

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY – ACADEMIC SENATE
Official Proceedings
September 9, 2020

Members Present: Laurie Lauzon Clabo, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Linda Beale, President, Academic Senate; Faisal Almufarrej; Leela Arava; Poonam Arya; Paul Beavers; Juliann Binienda; Timothy Bowman; Tamara Bray; Pynthia Caffee; Leah Celebi; Wei Chen; Susan Davis; Richard Dogan; Alan Dombkowski; Kelly Dormer; David Edelman; Brian Edwards; Tom Fischer; Jane Fitzgibbon; Samiran Ghosh; Wanda Gibson-Scipio; Ewa Golebiowska; Daniel Golodner; Siobhan Gregory; Xiaoyan Han; Lance Heilbrun; Marisa Henderson; renée hoogland; Michael Horn; Arun Iyer; Barbara Jones; Thomas Karr; Satinder Kaur; Mahendra Kavdia; David Kessel; Fayette Keys; Christine Knapp; Manoj Kulchania; Jennifer Lewis; Wen Li; Justin Long; Karen MacDonell; Krishna Rao Maddipati; Georgia Michalopoulou; Santanu Mitra; Ekrem Alper Murat; Sandra Oliver-McNeil; Christie Pagel; Charles Parrish; Rachel Pawlowski; Shan Perrine; Sean Peters; Richard Pineau; Avraham Raz; T. R. Reddy; Shauna Reeves; Stella Resko; Robert Reynolds; Joseph Roche; Brad Roth; Krysta Ryzewski; Berhane Seyoum; Bo Shen; Naida Simon; Jennifer Stockdill; Elizabeth Stoycheff; Scott Tainsky; Ellen Tisdale; William Volz; Clayton Walker; Jennifer Wareham; Jeffrey Withey; Hossein Yarandi

Member Absent with Notice: Ricardo Villarosa

Members Absent: Erika Bocknek; Stephen Calkins; Peter Henning; Thomas Killion; David Merolla; Carol Miller; Ali Salamey; Neelima Thati

Others Present: Rebecca Cooke, Interim Vice President, Finance and Business Operations; Bryan Dadey, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Robert Davenport, Associate Vice President, Facilities Planning and Management; Ashley Flintoff, Director, Planning and Space Management; Chirag Khimavat; Mary Paquette-Abt, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; M. Roy Wilson, President; Angela Wisniewski, Office of the Academic Senate

I. INTRODUCTION OF PROVOST CLABO

Ms. Beale welcomed Interim Provost Laurie Lauzon Clabo. Dr. Clabo was Dean of the College of Nursing for several years prior to her appointment in August as interim provost. Ms. Beale and the Provost served together on the Budget Planning Council and on a search committee.

- II. CALL TO ORDER:** This regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Provost Clabo at 1:37 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Only Senate members were admitted to the meeting until the election of the Policy Committee was completed to ensure that only members participated in the voting.

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Provost Clabo introduced the newly elected members of the Senate.

IV. ELECTION OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Naida Simon, the Chair of the Elections Committee, stated the requirements needed to elect Policy Committee members. She turned the election over to Rachel Pawlowski, a member of the Elections Committee. Six members were nominated for five positions. Ms. Pawlowski asked for additional nominations. There were none. The nominations were closed. Nominated prior to the meeting were Paul Beavers, Librarian IV, Library Resources and Collections Strategy Services, University Libraries; Jane Fitzgibbon, Senior Lecturer, Communication, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; Brad Roth, Professor, Political Science, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Naida Simon, Extension Program Coordinator III, Undergraduate Education, Academic Affairs; Ricardo Villarosa, Academic Advisor IV, Dean of Students Office; and William Volz, Distinguished Service Professor, Accounting, Mike Ilitch School of Business. Each of the nominees stated why they were seeking election to the Policy Committee. The vote was by secret ballot. The first vote was to determine who among the six nominees would fill the five seats on the committee. Elected were Mr. Beavers, Ms. Fitzgibbon, Mr. Roth, Ms. Simon, and Mr. Villarosa. The election for the three-year term was conducted. Mr. Beavers, Ms. Fitzgibbon, and Mr. Villarosa were eligible to serve the three-year term. Mr. Beavers was elected to the three-year term.

