that problem.

Based on feedback, wireless@wayne has improved. Focus has been on classrooms, laboratories, and common spaces. C&IT is deploying more access points, implementing more security, and reducing the number of times users have to authenticate their login.

Both students and faculty think the Blackboard environment is improving. This is the first year that staff and administrators rated Blackboard. Students complained that faculty were inconsistent in their use of Blackboard. Faculty thought there were too many clicks in Blackboard and the grade center was slow and difficult to use. C&IT will try to influence Blackboard to improve the grade center. Blackboard is being upgraded, which will provide access to tools and content with fewer clicks.

The faculty's and staff's satisfaction with the telecommunications system has improved. The only change was the elimination of the requirement that users reset their voice mail password. Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Woodyard met with consultants and staff of C&IT about future directions for tele-communications. Mr. Sawasky and members of his staff will meet with Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Woodyard next week to review the consultants' report.

Survey respondents stated that the current voice mail system is not user friendly. C&IT will be bringing a new voice mail system to campus with the new voice services. An RFP will be released in the summer for voice mail.

The C&IT Help Desk was moved to the second floor of the Student Center Building and now many more people visit the office for assistance. People's concerns were that they could not get help quickly and that the staff could not always answer questions and had to contact someone else. C&IT is adjusting schedules to cover peak demand time, sharing knowledge internally, doing more technical and customer service training, and developing tools to identify clusters of problems to respond better.

The Technology Resource Center is a collaboration of the University Libraries, the Office of Teaching and Learning, and C&IT. The OTL provides services to faculty to enhance their use of technology and help them stay informed about the best practices in teaching and learning. The faculty's satisfaction level with the OTL has improved greatly. The OTL staff have visited schools and colleges to broaden their visibility and the Office has revised its website, which is <http://trc@wayne.edu>.

Mr. Sawasky noted that the faculty's and students' responses to the question about the level of satisfaction overall, whether it is in C&IT or in their local unit, showed no appreciable change between 2007-08 and 2008-09. The satisfaction level of the staff had improved. Overall the satisfaction level improved by 6%.

Mr. Sawasky said that C&IT is dependent upon the users of its services to tell the staff what they need. He urged those present to contact him and members of his staff when they have questions and suggestions.

### C. Schools First, Not Prisons

Mr. Parrish, President of the WSU chapter of the AAUP-AFT, presented a report that he and Steve Babson prepared for the chapter's political action committee. They made the presentation to the Michigan House of Representatives Appropriations Committee at the invitation of its Chair, George Cushingberry. The report (Appendix C) looks at the money the state spends on corrections and on higher education.

The report looks at the state of Michigan's expenditures for corrections and for higher education. Michigan has one of the highest expenditures on corrections per capita in the country. Of the 50 states, only Vermont spends more money on corrections and prisons than it spends on higher education.

The Department of Corrections has tripled its workforce since 1980. In 1980 8% of the state's 65,000 employees were in Corrections. Today 16,500 of the state's 36,000 employees, or approximately 45%, are employed in Corrections. Crime, Mr. Parrish said, is not the reason for the increase in spending. From 1976 to 2001, Michigan's overall crime rate fell while the rate of violent crime held steady. Violent crime is not the reason for the increase in the prison population. Rather, it is incarceration for drug-related offenses and the length of prison terms that has increased the prison population. Michigan's inmate population serves 1.2 years longer than the national average whether they are serving time for violent or non-violent crimes.

Michigan ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in per capita support of higher education and ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in appropriations per \$1,000 in personal income. It is last among all states ranked by an increase or decrease in state appropriations to higher education over

the last five years. The state policy has off-loaded the cost of higher education onto students and their families. Wayne State's state appropriation has declined by \$34 million from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2008. This is due in part to the fact that the University has not had an appropriate impact on state legislators and state officials.

Wayne State is trying to function as a research university on a tuition base that is well below tuition at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. WSU's tuition is below the tuition of Ferris State University, which is not a high research institution. Its tuition increase in 2008-09 was the lowest of the 15 state universities. Wayne State is a prime source of physicians for the state and graduates a large number of judges, nurses, teachers, engineers, and other professionals.

