

Minutes of 14 January 2008
Circulated 14 January 2008
Approved 28 January 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
6048 Fleming Administration Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340
Phone: (734) 764-0303
Fax: (734) 764-6564

Internet Address: <http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/>
Approved minutes: <http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/sacmin/sacuaminutes.html>

MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 14 JANUARY 2008

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

Absent: none

Guests: none

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 7 January 2008
3. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda for 28 January 2008
4. Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, Chapter IV. The University Senate
5. Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
6. Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) Election Procedures Guidelines, dated 16 February 2004
7. SACUA Eligibility – Master Copy, updated 10 January 2008
8. Draft Report on Joint Appointments, undated
9. Guidelines for Joint Academic Appointments at the University of Michigan, dated September 2004

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Consideration of minutes was postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. SACUA will not meet on Monday, 14 January 2008.

2. The chair will deliver SACUA's annual report to the Board of Regents on Thursday, 17 January 2006. SACUA members are invited to send the chair points that should be included.
3. According to the interim general counsel, a search is underway for a replacement for D. Sharphorn, but it will be delayed for 4 or 5 weeks in anticipation of hiring a new VP and General Counsel.
4. Professors Potter and Smith met with the president to introduce matters of concern pertaining to student athletes, specifically admissions and academic program selection. The president responded saying that she, the provost, the athletic director, and Phil Hanlon intend to meet with the new football coach to discuss the matters. In addition, Professor Potter was successful in establishing a course in Latin that will accommodate the schedules of student athletes. The LSA requirement for a foreign language has been viewed as an obstacle to athletes who otherwise wish to major in regular LSA concentrations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 3:10 P.M. to meet with Regent Richner. Topics of discussion included the University Press, shared university governance, aftermath of Proposition 2, and the Healthy Community Advisory Committee. The meeting resumed open session at 4:25 P.M.

LIAISON REPORTS

Michigan Healthy Community Advisory Committee-

Chair Smith reported that the committee has been meeting with representatives from health care vendors.

AAAC-

Professor Riles reported that the AAAC met with the Provost on 9 January and discussed a number of topics with her:

- The staging of commencement this year at EMU.
- Preparing an RFP for the 100 multi-disciplinary junior faculty in the next five years. The Provost reiterated that tenure would be based in one department only for each hire. She noted that search authority would be given to a unit or units for more than one year, to avoid incentives for hasty hiring to satisfy narrow guidelines.
- The joint institute in Shanghai; concerns were expressed about respect (or lack thereof) in China for academic freedom. The Provost was urged to address this issue early on in establishing U-M's relationship with the Shanghai institute and others that U-M might wish to collaborate with U-M in the future. The Provost noted that many institutions worldwide would like to set up such arrangements

with U-M, but she wishes to proceed deliberately, using the Shanghai institute as a pilot first.

- Difficulty in arranging a meeting between the AAAC and the Director of Admissions.
- Handling of student evaluation comments (as opposed to numerical scores) in the online evaluation system. AAAC has now asked the General Counsel for guidance on how the Freedom of Information Act applies to such comments.
- Possible priority registration for student athletes. AAAC will ask for a presentation on this issue from Profs. Koopmann and Potter, both members of the Academic Performance Committee.

AEC-

Professor Riles reported that results from the fall 2007 AEC round have been posted at <http://aec.umich.edu>.

Concerning general administration questions, responding faculty overwhelmingly supported:

- Participation of elected UM faculty in the planning of major construction projects, including those for sports facilities.
- Elected faculty representatives serving as a majority on search committees for chairs, deans, and executive officers.

There was also strong (but not overwhelming) agreement that

- Faculty needs were addressed in the new Blue Cross plans
- Elected faculty representatives should have oversight of academic course selections by student athletes in revenue-generating sports
- University administrators consistently follow established rules and policies

There was strong disagreement that

- The ratio of administration resources to faculty resources is reasonable

Finally, there was disagreement that

- After the November 2006 vote on affirmative action, the faculty were consulted prior to revising admissions procedures
- Faculty were consulted in designing the web-based student evaluations of instructors.

Note, however, that for these last two questions, the fraction of respondents stating there was no basis for judgment exceeded 35%.

Concerning the President's evaluation, median scores on nearly all questions were slightly below last year's scores. The President received good marks for maintaining an environment for scholarly excellence and for representing the interests of the university to the Regents and state officials. She received especially high marks for fund-raising, but low marks for consulting the faculty adequately.

SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

SACUA reviewed its preparation for the upcoming Senate Assembly meeting. Chair Smith asked members to send him questions for CFO Slottow.

SACUA REPLACEMENTS, NOMINATIONS, AND ELIGIBILITY

Chair Smith reported that the SACUA nominating committee has not yet met. SACUA members discussed the possibility of revising the Rules to broaden the eligibility pool.

JOINT APPOINTMENT MOU TASK FORCE REPORT

Professors Potter and Thouless called attention to distributed items 8 and 9, and asked that joint appointment MOUs be placed on the agenda of the 28 January 2008 Senate Assembly meeting.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lehman
Senate Secretary

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.