The members of the Policy Committee for the 2020-2021 academic year are: Linda Beale (Law), President of the Senate; Paul Beavers (University Libraries), David Kessel (Pharmacology, Medicine), renée hoogland (English, Liberal Arts and Sciences); Jane Fitzgibbon (Communication, Fine Performing and Communication Arts), Brad Roth (Political Science, Liberal Arts and Sciences), Naida Simon (Undergraduate Education, Academic Affairs), Ricardo Villarosa (Dean of Students Office, Academic Affairs).

The guests were admitted to the meeting.

V. CONFIRMATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Senate bylaws state that the Policy Committee elects the Parliamentarian and submits its selection to the full Senate for confirmation. It was MOVED and SECONDED that Ricardo Villarosa be CONFIRMED as Parliamentarian for the 2020-2021 academic year. PASSED.

VI. CONFIRMATION OF THE VICE CHAIR

The Senate bylaws state that the Policy Committee elects the Vice Chair of the Senate from among its members and submits the selection to the Senate for confirmation. It was MOVED and SECONDED that renée hoogland be CONFIRMED as Vice Chair for the 2020-2021 academic year. PASSED.

VII. THE UNIVERSITY'S BUDGET EXPECTATIONS FOR FY '21

Interim Vice President for Finance and Business Operations Rebecca Cooke began the discussion. The administration, she said, has identified budget cuts of \$26 million. The budget will be given to the Board of Governors for action at their meeting on September 25. The state has not yet announced the appropriation for fiscal year 2021. However, informal communications indicate that the state will support higher education. In preparing the budget the administration assumed the appropriation for FY 2021 will be the same as it was for FY 2020. Bryan Dadey, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Deputy Chief Financial Officer, presented a summary of next year's budget. The information did not include the state appropriation. The first action to address the \$26 million General Fund deficit was to forego the scheduled pay increase in March 2020 for all non-represented employees whatever their position, amounting to a savings of about \$1.4 million. The second action eliminated FY 2021 pay increases for the more highly paid non-represented employees. The third action cuts an additional \$21.1 million in the schools, colleges, and divisions. The divisions make up about \$9.1 million or roughly 7% of the total division budget. Another \$5.8 million of salary savings will be targeted through a combination of leaving positions vacant and laying off about 40 current employees. (These actions will also save about \$1.3 million in fringe benefits.) The divisions will also cut \$2 million in expenses other than compensation. The central account was reduced by \$1.3 million (a cut to that area of about 9%), including some funding that had been planned for strategic initiatives. The planned cuts to the schools and colleges amount to \$10.6 million or about 5% of their budgets. School and college salary savings will generate about \$9.5 million through elimination of

unfilled vacant positions and laying off 24 current employees. (These actions will also save about \$1.1 million in fringe benefits.)

Asked about the layoffs, Mr. Dadey said the figures he reported are for the General Fund budget. There are also auxiliary fund budgets where there would be additional layoffs. Ms. Beale asked Mr. Dadey to provide the Academic Senate with this presentation about the General Fund as well as the information for the auxiliary funds budget and other areas. He agreed to do so, though Ms. Cooke said her office was still working on the auxiliary funds budget and the other budgets. Either pay reductions or furloughs for non-represented employees are part of this strategy, with differing levels of furlough depending on salary level (\$75,000, none; \$75,000-\$100,000, 2.5%; \$100,000 - \$200,000, 4%; \$200,000 - \$400,000, 5%; over \$400,000, 7.5%).