Most people believe that low tuition helps the people who are most vulnerable economically. However, Mr. Parrish said, the people who are most vulnerable economically receive the most financial support. About 45% of entering freshmen have all of their tuition and fees covered. This would remain true if tuition were increased. The next group of students has part of their tuition and fees paid with financial aid. Tuition increases affect the upper one-third of the students, i.e., those who do not apply for financial aid. This last group of students may receive merit scholarships.

The AAUP-AFT would like to influence the government officials in Lansing to understand Wayne State's role as a government institution. More than 75% of WSU's 230,000 alumni live and work in southeastern Michigan covering many legislative districts. The AAUP-AFT would like the alumni and the University's employees to contact their state legislators to inform them of the challenges and needs of the University.

The state bases its per capita funding on the number of fiscal year equated students (FYES). If Wayne State does not receive adequate funding for its research enterprise, it will lose its designation at a high-research university.

If Michigan changed the way it approaches corrections to bring it in line with the way many other states approach corrections, it would save a great deal of money that could be reallocated to higher education.

In response to a question, Mr. Parrish said both the state Senate and House of Representatives have made proposals that the budget for higher education remain flat for the next several years. The only new money the University will get is from tuition. There is an agreement among the 15 university presidents that they will not seek to have their institutions treated differently in the amount of the appropriation they receive.

Mr. Furtado had understood that the increase in the budget for corrections had begun under Governor Engler's administration to improve the economy in rural areas of the state, and he asked why this had not changed under Governor Granholm's administration. Mr. Parrish noted that Governor Granholm was concerned about and had responded to citizens' concerns about crime.

Mr. Furtado suggested that the University present to the state officials the fact that Wayne State has some students who are not as well-prepared as students who attend other universities. Wayne State has made a commitment to help the at-risk students, and would use additional money from the state for such programs as the Rising Scholars Program and the Math Corps. Mr. Parrish said that the University has made that point. In addition, Wayne State has a large number of part-time students. The cost for part-time students is nearly the same as for full-time students in terms of the fixed costs of admissions, counseling, financial aid, advising, etc.

Mr. Babson commented that in 1992, the composition of the state parole board was changed, replacing civil servants with political appointees. They are understaffed and are hesitant to parole prisoners because they fear they will pay politically. Sentencing in 1998 eliminated the possibility for prisoners to earn credit to reduce their sentences. It did not matter if prisoners were engaged in educational programs and were rehabilitating themselves. Their sentences could not be reduced. Mr. Babson said that there are bills in the legislature to change the sentencing and parole policies.

#### IV. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

##### A. Recommendations to Improve the University's Research Ranking

Harley Tse, the Chair of the Academic Senate Research Committee, presented the Committee's report on the future of Wayne State's research enterprise (Appendix D).

Wayne State prides itself on the dual mission of being a research and a teaching institution in an urban setting and it prides itself on being able to compete nationally. In the late 1990s and early 2000s Wayne State stood tall among research institutions in national rankings. Research is an expensive endeavor and it depends upon funding from public and private sources. Each year some funding agencies and educational organizations rank institutions according to their income in research and education. The National Institutes of Health tracks grants and contracts that

it awards. The National Science Foundation tracks total institutional research expenditures, which include grants and contracts, gifts, and institutional resources. The NSF ranking is more reflective of the research activity at Wayne State, and was used more extensively in the Research Committee's report. In addition, there is a Carnegie classification reported by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Besides research expenditures, the Carnegie classification considers other criteria such as undergraduate and graduate instructional programs and enrollment profiles. In 1994 the Carnegie Foundation used the classifications of Research I and Research II to classify institutions. The Foundation discouraged the use of the Carnegie classification to rank institutions, and since the year 2000 it has not published classifications such as Research I and Research II.

From 1997 to 2002 Wayne State increased its national research ranking, moving from 68 in 1997 to 61 in 2002, increasing its expenditures from \$124 million to \$199 million. Among public institutions, Wayne State ranked 47 in 1997 and 41 in 2002, well within the top 50 as defined by the Carnegie classification.

The national ranking brings prestige to Wayne State. It measures how well we perform our teaching and research missions. Recognition of excellence in research brings excitement and eagerness to learning by students. High profile research demands higher standards of teaching. This prestige will attract more high quality students and increase enrollment. Recognition of research excellence gives confidence to granting agencies and philanthropists. They will be more willing to support the institution's research. With a national research ranking prominent researchers are more willing to relocate to Detroit. Being one of the three major research institutions in Michigan brings pride to the community.

