

**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY – ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**Official Proceedings**  
May 3, 2017

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Members Present: Keith Whitfield, Provost; Louis J. Romano, President, Academic Senate; Robert Ackerman; Poonam Arya; Ivan Avrutsky; Douglas Barnett; Linda Beale; Paul Beavers; Cathryn Bock; Krista Brumley; Stephen Calkins; Margit Chadwell; Susan Davis; Brian Edwards; Susan Eggly; Jane Fitzgibbon; Moira Fracassa; Andrew Fribley; Nancy George; Ewa Golebiowska; Daniel Golodner; Smiiti Gupta; Carolyn Herrington; Ellen Holmes; Peter Hook; Barbara Jones; Donna Kashian; Mahendra Kavdia; David Kessel; Ashok Kumar; Qin Lai; Todd Leff; Stephen Lerner; Leonard Lipovich; Christopher Lund; Karen MacDonell; Katheryn Maguire; Aaron Martin; Bryan Morrow; S. Asli Ozgun-Koca; Victoria Pardo; Charles Parrish; Lori Pile; Michele Porter; Robert Reynolds; Michele Ronnick; Brad Roth; Heather Sandlin; Bo Shen; Naida Simon; Richard Smith; Gail Stanford; Amanuel Tekleab; Ronald Thomas; Ellen Tisdale; William Volz; Jennifer Wareham; Barrett Watten; Jeffrey Withey; Jinping Xu

Members Absent with Notice: Victoria Dallas; Donald DeGracia; Jennifer Hart; Michael Horn; Fayette Keys; Kypros Markou; Alexey Petrov; Izabela Podgorski; Beena Sood; Sokol Todi; Mark VanBerkum

Members Absent: Mary Anderson; Tamara Bray; Diane Levine; Santanu Mitra; Elizabeth Puscheck; Susil Putatunda; Jeffrey Rebudal; T. R. Reddy; Anne Rothe; Xin Wu

Others Present: Thomas Anderson, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Veronica Bielat, University Libraries; Linda Galante, Office of the General Counsel; Alan Jacobson, Office of Budget, Planning and Analysis; Louis Lessem, Vice President and General Counsel; Michael Priehs, University Libraries; Karin Tarpenning, Liberal Arts and Sciences; 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 Whitfield at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Bernath Auditorium in the Undergraduate Library.

I. HANDLING ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Louis Lessem, the Vice President and General Counsel, introduced Linda Galante, Associate General Counsel and Interim Title IX Director, to provide information about the way the University handles allegations of sexual misconduct.

Ms. Galante stated that the Dean of Students Office, the Office of Equal Opportunity, and the General Counsel's Office collaborate to inform the University community about the regulations regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment. They also collaborate in handling allegations of sexual misconduct. Wayne State's campaign is "Speak Up. Speak Out."

Statistics show that people primarily between the ages of 18 and 25 are at risk of being victims of sexual assault. The reasons most victims give for not reporting sexual assault are fear that they will not be treated with respect, will not be taken seriously, or will be blamed for what happened. The University tries to dispel that fear by letting survivors know that they will be treated with respect and that their concerns will be taken seriously. The University tries to be fair and balanced with the accused. Even if a student, employee, or faculty member does not want to file a formal complaint, once someone in the University has knowledge of an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or stalking, the University is required by federal law to investigate and take prompt remedial action.

Ms. Galante mentioned the resources that are available to students, staff, and faculty.

1. An online training module "Understanding sexual harassment and sexual assault" tells students what to do if they are victimized.
2. Title IX Power Point presentations for staff and faculty are available through the Provost's Office.
3. The Dean of Students Office has a bystander intervention training called "No Zebras. No Excuses" designed to show students that, particularly in a group, they have a lot of power. Like zebras in a group, they often are able to prevent something bad from happening. This training is required at freshmen orientation and for all resident housing advisors and community directors.
4. The Dean of Students developed a brochure that is a guide for faculty and staff on how to handle sexual misconduct.

The University conducted a climate survey on unwanted sexual conduct. The information will be analyzed to determine if changes should be made in the way we handle allegations of sexual misconduct. The initial feedback did not reveal any serious unanticipated concerns. The rate of sexual assault is lower at Wayne State than at most other universities.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kim Worthy initiated the formation of a resource team of all the universities and colleges in Wayne County. The members meet quarterly to share information and resources.