President Wilson joined the meeting and welcomed the faculty and academic staff back for the new academic year. He reiterated that the university expects a budget shortfall of \$26 million for FY 2021 in order to cover primarily mandated expenses, with little money budgeted for strategic initiatives. He expects the Board of Governors to insist on investment in student success to narrow the gap between Black and white student achievement, but we will have little money now to invest in that initiative. Even satisfying this shortfall will not provide funding this year for commitments made to the NIH to renew the application for the comprehensive cancer center for more faculty. We expect that the Social Justice Action Committee and its subcommittees will have recommendations, but the current budget does not include funding to implement them. We are trying to find money outside the General Fund for that. The key point is that these cuts are necessary to ensure funding in the budget to cover mandated expenses, a different situation than the administration had presented to the Board several weeks ago. At that time the administration had a contingency plan in place if the state cut our FY 2020 appropriation by \$20 million. Even though the university's state appropriation for FY 2020 was cut by 11%, the state was able to fill that cut one-time funds, primarily from the federal CARES Act. The administration was concerned that the state would use our budget after the 11% cut as the base budget for FY 2021, but it appears that the state's budgetary situation is better than anticipated so we do not now expect a large state cut.

Some people have asked why the university does not use the money from the CARES Act and the money the state provided for the backfill to mitigate some of the budget shortfall. The \$26 million shortfall is not

related to COVID-19. There are restrictions on the use of the CARES Act money and on the backfill from the state. The mandated uses do not align with these university expenses.

Ms. Simon asked Mr. Dadey about savings from the early retirement program. He said the university would save some money from the benefits that would have been paid to retirees. Savings are anticipated because the positions will be vacant for a year. Ms. Beale noted that the chart indicated \$8.25 million in savings and \$7.3 million in costs, resulting in about \$919,000 in net savings. Mr. Dadey indicated that the estimate is based on experience and on historical industrial trends.

Early strong enrollment for the fall term led to the expectation that we would have a large increase in enrollment, but that has not panned out. We do have a large class of first-year freshmen but returning students, particularly in the lower level, graduate students, and transfer students are all down, resulting in overall enrollment that is down about 1.8% compared to this date last year.

Mr. Pineau asked who determined which employees should be laid off. Ms. Cooke explained that the schools and colleges have submitted budgets to the Provost for review and recommendations to the President. The President approved the Provost's recommendations for the schools and colleges for the most part. A similar procedure was carried out in the divisions. The associate vice presidents submitted budgets to their vice presidents, who may have modified them, and sent them to the President. The decisions mainly favored not filling open positions wherever possible, but there weren't enough open positions to balance the budget. Everyone did not have to make the same size cuts. The divisions took a deeper cut of about 7%. The schools and colleges overall cut was about 5%. There were differential cuts at the level of the individual units. Some schools and colleges took deeper cuts than others. Feedback from the unit Budget Advisory Committees was taken into account in making decisions but was not followed completely.

Ms. Beale noted that the Budget Planning Council had made very specific recommendations about which units merited more support and asked Ms. Cooke to provide information about the alignment of the budgetary decisions with those recommendations. Ms. Cooke refused to provide specifics, claiming that the budget book would provide information. Ms. Beale countered that the allocation of cuts among the schools and colleges have been discussed entirely at the administrative level after the completion of the Budget Planning Council process; as a result, there

will be no opportunity for the administration to hear Senate input on these momentous decisions.

Mr. Parrish asked if any of the employees who will be laid off were members of unions. Ms. Cooke said some are in unions. With the large number of staff in unions, the university could not cut the number of jobs necessary without laying off people in the unions. The layoffs are across all labor groups.

Provost Clabo thanked Ms. Cooke and Mr. Dadey for their presentation.

VIII. FACILITIES UPDATE FOR CAMPUS RESTART AND BEYOND

Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management Robert Davenport and Director of Planning and Space Management Ashley Flintoff joined the meeting.

