

Minutes of 16 June 2008
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 16 JUNE 2008

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

Absent: Lehman

Guests: M. Coleman (University President), T. Sullivan (Provost), K. Gibbons (Office of the Provost), K. Brown (University Record), D. Gershman (The Ann Arbor News)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 19 May 2008
3. "The Distinguished Faculty Governance Award" information and 2008 nomination materials
4. Electronic mail message from L. Carr to SACUA, regarding criteria for selection for the Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship, as determined by the University Undergraduate Scholarship Committee
5. Senate Assembly Athletics Academic Advising Committee Potential Membership Pool
6. Lists of volunteers and nominees for Senate Assembly committee membership, 2008-2009

Chair Potter convened the meeting at 3:04 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Potter announced:

1. Crisler Arena will undergo upgrades in the coming few years, planning is in initial stages. It is not known what effect this could have on 2010 and subsequent Winter term graduations. Chair Potter will raise this question at the next Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA) meeting, in light of the past issues with changed locations for graduation ceremonies.

2. The SACUA retreat will be held on August 11. Tom Schneider will notify members with more details as they are available.

LIAISON REPORTS

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee:

Professor Riles reported that AAAC met May 28 to discuss the latest draft report of the Student Academic Success Study. Another meeting will be scheduled later in the summer for further discussion.

Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty:

Professor Fraser reported that CESF has made great progress in recent months in its ability to give input into important decisions.

Rackham Continuous Enrollment Committee:

Professor Poe reported that she gathered some information about the policies of peer institutions on tuition collection/enrollment issues for post-graduate students. Chair Potter added that Cari Crappell has researched possible effects for 38 programs and units, and that both the President and the Provost are aware of progress.

FACULTY PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETIES

Chair Potter reported that he and Professor Frier met with President Coleman recently to discuss the issue of low faculty membership in national honors societies, and whether central administration might be able to encourage membership. Such encouragement might consist of simple reminder emails about upcoming application deadlines. There was discussion about the possibility of a complete survey of all faculty and staff about participation in national organizations or honors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 3:21 P.M. to discuss candidate selection for the Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship, Faculty Governance Award selection, Athletics Academic Advising Committee membership selection, and the selection for remaining Senate Assembly Committee membership. The meeting resumed open session at 4:00 P.M.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

The guests arrived at 4:07 P.M.

New Appointments:

President Coleman reported that Suellyn Scarnecchia began on 1 June as Vice President and General Counsel. She was most recently the dean of the University of New Mexico Law School.

Admissions Update:

The President reported that this admissions year has been one of the most competitive admissions seasons, because of the combination of a high number of applicants with a reduction in class size.

State Budget:

President Coleman reported that the State Senate is currently discussing a possible funding increase of 2.8%, while the State House is discussing a possible increase of 3%. Details about the budget in general, and about funding for the University in particular, are very unclear. The President added that it is hoped that the state will return to investing in capital projects, as planning a robust capital projects budget is very difficult with current caps. Projects currently underway (all on time and on budget) include the Student Activities Building, Mosher-Jordan Residence Hall, the Ross School (which will open in the late fall), and the UM Art Museum (scheduled to open in late spring of 2009).

Proton Beam Therapy:

The University has been in discussions with several health systems statewide to establish a heavy particle beam therapy unit. The University's policy is that the therapy is so expensive that it should not be limited to a single health system, but a consortium approach would be best. A search is currently underway for a neutral site for the center. No details about funding, location, etc. are yet available.

China Forum:

President Coleman spoke about the recent visit of twenty university presidents from Chinese institutions, who spent time at UM to learn about alternative approaches to higher education. Most interesting to the visitors were the decentralized nature of the University structure, as well as approaches to admissions and academic freedom. President Coleman noted that the visit was very successful.

Since the President's visit to China in 2005, the UM Alumni Association has been developing relationships with other countries' alumni associations, particularly in Asian countries, with the goal of building relationships and philanthropy.

EVPMA Search:

The search for the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs (EVPMA) is underway. The search committee is meeting through the summer, with the Provost as chair.

100 New Interdisciplinary Positions:

The President reported that the goal is to fill 25 of the 100 new positions in the first year of the program. For the coming semester, 39 proposals were submitted, 6 of which were accepted. There is a list of accepted proposals available on the Provost's website.

President Coleman left the meeting at 4:31 P.M.

PROVOST-INITIATED ITEMS**Accreditation:**

The Provost reported that the accreditation group, led by Professor Ben Van Der Pluijm, is organizing 5-6 faculty committees for the University's self-study. Invitations for these committees will be distributed soon.

Grievance Principles Committee:

The Committee has submitted its final report to the Provost. She will send SACUA an official copy. She reported that she also plans to share it with other groups, to assist in thinking about next steps in the process.

