



## Board of Governors

### STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

December 2, 2016

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 p.m. by Governor O'Brien in Room FGH of the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Committee Members Present:** Governors Dunaskiss, Massaron, O'Brien, Pollard, and Trent, Naida Simon, Faculty Representative, and Victoria Dallas, Faculty Alternate Representative, and Student Representative Christopher Gregory

**Committee Members Absent:** Governor Massaron

**Also Present:** Governors Kelly, Nicholson and Thompson, and President Wilson; Provost Winters, Vice Presidents Burns, Decatur, Lanier, Lessem, Staebler and Wright, and Secretary Miller

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 6, 2016

Governor O'Brien called attention to page 6 of the Minutes. She indicated that a reference to Governor Dunaskiss in the section on Honors College Review should actually read Governor O'Brien.

**ACTION** — Upon motion by Governor Dunaskiss and seconded by Governor Trent, the Minutes of the May 6, 2016 meeting of the Student Affairs Committee were approved as presented. The motion carried.

#### STATE OF THE STUDENT SENATE

Provost Whitfield introduced Chris Gregory, Secretary of the Student Senate and Student Representative to the Board's Student Affairs Committee. Mr. Gregory read a transcript from Anthony Eid, President of the Student Senate, who was unable to attend the meeting. In the transcript, Mr. Eid congratulated Dr. Busuito and Mr. Gaffney, the

two newly elected Board members, and looked forward to establishing a working line of communication between them and the Student Senate.

Mr. Eid stated that the Student Senate is stronger than it has ever been. Most of the past year has been spent in organizing and increasing its institutional power to better serve students. The Senate has voting representatives on each Board of Governors committee and each Academic senate committee, as well as appointees on various university administrative groups, including General Education oversight, parking, dining and food services, and several others.

The Senate has set goals and organized into project groups. The CAPS Service Project lobbies for more university funding to Counseling and Psychological Services, and the Women's Services Project works to increase the amount of women's services available on campus. A third project group, Green Initiatives, lobbies for an increase in green sustainability initiatives on campus and finally, the Dining and Catering Services Group seeks an improvement in food services and a policy change to allow student groups to choose their catering service in the Student Center. The Senate is working with the administration to achieve these goals and will have an update on its progress after its Winter meeting.

The Student Senate also passed three resolutions. One was a symbolic show of support for all ethnicities and minorities; the second to encourage WSU to join the Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis, and the third to commemorate Sergeant Collin Rose. The number one student issue, however, continues to be the unacceptable increase in student tuition. During the seven years that Mr. Eid has been a student at WSU, tuition went up annually, totaling an almost 30% increase during that time. The Student Senate feels that the university must do a better job in finding other ways to generate revenue without raising tuition, and it will work with the administration to identify wasteful spending. The Senate will also work with the Board and the Legislature in Lansing, but the administration must educate students on how to get involved. Mr. Gregory concluded Mr. Eid's transcript with the statement that the Senate looks forward to working with the Board to create positive change at Wayne State University.

## **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

Provost Whitfield introduced Dawn Medley, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, who in turn introduced three leaders in her division. The first was Ericka Matthews Jackson, Director of Undergraduate Admissions since February 2016, who previously served in the WSU Law School admissions office. A subgroup of the admissions office is the Detroit Public Schools Recruitment team, and Ms. Jackson introduced LaJoyce Brown, head of the team and Associate Director of Admissions who has been at WSU for 17 years; Daniel Winston, Assistant Director of Special Programs and a 10-year WSU employee, who recruits from Cass Tech and Renaissance High

Schools; and John Young and Vanessa Reynolds, admissions counselors who have been at WSU for nine and 12 years, respectively.

Ms. Medley then introduced the other two individuals in leadership positions within the Division. Kathy Kay, with 30 years of experience at WSU, is now the Director of Financial Aid; and Nicole Brandenberg, who has been with WSU since 1994, is director of Student Relationships and Data and oversees the CRM process and related software. Secretary Miller thanked Ms. Medley for her cooperation. Ms. Medley was to make a presentation, but due to time constraints her item will be rescheduled for a subsequent meeting. However, since her team members were present at this meeting, the Committee wished to acknowledge them and have them introduced.

### **UPDATE ON THE SOUTH END**

Provost Whitfield introduced Ms. Kiran Saini, editor-in-chief of The South End, and a senior in Journalism from Farmington Hills.

Ms. Saini has been at The South End for three years, and during that time has also been with the Journalism Institute for Media Diversity, an honors program in the Journalism Department. A staff of about 10 people publishes two print editions that are immensely popular with current students, prospective students at orientations, and with alumni. Print readership is currently over 10,000 and the on-line readership community has grown immensely, with an increase of over 30,000 hits since last December. Facebook reach has also increased by about 10,000. Ms. Saini said The South End was the first to break the story about Sergeant Rose's shooting. Their information was picked up by the Free Press and Channel 4, as well as on the national level by ABC news, where their photos were included in the evening broadcast. The South End published multiple stories about Officer Rose, creating an awareness that was beneficial to a grieving Wayne State community.

Ms. Saini added that the newspaper invests in its current staff and contributing writers by holding various workshops to help them, and also preps its new writers as thoroughly as possible. She is confident that anyone on the staff has the ability to report on a national level regardless of major. The South End is a venue for students to get real world experience on a publication, whether or not they are journalism majors, and the newspaper will continue to be the voice of the Wayne State community.

Governor Thompson asked if the South End has any opportunities to work with WDET? Ms. Saini replied that they have had frequent connections with WDET, although they strive to not publish the same kinds of content.