President Wilson continues to meet weekly with the restart committee. The subcommittees are: Academics/Teaching and Learning; Athletics; Computing and Information Technology; Finance; Facilities; Housing, Dining and Campus Retail; Human Resources; Public Health; and Research. He noted that the Public Health Committee is a resource for all the other committees, with experts in this area who guide the development of protocol and keep us apprised of the latest information. President Wilson said he was against our athletic conference playing football in the fall because of the danger of travel. The university's testing and protocols should keep our athletes safe here, but it is clear that some universities have failed to take appropriate measures to protect athletes. We are fortunate, he said, that we have medical and public health experts who helped us throughout this process.

The President also lauded the Academic Restart Subcommittee. Some universities announced very early that they would fully open for classes in the fall. We decided not to make a definitive announcement until July 15. The Academic Subcommittee looked at each class to determine if instruction had to be on campus. Only about 8% of our classes this term are in-person or are hybrid. They are clinics, certain types of labs, and performance classes that are difficult to teach remotely.

The university has a dashboard that reports the number of cases of COVID-19 on campus as well as other metrics. Also on the website are the metrics that will trigger moving to a different stage of closure should that be necessary. Wayne State is the only university in Michigan and one of only a few in the country that has such a system. We developed the

metrics based on science and public health guidelines. If the health situation changes we are prepared and will not have to make decisions when emotions are high and we might be dealing with conflicting agendas.

Mr. Davenport informed the Senate about the changes that have been made to keep everyone safe on campus. Face-to-face classes are being taught in 24 buildings. Strategic areas in the buildings were outfitted with disinfectant stations for public use to make sure surfaces are clean. Antiseptic applications to doors and elevator buttons have proven to be very good. FP&M deep-cleaned three areas where people infected with the coronavirus may have been. They also used an electro-static fogger and disinfected the areas. FP&M continues to monitor the indoor air quality in buildings: they have changed settings so that more fresh air comes in and are using MERV 13 air filters that are the standard for the pandemic. The water flushing program to prevent legionella that began in March continues even in empty buildings to prevent problem buildup. Strategic parking structures and surface lots are open. The STEM building is scheduled to open on September 22 although work on the exterior of the building may continue for another week or two.

Ms. Stockdill asked about ventilation in the buildings. Was attention being paid to addressing the spread of the coronavirus via aerosols? How feasible is it to get lids for toilets and switch to manual flushing? Are the fans in restrooms working properly? Mr. Davenport said fresh air to the buildings has been increased to the 25% mark and in some cases higher. In the fall when temperatures moderate the makeup air percentages will increase greatly. In the Mort Harris Recreation and Fitness Center the makeup air is in the 50% to 75% range and it will be higher as we move into the fall. The exhaust fans in the restrooms have been checked and are working properly. FP&M is keeping close watch on the equipment in all the restrooms. Mr. Davenport said that not only is fresh air important but air purging is important. Air exchanges or air purging in buildings is done in the evenings. They are looking prescriptively at the 25 or so buildings where face-to-face classes are being held and the other buildings that are occupied. There is no prescriptive recipe to change filters in buildings every three or six months. The changing of filters depends on the conditions around the buildings.

Ms. Beale asked about the status of building projects that were delayed. Mr. Davenport said that generally construction projects were delayed at least six weeks while the Governor's executive order was in effect. The Hilberry Gateway project was delayed more than six weeks. Construction of the new basketball arena

was not delayed much because work on it started early. Renovation of the State Hall elevators was delayed not only because of COVID-19 but also because of delays in procuring parts, some of which had to be manufactured and faced delays there. The elevator renovations will be completed soon, but the new installation has been delayed by ADA regulations. There has also been some delay in the modernization of the elevator in Scott Hall. FP&M has begun planning for the renovation of State Hall, which is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

Asked about the use of State Hall for instruction, Ms. Flintoff stated that five classrooms are being used this term as well as other specific space for teaching and learning. FP&M is working with the Provost's Office and the Registrar to mitigate disruption as well as possible. It may be possible to time the construction in the spring/summer term when there is less need for the space.

