

Minutes of 9 February 2009
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN □
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 9 FEBRUARY 2009

Present: Fraser, Frier, Navvab, Potter (Chair), Stark, Thouless; Arents, Carr, Schneider

Absent: Frost, Lehman, Poe, Riles

Guests: K. Brown (*The University Record*), M. Frank (*Media Services*), K. Swanson (*The Michigan Daily*), J. Weiss (representative of the Provost)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 2 February 2009
3. Draft agenda for the Senate Assembly meeting of 16 February 2009
4. Budget Study Committee Resolution to Initiate a Longitudinal Study of the UM Budget

Chair Potter convened the meeting at 3:29 P.M.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

The proposed agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The draft minutes of 2 February 2009 were discussed. Changes are to be submitted electronically, so approval of the draft minutes was postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Potter announced:

1. Chair Potter reported that he and Professor Frier met with President Coleman on 5 February to discuss Regents' Bylaw 5.09, in particular the concept of demotion. He reported that Professor Thouless, Professor Frier, and he met with General Counsel Suellyn Scarnecchia on 4 February. Chair Potter stated that there are some areas in which the views of SACUA and the views of the Provost's Office are not closely aligned, but that there is room for further conversation on the topic.

LIAISON REPORTS

Secretary of the University Advisory Committee:

The governor requested a conference call with University Regents on Thursday, 5 February. She discussed the diminished state funding to the University, and asked that tuition be held at the current level, despite reduced appropriation. She reported that if federal funding becomes available, it will be applied to make up the loss. It is anticipated that the allocation for budget year 2010-2011 will be reduced by an additional 10%.

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee:

The AAAC will meet on Thursday, 12 February. Items for discussion will include the Student Success Survey and final exam policy.

Professor Hirshorn entered the meeting 3:20 P.M.

BUDGET STUDY REQUEST

Professor Hirshorn, Chair of the Budget Study Committee, presented the resolution approved on 9 January 2009 proposing a longitudinal study of the University of Michigan budget. There was discussion of the proposed study, and its value to the University. The study would provide a long-term view of past budgetary changes, which could provide a better context for understanding recent policy decisions University-wide. Professor Hirshorn noted that although past Budget Study Committee reports have been very useful, they have provided only a “snapshot” of the University budget, with no attention paid to the long-term effects of budget allocation changes, such as changes in graduation rates or scholarship.

There was discussion of the term “salary” when applied to faculty. Because some faculty receive non-salary compensation, such as research grants, it is difficult to consider University-wide faculty compensation information. There was discussion about whether salary information available on W-2 forms is most appropriate for use in this kind of study. Although base compensation information is publicly available, W-2 salary data is very difficult to acquire. There was discussion about whether base compensation data or W-2 data is more revealing. It was agreed that W-2 data is difficult to interpret. Chair Potter suggested that the Budget Study Committee conduct a test study, to see how revealing W-2 data would be in comparison to base compensation data.

Professor Frier noted that salary data alone will not address many of the issues the study is intended to explore, such as disparity and equity. There was discussion of the issue of disparity within, and between, units. As different disciplines are valued differently, disparity in compensation might not be a bad thing. Committee members discussed the possibility of comparing observed disparity in compensation across units at the University of Michigan with that of peer institutions. Professor Hirshorn noted that should the request be approved by SACUA, the next step would be the development of a Committee task force charged with the task of preparing a study design.

Professor Stark moved to accept the resolution given that a task force will be convened to prepare a study design, Thouless seconded. The request was approved unanimously, after a minor change by Professor Frier.

SACUA OFFICER ELECTION PLANS

The election of SACUA officers will take place on 6 April. It was agreed that any member who must be absent from this meeting can participate in elections via teleconference.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY AGENDA

The draft agenda for the Senate Assembly meeting of 16 February was unanimously approved with changes.

The guests left the meeting at 4:03 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:03 P.M. Topics of discussion included (1) dispute resolution issues, (2) the Faculty Hearing Committee, and (3) committee memberships.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Arents
Secretary Pro-tem

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.