

Minutes of 4 February 2008
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 4 FEBRUARY 2008

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

Absent: Potter

Guests: K. Brown (*University Record*), Janet Weiss (Dean of Graduate School), Marilyn Knepp (Rackham Graduate School), Abby Stewart (ADVANCE program), G. Poe (Senate Assembly)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 28 January 2007
3. Memorandum from Teresa A. Sullivan, Provost, and Lori J. Pierce, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs to Charles B. Smith, Chair, SACUA, dated 25 January 2008 regarding "Draft Revisions to the Faculty Handbook".
4. "Assessing the Academic Work Environment for Science and Engineering Faculty at the University of Michigan: 2001 and 2006 – Executive Summary" by UM ADVANCE Program, dated November, 2007.
5. Electronic mail from Rich Friedman outlining drafts of memo involving "Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan."
6. Preliminary and confidential draft of "Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan, 2nd edition."
7. Approved minutes of the SACUA meeting of 03 December 2007.
8. Approved minutes of the SACUA meeting of 07 January 2008.
9. Draft with all revisions of printed version of "Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan, 2nd edition."
10. "Continuous Enrollment Policy for Ph.D. Students at other AAU Institutions", dated 02 January 2008.
11. Power point presentation of ADVANCE at UM dated 04 February 2008.

Chair Smith convened the meeting at 3:03 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 28 January 2008 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. The chair and Professor Frier will attend a regularly scheduled private meeting with the provost on Friday at 2:30 P.M. Chair Smith asked SACUA members to transmit to him suggested discussion topics for the meeting on Friday as well as for the provost's meeting with SACUA on 11 February 2008.
2. A new vice president and general counsel has been selected.
3. Regent Maynard will meet with SACUA later this month. Regent Fisher-Neumann is also scheduling a visit.

LIAISON REPORTS

AAAC-

Professor Riles reported that the AAAC met with Ted Spencer, Director of Admissions, on January 23 to discuss the admissions process. AAAC members found the meeting quite informative, and Ted has agreed to visit AAAC annually in September to report on the results of the preceding admissions cycle.

BSC-

Professor Riles reported that the Budget Study Committee met on January 25. Plans were made to update the annual report to the Assembly. Refinements of the administrative salary ratcheting analysis were discussed.

Communications-

Professor Frier reported that the VP for Communications spoke with the committee at length about endowments in response to a letter of inquiry sent to a number of universities by Senator Grassley of Iowa. Senate hearings are anticipated.

Recreational Sports-

Professor Stark reported that the committee held its first meeting, planned tours of the facilities, and discussed its charge.

GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

Graduate School Dean Janet Weiss and Marilyn Knepp arrived at 3:30 P.M. Dean Weiss reported that the Rackham Executive Board is discussing a policy whereby starting in 2010, graduate students may be required to register every semester that they are pursuing a degree. She said that the goal is not to increase tuition revenue; in fact, she will propose to the Board of Regents that tuition be reduced by about 25%. She explained that research indicates that if students are continuously enrolled, they are more likely to complete their degree. She pointed out that enrollment tends to become sporadic after students reach candidacy status.

Dean Weiss stated that there is considerable variation around the campus in registration patterns. She said that the College with the lowest rate of registration is Architecture and Urban Planning, which she ascribed to the fact that the unit does not support its students at the same

level as do other units. Dean Weiss said that the plan is predicated on the idea that LSA, for example, would reallocate its GSI budgets in such a way that the “10-term rule” could be relaxed, to allow support over longer periods of time.

Dean Weiss said that if students do not register for a term, under the new policy the students will be considered to have withdrawn. They would have to re-apply for admission, and a re-enrollment fee equal to one-half of candidacy tuition would be assessed for each term that was missed. She noted that there is currently no leave of absence application process for graduate students. Under the proposed new policy, a series of criteria would be identified for leave status, such as health, dependent care, or military service. She also suggested that personal considerations could be another cause for granting official leave.

Dean Weiss said that she believes the university has some responsibility for providing funding for each graduate student for the full 7-year maximum term that students are granted for their degree programs. She suggested that the funding could be constructed on a shared basis from university, college, department, and individual faculty resources.

SACUA members and guests discussed other potential models for generating the financial resources necessary to support students continuously. Professor Riles asked Dean Weiss and Dr. Knepp to provide a table like distributed item 10 including tuition and penalties, if any.

The guests left the meeting at 4:30 P.M. Professor Lehman left the meeting at 4:30 P.M. Ms. Carr assumed the role of Secretary pro tempore.

ADVANCE UPDATE

Dr. Abby Stewart arrived at 4:30 P.M. Because of time constraints, her presentation was abbreviated. She explained that ADVANCE was instituted as a top-down initiative because of evidence that 30 years of efforts to improve the educational pipeline for women in science and engineering had not achieved gender equity at the faculty level. STRIDE (Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence) was created to provide conceptual tools to encourage more equitable recruiting strategies.

Two climate surveys, one conducted in 2001 and the other in 2006, preceded the initiative. The findings of the studies showed few significant changes over time.

1. Many race and gender differences remained unchanged.
2. Women of color experience the most negative climate.

FACULTY HANDBOOK

SACUA asked Mr. Schneider to re-format the draft handbook sections to improve clarity and postponed review to a future meeting.

PRINCIPLES 2nd EDITION DOCUMENT

Members suggested the prospect of developing a resolution for Senate Assembly’s approval. Professor Friedman suggested that another attempt be made to find language that is agreeable to the executive officers. In anticipation of meeting with the provost on Friday, February 08, 2008,

discussion centered around language that should be presented to her. No consensus was achieved, but Professor Friedman offered to circulate a redraft of a proposal that could be sent to President Coleman along with a request for clarification of objections to the language currently on the table.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 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.