Ms. Oliver-McNeil asked about temperature control throughout campus. Mr. Davenport replied that there are automatic systems in most buildings. They control fresh air and how they purge the air. The same system is utilized for temperature and humidity monitoring and management. The laboratory environments are doing well, also. Despite increasing the makeup air, which means they have to condition more air, we are doing okay. However, Ms. Oliver-McNeil said that there had been issues with the temperature being too hot or too cold in the Cohn Building as well as other buildings. Mr. Davenport had not heard of any recent problems, but he will check that situation.

Ms. Wareham asked when faculty would be able to return to their offices on campus without authorization letters. Provost Clabo said authorization letters, originally required under the Governor's executive order, are no longer needed. If faculty have to be in their offices to complete a particular task, they need only to complete the daily screener. The Provost will ensure that the information about the authorization letters is distributed to the deans. If faculty don't have to be in the buildings, they should not come in. Anything we can do to reduce the density in buildings makes them safer to be occupied.

Ms. Beale mentioned that the Academic Restart Subcommittee spent a great deal of time discussing traffic flow at building entrances and exits and in hallways, especially for students. Is the plan working? Ms. Flintoff explained that her team went through 190 general-purpose classrooms and then the majority of assigned classrooms to understand how the space was used, the furniture in the rooms, and the physical spaces to understand where

students could sit and stand to maintain distances of six feet and sometimes eight or ten feet. They worked closely with the Registrar and as the schedule of face-to-face classes was confirmed for the fall semester they placed about 123 decals in classrooms and on tables and they moved furniture out of the rooms. Ms. Flintoff has not heard feedback, either positive or negative, about the classrooms. There was a request for additional signage in classrooms indicating the physical distance capacity. Marketing and Communications is making the signs. They should be posted in about a week. Ms. Flintoff said that the departments, colleges, and schools and the faculty and staff they worked with to understand the utilization of spaces were fantastic.

People may email Ms. Flintoff if they want to communicate with her. Contact her if her team did not address some spaces. Most important in arranging classrooms is knowing how faculty intend to use the spaces.

Provost Clabo thanked President Wilson, Ms. Cooke, Mr. Davenport, and Ms. Flintoff for participating in the meeting and for the information they provided.

IX. APPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

It was MOVED and SECONDED to APPROVE the Proceedings of the Academic Senate meeting of May 6, 2020. PASSED.

X. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Resolution to Support the Student Senate's Suggested Statement on the Original Detroit Tribes

Mr. Roth explained that in the spring the Student Senate engaged in conversations with various stakeholders concerning the university and the indigenous peoples who historically populated this region. This is part of a movement around the country. It has taken hold in Australian and Canadian institutions. American institutions are now addressing the issue. This is a matter of opening university events with a statement acknowledging that the land on which our institution sits was held by indigenous people and thus effectively acknowledging the debt owed to the indigenous people who have largely been displaced and deprived of self-determination and indigenous sovereignty. The goal is to make sure that people are mindful of this debt that we owe. The idea is to open public events with this statement. The statement was negotiated between the Student Senate and stakeholders. Policy Committee had some suggestions for change but ultimately took the

position that this was a solemn arrangement that had been devised by various stakeholders and our role was to support this movement. A guide will be available with a phonetic expression of the native terms and an audio for that. The Policy, Curriculum and Instruction, and Student Affairs Committees endorsed the resolution and submitted it to the full Senate for endorsement. It was MOVED and SECONDED to ENDORSE the resolution. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution to Support the Student Senate's Suggested Statement on Original Detroit Tribes

The Wayne State University Academic Senate hereby takes note of the Wayne State Student Senate resolution of April 16, 2020, recognizing our region's Native Peoples and their connection to the land on which the University sits. We endorse the Student Senate's call for public events and gatherings to be opened with the following acknowledgment:

Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaaataanonng, also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people.

