

Minutes of 3 March 2008
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 3 MARCH 2008

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

Absent: Potter

Guests: K. Brown

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 18 February 2008
3. Press release from the United States Senate Committee on Finance: "Baucus, Grassley write to 136 colleges, seek details of endowment pay-outs, student aid," dated 24 January 2008.
4. Letter to Senators M. Baucus and C. Grassley from M. S. Coleman, dated 25 February 2008, in response to the letter described in item 3.
5. [Response to United States Senate Committee on Finance Senator Max Baucus, Chairman, Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member](#), undated
6. ["U-M officials defend use of \\$7.1 billion endowment U.S. senators question amounts that go toward student aid," by D. Gershman. *Ann Arbor News*, 28 February 2008.](#)
7. Memorandum to Provost T. A. Sullivan from B. van der Pluijm, dated 21 December 2007, regarding sustaining multidisciplinary learning and team teaching activities
8. Electronic mail to J. Lehman from R. Holland, dated 4 February 2008, regarding the senate assembly civil liberties board.
9. Letter to R. Friedman from M.S. Coleman, dated 22 February 2008, in response to 11 February 2008 letter regarding faculty governance principles.
10. Forwarded electronic mail message from T. Schneider to SACUA and K. Gibbons, dated 22 February 2008, regarding second statement on governance from the U of MN.

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 18 February 2008 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. The U-M has filed a response to the U. S. Senate Committee on Finance regarding the committee's queries about endowment funds.
2. David Lampe, vice president for communications, has expressed the intention of continuing his office's support for the Academic Freedom Lecture series. He also explained that he is working on a plan for improved internal communications between faculty governance and administration.
3. SACUA will meet next week with both Regents Maynard and Fisher-Newman.
4. Dr. Fraser will draft the next Regents Update on the topic of benefits.
5. Only five candidates have agreed to run for election to SACUA.

LIAISON REPORTS

Communications-

Professor Frier reported that VP Lampe drafted the response to the U. S. Senate Committee on Finance, and consulted with his advisory committee while doing so.

CESF-

Dr. Fraser reported that the committee met with collective bargaining groups to discuss their negotiating positions regarding benefits in upcoming contract talks. There may be efforts underway to reduce benefits for part time employees.

RPC-

Professor Thouless reported that the OVPR has produced a revised proposal about research scientist and research professor tracks.

Budget Study-

Professor Smith reported that the committee is continuing its study of salary ratcheting among administrative ranks.

General Counsel Advisory-

Concerns about driver licenses for foreign students have been alleviated. The Office of the General Counsel is interested in developing a survey instrument to assess the value of its work. A candidate has been recruited for the office of general counsel in the area of faculty issues.

VISIT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES BOARD CHAIR

Professor Rex Holland, CLB chair, joined the meeting at 3:30 P.M. Professor Holland asked for guidance regarding the charge to his committee. He cited the low visibility of the committee as a possible reason that no cases have been brought forward. SACUA encouraged the CLB to conduct research and surveys in an effort to identify civil liberties issues that should be addressed, and also to pursue a liaison with the General Counsel Advisory Committee. The guest left the meeting at 4 P.M.

PRINCIPLES SECOND EDITION

SACUA discussed the response from the president to a letter transmitted by Professor Friedman (distributed item 9), and resolved to transmit a draft in final form first to the provost and then to the Senate Assembly.

BENEFITS CHANGES

Chair Smith stated his conviction that the major issue confronting faculty governance over the next few years will be reductions in benefits. SACUA members asked that a special meeting be scheduled that would be dedicated to the matter.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 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.