Wayne State received a grant from the State of Michigan for a campus sexual assault prevention program conducted in conjunction with the Michigan State Police. The goal of the grant is to create a peer educator program focused on the prevention of sexual violence and education. Fourteen students and some members of the Office of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) are being trained as peers to help and support victims.

The University received a grant through NASPA, the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, to develop a multi-stakeholder approach to educate the campus about issues related to sexual violence and sexual misconduct. This is called the Culture of Respect Initiative. As an initial step, a committee is reviewing our policies and procedures to determine if we can improve our efforts. The team consists of Ms. Galante; Dean of Students David Strauss, who is the Deputy Title IX Coordinator; Chief of Public Safety Anthony Holt or a designee from his office; the Director of Housing; the Director of CAPS; and a Deputy Title IX Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). They do threat assessment on student issues. They strive to ensure that every incident of sexual misconduct is investigated and handled properly, promptly, and fairly.

If anyone witnesses or is a victim of a sexual assault on campus, in a University program, or at a University-sponsored event, which could be off campus, they should report the incident immediately to the Wayne State Police. In addition, faculty are advised to report any sexual misconduct of which they are aware to their Chairperson. Academic staff and other staff members should report instances to their supervisor or to the Dean of Students if it involves students. Faculty and staff also may report the incident to the OEO. Chairs and supervisors who receive such a report must report that to the Title IX Coordinator or to the Deputy Coordinator.

Ms. Galante listed the steps that are taken after receiving a report of sexual misconduct. A no-contact order may be issued against the accused so that the person making an allegation feels safe. Housing arrangements may be changed if students live near each other in on-campus housing. An administrative withdrawal may be granted if a student wants to leave the University. The incident is thoroughly investigated. If the Dean of Students feels there is an ongoing threat by someone's presence, he may, with the approval of his supervisor, issue an interim suspension from a

building or from the entire campus until the incident is sorted out. If the victim chooses not to take action, the suspension dissolves after ten days. Information about on-campus and off-campus resources is provided to the victims of sexual assault.

The Office of Equal Opportunity is charged with investigating all charges of discrimination and harassment, not just sexual. They are the point of contact for outside agencies, such as the Office of Civil Rights. In the future, our Title IX Coordinator will be on the staff of the OEO. The OEO does outreach and follow-up by letter to both the accuser and the accused, informing them of their rights.

The Dean of Students Office coordinates all student misconduct matters, including sexual misconduct. They coordinate investigations with OEO and implement the interim measures.

A detailed analysis of the climate survey will be conducted to learn people's concerns and what we can do better. In the next year, Ms. Galante would like the University to develop a website dedicated to the issue of sexual misconduct. The information now is on the websites of several offices. The University has submitted a grant application to the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. They have a campus sexual violence services project that focuses on improving the quality of intervention and the services provided to people affected by sexual violence and to introduce new programs and training to students, faculty, and staff.

Ms. Galante took questions from the members.

Ms. Beale asked if faculty were serving on the committee formed with funding from NASPA. Ms. Galante said that Antonia Abbey, Professor of Psychology, is the only faculty member on the committee, but they would be open to adding one or two more faculty.

Ms. Davis mentioned an incident that occurred some years ago at an off-campus site, at an institution affiliated with Wayne State. Mr. Lessem said that where two institutions are involved, both have an obligation to deal with the situation. Wayne State has made it clear in such cases that for affiliation with the University to continue, the off-campus site must cooperate in investigations.

Mr. Romano asked the General Counsel's Office to provide data about the number of sexual assaults that occurred on campus involving students, faculty, or staff. The information, Ms. Galante said, is difficult to sort out, but it needs to be done.

Mr. Romano also asked to see the reference for the statement that FBI statistics indicate that one out of four women will be a survivor of rape or attempted rape between the ages of 14 and 25.

