

Minutes of 14 July 2008
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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/>
Minutes: <http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/sacmin/sacuaminutes.html>

MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 14 JULY 2008

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

Absent: Frost, Thouless

Guests: D. Lampe (VP for communications), K. Cunningham (senior public affairs specialist), D. Gershman (Ann Arbor News), K. Brown (University Record)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 19 May 2008
3. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 16 June 2008
4. Report of the Provost's Faculty Grievance Policy Task Force, dated 6 June 2008
5. Distinguished Faculty Governance Award description and nomination materials
6. Senate Assembly Athletics Academic Advising Committee Potential Membership Pool, dated 16 June 2008
7. Senate Assembly committee membership summaries
8. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule, updated 10 July 2008
9. ["Administrators at U. of Michigan aim to lead by following," by R. Wilson. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 18 July 2008.](#)
10. Support for assessment and improvement of departmental, school, and college climates.

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Consideration of the minutes was postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The visits of president and provost have been postponed.
2. SACUA will hold a retreat on 11 August at the Quarter Bistro at 1 P.M.

VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

1. Chair Potter introduced vice president Lampe and invited him to make remarks. The vice president called attention to distributed items 9 and 10 and discussed their content. He said that Ann Arbor offers a rich cultural environment, and that he seeks to promote the reputation for excellence of the university.
2. The vice president pointed out that the U-M is a paragon of transparency, citing as example its openness regarding investment of endowment funds. He acknowledged, however, that people of different ages obtain information in different ways and through different media, and that one challenge he faces is to convey information in multiple ways.
3. Professor Riles asked whether the U-M agreed several months ago to pay a buyout on behalf of the new football coach. The vice president said “no.” He explained that the University of West Virginia sued their former coach, and the U-M was not involved. But, he said, U-M officials encouraged the coach to resolve the dispute. He added that the money for the settlement came from the reserves of the athletic department, and that no federal, tax, or tuition money was involved. He said that the decision was that of the Athletic Director, with full knowledge of the president and the Board of Regents. Professor Stark inquired about the magnitude of legal fees paid by the U-M on behalf of the coach. Vice president Lampe replied that the bills are not yet in.
4. The vice president said that his office conducted a survey internally to learn what information faculty want to receive and how they want to receive it. They learned that the top concern is benefits, followed by “controversial” issues. Two-thirds of the respondents say that they go to the U-M gateway.
5. Professor Lehman asked Dr. Fraser whether CESF had remaining needs for information about total compensation and benefits that would benefit from a spirit of transparency. Dr. Fraser replied that there were indeed remaining information needs.

The guests left the meeting at 3:40 P.M.

GRIEVANCE TASK FORCE REPORT

Chair Potter asked Professors Lehman and Thouless to develop a draft response to the provost regarding the Faculty Grievance Policy Task Force report, with the expectation that SACUA will review and vote on it.

RACKHAM POLICY PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

Professor Poe commented that she had prepared a draft commentary about Rackham’s amended policy proposal and had transmitted it to the chair and vice-chair for comment before circulating it to SACUA.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

Dr. Fraser reported that John King’s task force on copyright policy will likely meet in August.

AAAC

Professor Riles reported that the committee is completing its Academic Success Study report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:00 P.M. Topics included (1) selection of a nominee for the Distinguished Faculty Governance Award, (2) nominations for the Athlete Academic Advising Committee, and (3) nominations for Senate Assembly committees.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 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.