Research Professor Track:

The Vice President for Research Forrest and the Provost met with leadership from the Medical School to talk about Research Professor track, and a final proposal from Forrest's office is expected in the next few weeks. It is hoped that the confusion about the distinction between research professor and research scientist will be resolved.

Joint Institute with Shanghai Jao Tung:

Provost Sullivan reported that 45 UM students are currently studying in Shanghai, with 11 UM faculty teaching there. This fall, UM will accept 10 transfer students from Shanghai Jao Tung.

External Reviews:

The Provost reported that two external reviews have recently been completed, part of an 8-10-year cycle of external reviews done by Provost's office, with the goal of quality control. Professor Stark asked if Rackham or the Life Sciences Institute that could be reviewed. The Provost said that Rackham could be reviewed, but that Life Sciences is more complex, since the Life Sciences Director reports to both the Provost's and the President's offices.

INVESTIGATION ON ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Professor Riles asked the Provost to comment on the investigation into academics and the Department of Athletics that he and Professor Friedman attempted in recent months. Professor Riles said that he and Professor Friedman were charged by SACUA to investigate the issue, and subsequently scheduled a meeting with Vice Provost Phil Hanlon in April. Professor Riles said that after he submitted a list of questions for discussion, Vice Provost Hanlon cancelled the meeting and called into question the charge from SACUA.

Provost Sullivan responded that she has spoken with the Associate Provost on the issue, and has reviewed the email correspondence in question. She said that Vice Provost Hanlon postponed, not cancelled, the meeting, and that Professors Riles and Friedman agreed to the postponement. Sullivan added that she thinks it was reasonable for Vice Provost Hanlon, and the Office of the Provost, to know the full scope of the project and the charge before proceeding. The Provost noted that Vice Provost Hanlon would be happy to meet with Professors Riles and Friedman, but that there is no charge from SACUA.

Professor Riles said that SACUA did, in fact, charge that he and Professor Friedman investigate this issue. He asked the Provost if she or Vice Provost Hanlon shared the questions that he and Professor Friedman submitted with SACUA leadership. Provost Sullivan said that she did share the questions during her regular meeting with the Chair

and Vice Chair of SACUA, and characterized the discussion of the questions as inconsequential. Professor Riles said that both Professors Potter and Smith have declined to reveal the content of that discussion with the Provost at that meeting.

The Provost said that Vice Provost Hanlon simply wanted to understand the scope of the investigation, and that he will still meet with Professors Riles and Friedman. Professor Riles disagreed, and said that Vice Provost Hanlon has postponed the meeting until he presents a document with the charge from SACUA. Provost Sullivan said that the extent and content of the questions created doubt, and it was reasonable for Vice Provost Hanlon to gather more information before moving forward responding to questions, but he has not refused to meet. Provost Sullivan said that she does not believe that the SACUA minutes of 29 October 2007 include a charge.

Professor Riles asked if the Provost believed that anything thus far reported in the *Ann Arbor News* on the issue has been factually incorrect. The Provost said that there have been troubling errors of omission. Professor Riles asked for an example. The Provost said that the *Ann Arbor News* reported that the Psychology Department “did not interview students” about their opinions about the course in question. However, the Department did review the evaluations by all students, which would provide a more reliable and universal view of students’ opinions. The Provost said that this fact was omitted, leaving the impression that the Department had not done a thorough job. Provost Sullivan said that this is an error of omission, but may or may not be factual error.

Professor Riles asked for other examples of errors. The Provost said that in general, there has been a tendency to report only information that leaned in one direction.

Professor Riles said that one allegation made by the *Ann Arbor News* was that several years ago, the Division of Kinesiology tightened requirements at the upper level but were forbidden from tightening them at the lower level, as such an upgrade would prevent student athletes from enrolling. The Provost said that she does not know if that is an accurate summary of what happened, as it occurred well before her time at the University. Professor Riles asked how one might find out. The Provost suggested that Dean Ulrich of the Division of Kinesiology could be invited to SACUA to respond.

Professor Riles said that the series in the *Ann Arbor News* said that sixty spots are reserved for student athletes in the Division of Kinesiology, but the University’s website Q and A ducks a response to the issue. Provost Sullivan again suggested that Professor Riles consult with Dean Ulrich.

FACULTY MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETIES

Professor Frier said that he and Chair Potter discussed with President Coleman the issue of membership of faculty in honorary organizations. University faculty are inadequately represented on national honors societies, and this may have negative consequences on morale. The Provost agreed that it is an issue, as Michigan has excellent faculty and should be recognized as such. She suggested that it might be useful for Senate Assembly look at the issue.

The Provost left the meeting at 4:53 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:53 P.M. to discuss selection for remaining Senate Assembly Committee membership.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 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.