Ms. Porter was concerned about the effect that an interim suspension might have on the academic performance of a student when that student may be innocent. Ms. Galante explained that there is a high threshold for issuing an interim suspension; there has to be a continuing threat. Interim suspensions are not issued often. Sometimes persons may be able to go only to and from their classes but are not able to be in other areas of campus. If an interim suspension has been issued that prohibits a student from attending class, that case is given priority. If the person is found not responsible, the Dean of Students will intervene so the student has an opportunity to make up the coursework that was missed. Ms. Porter asked that the process be reviewed to keep anyone who has been involved in such a situation informed about the student's status. Mr. Lessem acknowledged that it is difficult if someone who is aware of a situation is not informed about the student's status, but rules of confidentiality must be followed.

Ms. Chadwell asked how people should report an incident of sexual assault or misconduct and what happens when a victim does not want to pursue a case against a perpetrator. Ms. Galante said that people usually report an incident in a phone call. Mr. Lessem said that there are a variety of procedures to follow when someone makes a complaint but does not want to pursue a case. The University must investigate and take every action it can. In some instances, the survivor may only want the perpetrator removed from campus. Ms. Galante said that one of the first referrals for a survivor is to CAPS, which provides tremendous support. Often after a few sessions with the counselor at CAPS, the survivor will take action.

## II. OPEN TEXTBOOK INITIATIVE

Michael Priehs, the Scholarly Communications and Copyright Coordinator, and Veronica Bielat, Instruction Services Coordinator, of the Library System spoke to the Senate about the open textbook adoption award that is supported by the Office of the Provost, the Division of Computing and Information Technology, and the University Library System. On March 29, Nicole Finkbeiner, Associate Director at OpenStax, visited campus. OpenStax is a grant funded open textbook provider based at Rice University. It is one of several providers of quality peer-reviewed open textbooks. OpenStax also provides low-cost print options for their materials. The Undergraduate Library has copies of the print books at the service desk.

Mr. Priehs explained the differences between open textbooks and traditional textbooks. Open textbooks are not as locked down with copyrights. Instructors have the right to make, own, and control copies of the content. They have the right to re-use the content in a wide range of ways. They are able to revise, adapt, adjust, modify, and alter the content. They may remix the original content, combining the original or revised content with other material to create a totally new item. The instructors may redistribute the original content and their revisions or remixes.

Ms. Bielat told the Senators about the open textbook adoption award. Every class, she said, would not have the option of having an open textbook. The projects tend to be grant funded and focus on the first and second year of the general education curriculum. Several faculty are using open textbooks. Last year four faculty members received the open textbook award resulting in students' saving more than \$30,000 on textbooks. Using open textbooks improves students' accessibility to the materials. They have the book the first class session and the instructor can assign pre-class readings. The \$1000 award is given to faculty who adopt a quality open textbook for their course. Ms. Bielat and Mr. Priehs will assist faculty in finding an open textbook option for their courses. Information and the application for the OpenStax award are available on the Library System's home page. The purpose of the award is to encourage faculty to learn about and to adopt an open textbook.

Ms. Beale noted that OpenStax is recognized as a good company. Its original work and the changes are peer reviewed. However there are a number of open textbook groups that are not as reputable. When the Faculty Affairs Committee looked at some companies it was not clear what kind of copyright protection a faculty member would have if they uploaded an entire chapter or did a major revision of the material. Ms. Beale asked that more information be provided about the various types of open textbooks available and the issues of peer review and copyright ownership before encouraging faculty, particularly junior faculty, to adopt open textbooks and create materials over which they do not have ownership rights.

Ms. Bielat responded. The Library System addresses the question of quality on its website. In the open textbook adoption award, the Library stipulates that it would like faculty to adopt open textbooks either from OpenStax or that the text have a three or four star review in the University of Minnesota Open Textbook Library, which encourages faculty to provide reviews of the textbooks. Ms. Bielat added that the Library System works hard to maintain resources. It would never encourage faculty to use an open textbook that

did not have a rigorous review process or did not have a stable platform.

### 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 6, 2017. PASSED.

### IV. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

#### A. Report and Announcements

Mr. Romano attended the luncheon honoring student athletes who recorded a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the fall 2016 semester. The six-year graduation rate for our athletes is 76% compared with our first-year retention rate for all students of 79%. The students are well spoken.

The budget hearings continue. It was not clear if there would be a budget cut. If there is, Mr. Romano thought the cut would be about 2%.