**REQUEST TO AMEND STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Provost Whitfield presented a recommendation to amend a section of the Student Code of Conduct, specifically, to prohibit a student from using his or her own original material in more than one class with permission from the instructor. Provost Whitfield explained that the issue is not plagiarism, but rather that a student should not use his or her own original work for multiple classes.

A discussion ensued, and Governor Kelly asked if this is completely new language and not the revision of a prior statement. She also asked if this applies to all levels, including the graduate and professional schools. Vice President Lessem replied this is a completely new provision, and it does apply to all levels. He further explained that currently the professor may prohibit such conduct by stating so in the course syllabus. The recommendation makes the prohibition the default rather than the exception, but the professor would have the right to waive the rule in a case such as a Ph.D. dissertation.

Governor Kelly further questioned the use of the words "for academic credit" rather than just saying, "a product previously submitted in another course." Vice President Lessem said he could have used either terminology. He took his approach, however, from the Academic Senate; it was a curricular position, and this was an instance of the Academic Senate expressing its viewpoint on curricular decisions.

Ms. Naida Simon, faculty representative, stated that the decision came out of the Senate's Student Affairs Committee. The faculty wanted to stop the practice of students turning in identical papers for multiple courses; but any professor who wants to allow multiple use of a paper can do so. Governor Trent said she understood the concern about identical papers which was obviously intellectually wrong. However, what if a paper or thesis is created in one class, and the student is able to build on it in another class? She wondered if the proposed language is sufficient to allow for those circumstances.

Ms. Simon questioned how much modification is allowed so that the paper is not deemed identical. She felt that if it was her work product in a class and she could expand and build on it in another class, she should have that right. She gave an example of her experience as an undergraduate. As a freshman in college she reviewed a book titled *Only Yesterday* by Frederick Gallant, and her paper discussed Al Capone and his effect on the economy during the depression. She took the idea and did further research for a speech in a Communications class. Finally, as a senior in a class on the economic history of the U.S., she did further research for a 25-page paper based on Al Capone. The papers were not identical, but were based on the same idea, and she received prior permission from her professors in each case. Governor Trent suggested that adding the word "identical" would help with the discussion. Vice President Lessem said he is in the difficult position of not having a viewpoint on the

policy one way or the other since, as stated earlier, this was a curricular position taken by the Academic Senate.

Mr. Gregory said this issue was discussed at length during a Student Senate meeting. While they definitely agreed that there should be provisions to prevent intellectual laziness, there are several aspects that could potentially lead to other issues. One is whether it is plagiarism when a student uses his own work. A second is if a student is able to turn in identical course work, then why are professors providing course assignments that are similar or identical. A third issue is if professors are given an option of giving students waivers, then it would potentially turn into a case of discrimination if one student is given a waiver and another is denied. The basic question, however, is why would such a blanket amendment be required at an administrative level rather than just allowing the professors to decide on their own. Such a decision would take away some of the faculty's ability to determine the grades in their own courses.

Vice President Lessem said that he and the Provost thought this was a simple and non-confrontational issue. Given the discussion, he suggested that a more productive approach would be to have the Academic Senate and the Student Senate discuss the issue further and come back later with their revisions. Provost Whitfield agreed. The original intent was to avoid academic laziness and provide courses in which students exercise their mind. The issue is not just about plagiarism or repurposing a paper, but about a student code of conduct and what is the best practice of getting a good education. The discussion, however, raised several issues, and Provost Whitfield agreed with Mr. Lessem that the student and faculty senates should discuss the recommendation further before bringing it back to the Committee.

**ACTION** — Upon motion by Mr. Gregory and seconded by Governor Trent, the recommendation to amend the section of the Student Code of Conduct was tabled for further discussion. The motion carried.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT REPORT**

Dean Strauss, Dean of Students, presented the Summary of Student Code of Conduct Charges for the 2015-2016 academic year. He introduced Student Conduct Officer Brandi Banks who developed the report.

Governor Thompson asked about the increase in the number of students charged with misconduct. Dean Strauss replied that the increase was due in part to a single case in which 40 students were charged with misdemeanor theft and fraud within a retail establishment on campus. The other incident involved seven students on a Study Abroad trip who were charged with misbehavior, and Dr. Ezzeddine and Dr. Dixon from the Study Abroad Office have worked with the college to make sure such incidents do

not happen again. Ms. Banks commented that in her three years in the office, this is the first time that two such large cases have occurred. Secretary Miller explained that this was a standing annual report to the Board for many years. The reports ceased for a few years and was reinstated two or three years ago.

In response to Governor Dunaskiss's question, Ms. Banks confirmed that the 34-36 violations listed under sections 4.9, 4.10, and 4.11 are all the same students. Even if the two cases were not included in the statistics, there would still be a minor increase in the 2015-2016 academic year. Dean Strauss noted that these cases do not involve physical harm or disruptiveness, but rather misdemeanor theft and fraud; nor were they academic violations of cheating and plagiarism. He credited an effort by the administration to help reduce the number of violations. Dean Strauss and Ms. Banks, Linda Galante and Sarah Luke from the Office of the General Counsel, Dawn Marshall from the Office of Equal Opportunity, and Lieutenant Scott from the Public Safety Department conduct what they call "road shows" in schools and colleges, departments and offices, giving strategies on how to address misconduct, how to build the syllabus, and how to address disruptive behavior. In addition, the administration responds quickly to a non-academic student issue in order to intervene and assist the student before it becomes a conduct violation. These efforts to educate students, faculty, and staff have been successful and are the reason there is not a large increase in the number of cases from year to year.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors