

Minutes of 7 January 2008
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 7 JANUARY 2008

Present: Friedman, Fraser, Frier, Potter, Riles, Smith (chair), Stark, Thouless; Schneider; Carr; Manwell

Absent: Lehman

Guests: President M. Coleman, E. Hrabec, (Deputy Assistant to the President), M. Novak (MSA Student Representative)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft of minutes of the SACUA meeting of 17 December 2007
3. Copy of book "An analysis of salaries paid to The University of Michigan regular instructional faculty, lecturers and Graduate student instructors- 2007-2008"
4. Article from the *Michigan Daily* 1/4/09 on the University schedule: "To fix short break, students and 'U' must find compromise"
5. Letter from the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, "Academic Freedom: Statement of Principles"
6. Electronic mail from Teresa Sullivan to SACUA: "Refreshed Cognate Panel", dated 20 December 2007, with enclosure
7. SACUA Eligibility list, updated 7 January 2008

Chair Smith convened the meeting at 3:00 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Consideration of the minutes of 17 December 2007 was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. Emeritus Mathematics Professor Wilfred Kaplan passed away from terminal cancer. He had been a member and past Vice-Chair of SACUA. A proponent of strong faculty

governance, he was extremely active in the AAUP, and was the first recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Governance award. He will be greatly missed.

2. Barbara MacAdam has resigned from SACUA due to time constraints resulting from the obligations of a new administrative position.
3. The scholarship fund donation deadline has passed and has yet to be totaled. Contributions towards the scholarship's fundraising goal made after December 31, 2007, will not be matched by the President.
4. The Grievance Revision Taskforce has held its first meeting, and is chaired by Social Work Professor Larry Root.
5. On Thursday morning there will be a private meeting with President Coleman to discuss issues with the Athletic Department.
6. The University football team won its bowl game. It was a particularly appreciated win in light of the publicity the now-former football coach received both before and after the game.

SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

SACUA reviewed its preparation for the upcoming Senate Assembly meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS:

BSC: The BSC met on December 18 to discuss preliminary results from Ron Lomax's study of administrative salary "ratcheting." The early results appear to confirm a strong effect, but Ron will refine the analysis to better take inflation into account.

AEC: The fall 2007 evaluation finished at the end of the semester. The addition of new evaluating faculty and lecturers has complicated the reporting significantly, but preliminary results have been posted for consistency checking by AEC members. The AEC hopes to release the final results to the faculty soon.

SRAC: The committee met and continued a discussion of non-typical student groups including veterans, commuter students, and transfer students, and is asking for some coordination with campus military offices in regards to veteran issues. The ROTC office has been contacted. However Lester Motts does not (think) **believe** it wise for ROTC students to interact with recently returned veterans because (such students) **veterans** often have negative feelings towards the military, and he does not want to see that attitude affect ROTC students in a negative way.

Additional Note: There has been general progress in the search for a new Vice President & General Counsel. The search could be completed by the end of the month. **There is also an on-going search for Dan Sharphorn's replacement.**

VISIT OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

The President and Erika Hrabec arrived at 3:20.

The President thanked the committee for their feedback on the plan for hiring 100 new interdisciplinary professors. It has been discussed further and the SACUA feedback will be widely dispersed to deans. The President asked the committee for suggestions of things that departments should bear in mind when making the new hires. Committee members responded with the following:

- There should be absolute control in the hiring department, and an effort made in building broader connections between new hires in between their respective units.
- Also some coordination done by mentors of the team. There should be a senior faculty member responsible for creating that coordination, because that is something particularly challenging for new hires to do. Perhaps one of the mentors could be in charge of such coordination between teams.
- The tenure committees might be surprised by the direction such interdisciplinary research takes over the course of time, and should keep that in mind when forming their expectations.
- One particular problem with younger scholars is that they might find themselves more committed to one area of study than the other, which could pose a problem at tenure time. It might be helpful to have some kind of model of how such collaboration between departments would look.
- It doesn't appear that International Studies were sufficiently covered in the proposal.

The President noted that Jerry May has reported that totals for “cash in the door” have doubled from previous years, going towards need-based aid, graduate study, etc. He has found that the “Challenge” fundraisers which have been posed have been extremely effective. Such a program could be created towards funding work in International Studies. Additionally, there is not yet a clear idea of what our institutional goals are internationally. For example, the Engineering program with Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) in Shanghai has been extremely impressive. But the question remains as to how we decide where to go next and what to do.

A committee member inquired as to how the University could answer to Michigan constituents who see such programs as money leaving the state. The President responded that with growing globalization, such experiences are essential for students. Ultimately we will have to compete globally and such programs will help us figure out how to do it. Additionally, globalization can also mean the University working to bring foreign companies here, as is the case with attracting Aernnova. In addition President Coleman stated that CEOs of Michigan companies are interested in having a well trained workforce in China.

The President alerted the committee to the new information released on the environmental status of the University; there is a report covering the water, waste and energy usage on campus. The President has agreed to send the committee a copy of the report once it is finished. Of special interest are the building by building assessments.

The President also addressed her trip to South Africa, from February 22nd to March 5th. She will be attending three universities in Ghana and five in South Africa. These universities were chosen for their length of existence and the relationships some of the institutions have with the University. The University will be attempting to start some IT work in South Africa.

The President also informed the committee that the year's United Way campaign was a great success and went past its million-dollar goal. With Pfizer closing and many social service agencies suffering, such a generous response was very encouraging.

The committee raised the issue of the academic calendar, specifically that meetings for professional organizations often meet the first weekend after New Years, students are asking for a longer break, and attendance at the first day of class is extremely difficult under such circumstances. Another problem is coordination with Ann Arbor public schools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered Executive session at 3:50 to discuss the Winter 2008 commencement.

The President and Erika Hrabec left the meeting at 4:00, at which time the meeting resumed open session.

The committee noted favorably the increased amount of information received from the executive position, and the positive communication it had experienced with the rest of the Fleming Building.

AAA&S STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The committee reviewed the document and noted that its statement was not as strong as others.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

In regards to a document on joint appointments sent by Provost Sullivan to SACUA: The committee formed a taskforce comprised of Professors Friedman, Potter and Thouless. They will look at the memorandum of understanding on making joint appointments and make suggestions on how such appointments could take place and what successful and unsuccessful appointments have looked like in the past.

Prof. Riles offered to have the recent AEC survey as the February Regents Update topic.

Max Novak, a member of MSA, arrived at 4:15 to discuss MSA's student petition addressing the possibility of adjusting the academic calendar by adding an additional week to Winter Break.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The committee re-entered Executive session at 4:25 to discuss the Refreshed Cognate Panel, the SACUA Eligibility List, and membership on the Michigan League Advisory Board.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Manwell
SACUA Student Staff

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:

Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

In each school, college, or degree granting division of the University, including those at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and at the University of Michigan-Flint, the governing faculty

shall be in charge of the affairs of the school, college, or division, except as delegated to the executive committee, if any, and except that in the School of Graduate Studies the governing board shall be the executive board, and in the Medical School shall be the executive faculty.