On April 28, Associate Provost for Student Success Monica Brockmeyer made a presentation to the Board of Governors about the ways in which the University is addressing our graduation rate. Although the overall six-year graduation rate has improved over the last several years, the difference between the graduation rates of white and African-American students remains the same at about 30%.

#### B. Proceedings of the Policy Committee

The Academic Senate received the Proceedings of the Policy Committee meetings of February 27, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 3, 2017, and April 10, 2017. A change was made in the Proceedings of April 3. The Policy Committee Proceedings are attached to these Senate Proceedings as Appendix A.

### V. YEAR-END COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Budget Committee

Ms. Beale, the Chair of the Budget Committee, reported that the Committee met six times during the academic year and would meet again at the end of June prior to the meeting of the Board of Governors when the Board will set the tuition rates and approve the budget for next year.

Ms. Beale updated the Senate about capital projects. A seven-year old study of the proposed Hilberry Gateway Project projected the cost to be

\$50 million. Because construction costs had risen in the intervening years, the Budget Committee recommended that the study be updated. That report was given to the senior administration and to the Board of Governors. The Budget Committee has not seen it but it is Ms. Beale's understanding that the cost is projected to be \$65 million.

The Budget Committee met with Susan Burns, the Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs. The Committee continues to push for increased performance from the Development staff. The performance of Wayne State's employees lags considerably behind that of our peer institutions. The Budget and Policy Committees have urged the Development Office to seek funding of named professorships other than the endowed professorships for which a donation of \$1.5 million is needed.

A Budget Planning Council has been formed for the purpose of developing a plan to move the University to a responsibility centered budget model in two years.

The budget for next year is being developed but the different elements that make up the budget (the state appropriation, the cap on tuition, and enrollment) are not known. It appears that enrollment of FTIACS and transfer students likely will increase but enrollment of masters students, particularly international students, is expected to decrease.

Ms. Beale also commented on the financial situation in the School of Medicine. The payments from the practice plans to the Fund for Medical Research and Education and the payments from the FMRE to the University affect the University's unrestricted net assets, i.e., the cash the University has to spend. In fiscal year 2011, the FMRE had a \$270,000 deficit. At the end of fiscal year 2016, September 30, 2016, the University had a deficit of \$39,600,000. That amount was taken from the University's general fund to cover the salaries of faculty and administrators in the Medical School. Although the University had more revenue in FY 2016 than had been budgeted, with the write down of the FMRE the University had a \$22.7 million deficit.

Ms. Beale continued. One way the administration is dealing with the financial problems in the Medical School involved what they refer to as under- or un-productive faculty. The administration has taken action against 47 faculty members and it will take action against another 27 faculty. The administration also has made statements that they expect to take similar action, including detenuing, in other colleges.

Tenure, Ms. Beale said, is the core concept upon which faculty depend for academic freedom. There are pressures nationally to eliminate tenure and to treat it as a luxury that we cannot afford. Ms. Beale regrets that the University did not follow the Article XXIV mentoring process that was designed specifically to recognize under-productive faculty when they first become under-productive and provide a mentoring process to help them become productive. The administration went straight to notice. Ms. Beale expressed the hope that we would not see a continuation of that process.

The Annual Report of the Budget Committee for the 2016-2017 academic year is attached to these Senate Proceedings as Appendix B.

#### B. Curriculum and Instruction Committee

Ms. Hart, the Chair of the CIC, was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Watten, a member of the Committee, presented the report. The focus of the first part of the year was general education reform. The CIC met with the organizers of the reform effort and with committee members of the various components of the project. The CIC received a report on the consultative process and on the progress of the General Education Reform Committee (GERC). The CIC asked for ongoing updates as the GERC continued to reflect on the questions and criticisms raised regarding the initial framework. The feedback of the CIC was given to the GERC and was incorporated into their process.

The CIC invited members of the GERC's subcommittees to CIC meetings. They heard from the subcommittees involved in the capstone component, which was renamed the engagement component. They looked at the breadth courses, the signature courses, and the diversity requirement. They looked at learning communities and foundational courses. They also debated issues regarding the mathematics competency requirement that is bound up in the quantitative experience requirement.