XI. REPORT FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Ms. Beale reviewed issues with which the Senate dealt during the spring/summer term. The Policy Committee and other Senate committees met more frequently this summer than usual. Ms. Beale thanked the members of the Senate and the faculty and academic staff members who were not members of the Senate who agreed to serve as Senate representatives on various committees during this busy stressful time. It is important work and the university has made fairly good decisions to restart the university, how to schedule classes, and how to keep people on campus safe from the virus, in large part due to the input of faculty and academic staff. Ms. Beale is very appreciative of everyone's work.

President Wilson began the restart committee process without consulting or notifying the Policy Committee. At the outset he did not intend to ask the Senate to appoint faculty and academic staff representatives to the restart committees: he noted he planned to inform the Senate after the administrative group made decisions. The Senate held a

plenary session panel discussion with the President at the May 6 meeting and members were able to persuade him to allow the Senate to appoint its representatives to each of the restart subcommittees. Policy Committee did so, and those representatives worked all summer, keeping the Policy Committee informed about their work. President Wilson nonetheless adamantly refused to seat the Senate President on the finance restart subcommittee. That was the only appointment he refused to make despite the fact that the Senate President traditionally has served by virtue of office on such executive-level finance committees. There also was no Senate representative on the umbrella Restart Committee where the chairs of the subcommittees met with President Wilson to finalize decisions.

President Wilson also initiated a Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) process. The Senate had earlier responded to the climate survey by establishing the anti-bullying committee and task force because bullying and intimidation was the most prevalent complaint reported in the climate survey. Bullying and intimidation is one of the issues covered in the committees the President created. Even after the restart committee process and the lengthy discussions related to that about shared governance and the importance of the role of the Senate, the President did not consult with the Senate in planning the SJAC process. After discussion, however, the Senate was able to appoint its representatives to each of the SJAC subcommittees and President Wilson appointed Ms. Beale to the umbrella SJAC.

Although many of the discussions between the Policy Committee and the President about shared governance and the administration's continuing frequent disrespect of the Senate have been difficult, we did make some progress in the relationship between the Senate and the President on that issue. Before the SJAC committees were appointed, President Wilson met with the Policy Committee and suggested a very narrow view of the Senate's jurisdiction and a broad view of what he called his "prerogative" to select faculty and academic staff to serve on committees as his "faculty representatives", including his initial insistence that he has a right to choose the Senate's representatives from a group of people nominated for any slot by the Senate. The Policy Committee has emphasized to him that the Board of Governors Statutes state that the Academic Senate is the organization that gives the views of the faculty and academic staff to the administration and the Board. This has been a significant element of the ongoing discussions.

The Policy Committee did select the specific faculty and academic staff to represent the Senate by

serving on the search committee for the provost, the search committee for the dean of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the review committees for the College of Engineering and the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. We also appointed a permanent transparency subcommittee, as approved by the Senate and supported by Provost Whitfield in the last academic year. That subcommittee has had several sessions looking into the academic analytics database that is otherwise not open to faculty. That has been informative.

Policy Committee discussed the U.S. Department of Education's new Title IX regulations and the necessity of revising the university's policies and procedures to comply with the DOE's policy. Brad Roth is serving as the Senate liaison to the General Counsel's office to amend our policy.

Policy Committee has monitored the work of the restart subcommittees. We have urged the administration to continue the winter term policy for assigned parking, put in place when classes moved off campus, in the fall term. We have continued to address issues with the student evaluation of teaching. Policy Committee recently also supported the Provost's policy requiring all employees to be immunized against the flu unless they have a medical reason or certain other objections in order to prevent the double whammy of having a flu epidemic at the same time that we're dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. We supported forming a subcommittee to develop a pilot program for the Inclusive Access program to insure there is adequate and wide information for faculty and students about the program. We also took an active role through the Senate's relevant committees to consult with Enrollment Management about SAT and ACT test-optional admissions and what that will mean. We are trying to access more data on that to ensure, as much as possible, that these are data-informed decisions about a holistic admission process without test scores. Policy Committee talked with Provost Whitfield about finding a good academic home for the Labor@Wayne program and the likelihood that we will need to hire a lateral faculty member to lead the program. The Policy Committee participated in an hour-long session at the new faculty orientation with each of our members talking about the work of the committees, shared governance generally, and our representation on Board of Governors committees. It is very important that we engage academic staff and faculty in the Senate so we have views from across campus when we have the opportunity to consult.