Among all research institutions, Wayne State's NSF ranking dropped from the 61<sup>st</sup> to the 75<sup>th</sup> between 2002 and 2006. Among public institutions, the ranking dropped from the 41<sup>st</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> in that same period. In 2007, the ranking moved up two places among all research institutions and among all public institutions. Regaining the rank of 50 as a public research institution means the University is again in the Carnegie I classification.

Mr. Tse noted that Wayne State's total research expenditures remained steady between 2002 and 2006. However, 14 institutions that were ranked near Wayne State in 2002 increased their institutional spending by an average of 54% and their rankings increased. Six other institutions ranked near WSU in 2002 and Wayne State increased their institutional spending by an average of 25% and their rankings fell.

More than 50% of the research at the University is in the School of Medicine. The Colleges of Engineering and of Liberal Arts and Sciences are a distant second and third.

The Research Committee believes that the University needs effective long and short term planning for research. It looked at how the research environment might be improved with the goal of improving the University's research ranking. The University's total institutional expenditure on research has to increase. The extramural research income has to increase. The intramural research efficiency has to provide a supportive research environment for faculty and students that will encourage them to apply for more external funding.

The Research Committee conducted a university-wide survey of the research environment. The Vice President for Research invited representatives from the National Council of University Research Administrators to visit campus. The NCURA report and the Research Committee's report are similar in their findings. The Research Committee developed recommendations to improve the University's research ranking. Mr. Tse thanked the Vice President for Research Hilary Ratner and her staff for their assistance with the Research Committee's study.

To improve its research ranking, the University needs a culture change to further promote research on campus. Support and merit incentives should be expanded to encourage research. Core services for research should be upgraded and expanded. The internal and external communication networks for researchers have to be strengthened. To increase the number of younger researchers, the Research Committee recommends instituting post doctoral programs.

Mr. DeGracia asked if, in this time of budgetary constraints, it was possible to prioritize the recommendations indicating which have little or no cost and to do a cost-benefit analysis. Mr. Tse said the Committee identified the long term and short term recommendations. Some of the programs, such as the review of grant applications, exist but they need to be more widely publicized. Mr. Edwards noted that hiring the consultant to review and analyze grant proposals was cost efficient.

Mr. Putatunda thought the most important of the recommendations put forth by the Committee was to increase the percentage of the indirect cost return money given to the principal investigators. Another important suggestion was the reduction in the teaching load so faculty have the time to concentrate on writing proposals.

Mr. Parrish suggested that the Senate invite Vice President Ratner to an upcoming meeting to allow her to respond to the suggestions of the Research Committee.

The Provost noted that last year she submitted a proposal to fund a university-wide post doctoral office. It was not funded because of budgetary constraints, but she will continue to put it forward until it is funded.

#### V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Barrett explained the various budget scenarios that are afloat in Lansing. It is said that the state is losing \$100 million per month in revenue. The economic stimulus money is available for higher education but how that money can be allocated is unclear. When the universities no longer get stimulus money, their base budgets return to the level that they were prior to the stimulus funds.

The Provost said that the University needs an increase of 3% in its budget to meet its obligations. If the state does not increase the amount of appropriation by 3%, the University would have to increase tuition by 6% since one-half of the University's budget is tuition and one-half is the state appropriation. The Provost believes that regardless of the amount of stimulus money, the state will cut the appropriation to higher education.

If the University were not to increase tuition between fiscal year 2009 and 2012, when the stimulus money expires, it would have a financial crisis because its budget would be at the level determined by the legislators and the Governor when they begin allocating the stimulus money.

In response to a question from Mr. Sardesai, the Provost said that it was not clear from the federal legislation if the University would have to spend the stimulus money within a certain period of time.

Mr. Woodyard asked the Provost if she had additional information about the rumor that the Medical School Dean's office was taking from the departments the indirect cost return money that departments had received. The Provost said that there have been financial problems in the Medical School, and the Dean's office is taxing departments. However, the Associate Dean for Finance and Administration at the School of Medicine assured her that the Dean's office was not taking money from the ICR accounts. The amount of money that departments are asked to provide is not related to the amount in the ICR funds. Departments may, the Associate Dean said, use their IRC funds to pay the tax. Departments also could use money from vacant lines or their operating budgets. The University's policy on the distribution of indirect cost return money has not changed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Seymour J. Wolfson  
President, Academic Senate