The CIC met with Darin Ellis, the Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, about the Early Academic Assessment (EAA) Program, which has been successful in changing student success within courses. Nathan Chavez, Associate Director, Academic Applications, Computing and Information Technology, met with CIC about the new learning management software. Dawn Medley, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, discussed early student departures. Robert Aguirre, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs in

the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, discussed the Gateways to Completion Project, which targets low achievers, students who receive marks of D, F, or W in specific courses. The CIC discussed ongoing assessment with Catherine Barrette, WSU's Director of Assessment.

Mr. Watten noted that the discussions were collegial and inclusive and ranged across departments with liaisons from the administration and from other areas of the University.

The Annual Report of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee is attached as Appendix C.

#### C. Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee

Lori Pile chaired the FSST Committee and presented the Annual Report (Appendix D). Daren Hubbard, the Chief Information Officer, is the administrative liaison to the Committee. He and Cindy Sulad, Director of Learning Management System Support, told the Committee about the process used to decide if the University should purchase the upgrade of Blackboard or purchase a different system. A decision was expected by the end of May. The target date for using the new system is Fall 2018. The materials from the current system will be migrated to the new system.

The University is upgrading to Banner 9. Mr. Hubbard has been working with stakeholders across the University doing a gap analysis and efficiency process. There will be an overlap of Banner 8 and Banner 9 with Banner 9 being fully functional in December 2018.

The FSST Committee told Mr. Hubbard about concerns related to the student course verification system in an effort to make the system work better for faculty, for students, and for the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Asli Ozgun-Koca and David Kessel are members of the TravelWayne evaluation committee. The results of the survey about TravelWayne will be posted on the Senate's website. The committee is considering whether additional training and/or more support will help less-frequent users to file their reports or if the University should switch to a new vendor.

Anne Rothe sits on the Childcare Facility Implementation Committee. The main issue is to identify a location for a childcare facility and to find a partner with which the University would form a public-private partnership. It appears that a new

facility will have to be built. Because it will be new construction, a new RFP has to be released. That is being developed.

Harry Wyatt, Jr., the Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management, presented an overview of current major capital projects. The FSST Committee members expressed concerns about various problems in buildings and with accessibility for people with disabilities. Mr. Wyatt has agreed to serve as a second administrative liaison to the FSST Committee. His being a liaison should be helpful in dealing with concerns that arise with new construction and with our deteriorating infrastructure. The FSST Committee met with Nikki Wright, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, and Randie Kruman, Director of Student Disability Services, and discussed issues related to accessibility on campus and how that can be improved. One outcome of the discussion is the re-instatement of a committee to deal with issues of accessibility.

#### D. Faculty Affairs Committee

renee hoogland chaired the Faculty Affairs Committee in the fall 2016 semester and Krista Brumley was the chair in the winter 2017 semester. Ms. Brumley presented the Annual Report (Appendix E) to the Senate.

The FAC discussed the student evaluation of teaching. The members expressed concerns about how the information is used and they made some recommendations.

They spoke extensively about open source materials. The Committee was concerned about the use of online textbooks. Some are very good; others do not have rigorous standards.

Online teaching was discussed. The FAC pushed the 4N Committee to meet to develop guidelines and policy recommendations for campus-wide use.

The FAC also tried to make the awards given to faculty more visible. The website of the Office of the Provost lists the various awards, honors, and grants available to faculty, such as the Career Development Chair and the University Research Grant. Recent recipients of the awards are listed on the website.

Members of the Faculty Affairs Committee served as liaisons on the diversity committee, the community engagement community, and the quantitative experience committee of the General Education Reform Committee.

A subcommittee of the FAC conducted a survey of recently tenured faculty to learn about their experiences with mentoring. Surveyed were faculty tenured from 2013 through 2016. The Committee plans to broaden the survey to include more faculty and to develop a more robust mentoring program on campus.

#### E. Research Committee

Mr. Kessel presented the Annual Report of the Research Committee (Appendix F) on behalf of the Chair, Alexey Petrov, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Kessel noted that research costs money. Although it brings in some money, research always costs more money than it brings in. The Oakland-Beaumont Medical School model can run on \$22.5 million a year. Wayne State's Medical School has research and it has a deficit. He noted that a few years ago Harvard University had a \$40 million dollar deficit. That deficit was not due to tenure because Harvard does not have tenure. It was because of research. We need research, Mr. Kessel said, and we need to find a way to pay for it.