Policy Committee has also closely followed the situation in the School of Medicine. Two of our

Senate members who were in the department of pediatrics left the Senate when the University Pediatricians affiliated with Central Michigan University in order to continue practicing at Children's Hospital. We lost the portion of the PEPPAP funding that the UP brought in. There are concerns in the School about restructuring of positions and salary payment from the School or the practice plans that will need follow-up.

The Academic Senate Budget Committee met even more often than it usually does, though there was considerable concern that information was not as forthcoming as it had been in the past. Certainly, as you could tell in our discussion with Rebecca Cooke, the budget process for fiscal year 2021 has not been transparent.

Probably the single most important issue with which Policy dealt was shared governance. As I mentioned at the beginning of this report, Policy Committee engaged in a summer-long dialogue with President Wilson. At the beginning of his second year as president he stopped holding meetings of his Cabinet with Policy. He also stopped having individual meetings with the Senate President, which had been a long tradition. He had not consulted on a number of major issues including the Restart, the Social Justice Action Committee, and various other things. We were shocked by the administration's public silence in response to the most serious censure we took last year of Dawn Medley for causing a whistleblower email to be deleted across the entire university. We worried about the signal that gave in that it appeared that loyalty counted more than carrying out duties about discrimination. It would have been most appropriate for President Wilson to have sent a message to the entire university community noting the action and pledging to work closely with us and to ensure that academic freedom was a value throughout his administration. We held several meetings with President Wilson to talk about these issues. We were disappointed to hear his narrow view of the Senate's jurisdiction. At one point he suggested that perhaps only curricular matters were within the Senate's purview. He suggested that we should always suggest three names for a slot on committees so that he could choose those who served as Senate representatives. He has referred to faculty whom he has chosen to serve on committees—always almost as many as any Senate representatives—as “faculty representatives” necessary to “balance the committees”, resulting in a substantial majority of all members being either administrators or faculty appointed personally by the president. Those faculty appointed personally by the president are not representatives of the Senate or even representatives of the faculty. The selection of faculty and academic

staff representatives to committees is the responsibility of the Senate as provided by the Board of Governors Statute. The letters and memos between the Policy Committee and the Senate on academic governance are in our TEAMS platform. Senate members who have not joined should contact Linda or Angela to be added.

Some progress has been made. President Wilson agreed to re-instate the meetings of the Policy Committee and his executive cabinet. He has agreed to restart meetings with Ms. Beale and he has recently called her to inform her about upcoming announcements, such as the fact that Bill Decatur will return to serve as the chief financial officer effective November 1. This makes it possible to delay the search for a CFO while we are conducting the search for a provost.

Ms. Beale ended her report with the following statement:

As many of the long-term members of the Senate may be aware we have benefited from the steady and reliable assistance of Angela Wisniewski as Senate secretary for 37 years. Angela has prepared countless mailings, drafted countless proceedings of Policy and Senate plenary sessions, tracked upcoming routine functions to alert the Senate President about things that need to be done in a timely fashion. She has answered urgent calls or emails from across the university and shared those appropriately with the Senate President so we can act on them and in many other ways she has kept the Senate functioning through changes of administrative officers and Senate presidents. She has announced that she will retire towards the end of the fall semester and we will be conducting a search for her replacement when and if such a search is approved by the Provost and the President. I can only say at this time my sincere thanks to Angie for all she has done to make the work of the Senate run smoothly. We will be, I fear, lost without her institutional memory. She and Chirag Khimavat, who has been our student assistant through the last two years but has now graduated and did return to help us run the Policy election, have been critically important to us. They are together working on a Senate manual that will organize all the routine functions with templates of letters and chronology of actions. That, too, will be an invaluable addition to the Senate for years to come.