#### F. Student Affairs Committee

Ms. Simon chaired the Student Affairs Committee. The Annual Report is attached as Appendix G.

#### G. Elections Committee

The Annual Report of the Elections Committee is attached to these Proceedings as Appendix H.

#### IV. COMMENTS BY THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

President Wilson asked the Senate members what issues they wanted him to address.

Recently, representatives of the Student Republicans met with President Wilson to let him know that sometimes their political views put them at a disadvantage, particularly after the presidential election in November. Some of the discussions, the students said, occurred in classes where the course did not include politics. The President sent a letter to the University community stressing the importance of and our commitment to diversity and inclusion. Students should feel free to express their views without fear of being ostracized by other students or by faculty. They should be able to express their opinions without fear that their grades could be affected.

Enrollment for fall is well ahead of last year. The number of applications and deposits are very encouraging. The average ACT score and grade point average are up. However, as is occurring nationally,

applications from international students are down. Ours are down about 33%.

About six weeks after their visit, the site visitors from the Higher Learning Commission sent an unofficial report to President Wilson. The report was very positive. The visiting team submitted the report to the HLC. President Wilson thanked the campus community for its involvement in the process. The visitors met with many groups on campus, students, faculty, staff, and members of the Board of Governors. They were impressed with what we are doing.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) visited the School of Medicine recently. Two years ago their review was dismal. Before leaving campus, the LCME site visitors gave the administration the report of their preliminary findings. The report, while not final, was very good. The changes in the last two years were remarkable. However, President Wilson expects the LCME to recommend changes and to continue to monitor the Medical School.

President Wilson was asked to comment on the detouring of faculty. For some time prior to the President's coming to Wayne State, there were unproductive faculty on the payroll. Some cases were egregious.

President Wilson pointed out that he is from academia. He loves academia, including tenure. He was tenured at five different institutions. He achieved the rank of full professor at the University of California Los Angeles in eight years. He believes he is a protector of tenure rather than one who is trying to weaken it. There are external threats to tenure by people who are not academics. They don't understand the reason for tenure. They want to do away with it because no other profession has that type of protection. President Wilson believes deeply in the reason for tenure. In order to protect tenure, if someone is abusing the system and causing financial problems for the University, it would be a dereliction of his duty not to take appropriate action for Wayne State and for academia.

The President turned to the topic of the budget. The budget for fiscal year 2018 is not known yet. The state has put a cap of 3.8% on tuition increases. Looking at the range of the appropriation recommended by Governor Snyder and the legislature and the cap on tuition, we will not have resources for many new initiatives. We may have to re-allocate our resources, perhaps eliminating some programs. We should begin the process of deciding what we want to be known for. President Wilson is interested in establishing a school of public health in several years. The undergraduate

degree in public health has been successful and there is a need for the program in Detroit.

Mr. Reynolds mentioned the need for the University to improve its data gathering to use in making decisions. He asked if the President had any informatics initiatives in the offing. The President was aware of the difficulty in getting good data analysis. Our ability to get data is better than it was three years ago. President Wilson is the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Commission on Information, Measurement, & Analysis of the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities. The Commission looks at a university's capability to make good decisions based on data. Provost Whitfield and Chief Information Officer Daren Hubbard are working hard to improve the University's ability to use data. Provost Whitfield added that the rationale behind our being a data driven decision-making institution is so people will be able to see the basis for decisions.

#### V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Whitfield commented on the funding of endowed professorships. He is working with the Development Office on how to approach donors to support endowed professorships. If donors want to support student success, having distinguished faculty contributes to student success.

The University awarded the title of distinguished professor to seven faculty this year. Provost Whitfield believes in the need to acknowledge our outstanding faculty. He wants to continue to recognize the outstanding work of faculty.

The Provost encouraged faculty to attend commencement.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Romano thanked the Senate members for their work. In particular he thanked the Chairs of the committees. He wished the members a good productive summer. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis J. Romano  
President, Academic Senate