I hope all of you will give Chirag and Angie a huge applause. They have done incredible work

for us. Thank you, Angie, for all you've done.
And, thank you, Chirag.

XII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Provost Clabo added her congratulations to Angie on entering the next phase of success in retirement. She wished her well.

In her report, the Provost focused on the state of our campus and the health of our campus. She chaired the public health restart subcommittee. She extended special appreciation to the Academic Senate representatives Kelly Dormer and Lance Gable who have been invaluable in their service to a very important critical piece of the restart plans.

Provost Clabo continued. Our plans for restart are guided by science. They have been thoughtful and carefully developed. One of the nice things about being in an urban-serving research university is that we are not just located in the city but we are part of the city. We have functioned in restart in deep partnership with the Detroit Public Health Department (DPHD). The Provost meets on a regular basis with the chief public health officer for the city of Detroit. Also, we have great partnerships from the mayor's office. The mayor's office and the DPHD partnered with the university in testing every new resident moving into campus housing over a period of six days last week. We tested over 1100 move-ins. The offices of the DPHD brought us eight of their Abbott testing machines on loan to the Campus Health Center so that we were able to test everyone prior to moving into housing. Governor Gretchen Whitmer, at her press conference earlier this week on the status of the pandemic in Michigan, specifically called out Wayne State and our testing plan. In a phone call about two weeks ago, the Governor described our plans to the President as being best in class. The Provost said she feels very good about the work we have done but that does not mean that bad things can't happen. We are still in a global pandemic and we are watching the health of our campus very carefully. We have gone from a footprint of about 900 people a day on campus in May to today when 4340 people completed a campus daily screener to be on campus. Since we launched the campus screener, which is the CDC-based daily monitoring of symptoms and other risk factors for COVID-19, on July 1, 129,857 screeners have been completed as of 12:15 p.m. today and 23,000 have been done since September 1. About 0.2% of all screeners screened positive which means they required referral to the Campus Health Center for further investigation or clarification or discussion. Most often people screen positive because they hit "yes" when they meant to hit "no" on a symptom or they traveled domestically. We get a lot of questions about

why we screen for domestic travel. It is because as hot spots emerge there may be domestic travel restrictions. We have had 23 COVID cases on campus since July 1. We have a positivity rate this week of 0.91% in the sample that was tested. That is considerably better than even the city of Detroit that has a great positivity rate of 1.8% this week. Our three-day average of new cases is 0.33 new cases per day. In the last three days we calculated the rolling seven-day average of new cases. As of today the rolling seven-day average is one case per day. As President Wilson described earlier, we have defined a set of metrics that will guide our decisions as we move forward. Not to be critical of our national peers, but it appears that many schools that opened early made decisions about how to handle the virus as cases on their campuses were growing. That may not be the best time to make those decisions. Wayne State defined a series of metrics related to campus, to the city of Detroit, and to the region. Three levels of alert were identified. First is heightened alert, meaning that we are more carefully and closely watching data and will prepare to make a move if we have to. The second level of alert is called targeted action, meaning that when we reach a particular metric we will close a building, a laboratory, a program, or shut down a face-to-face class for a period of time. The most serious level of alert is to depopulate the campus. Under each of those levels we measure metrics on campus which are our positivity rate, the incidents of clusters that are defined as five or more cases that are related to each other by contact tracing, and the number of new cases per day. In the region we look at the phase of restart and if there has been any rescission in the face of restart in our region and the positivity rate in our region. We also monitor hospital-and ICU-bed capacity. If those are reduced we have levels at which we will move to more targeted action and eventually to depopulating the campus. We think we have done a superb job of being ready to manage both the current stage and events as they may arise. We are dealing with a novel virus. There are things we don't know. The status of the science changes, sometimes from day to day, but Provost Clabo believes we are better prepared than many of our colleagues to face what lies ahead.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Beale
President, Academic Senate