

Minutes of 21 September 2009
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs

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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 21 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: Fraser, Frost, Lehman, Navvab, Rothman, Stark, Thouless (chair), Tzeng; Schneider

Absent: Poe

Guests: T. Sullivan (provost), K. Gibbons (office of provost), U-M Daily reporter, F. Askari (CESF chair)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Proposed agenda
2. Draft minutes of 14 September 2009
3. Overview of the process in a Regents' Bylaws 5.09 hearing conducted under Section 5 (Draft v5, September 17, 2009)

Chair Thouless convened the meeting at 3:10 P.M. The draft agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 14 September 2009 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Several topics are carried over from the meeting of 14 September.
2. The chair and Professor Frost will meet with the president next Monday.
3. On 3 September, the chair met with APG at the invitation of the provost
4. Professor Frost will serve as SACUA liaison to AAAC.
5. The president and Regent Darlow will meet with SACUA next Monday.
6. SACUA will meet on 19 October at 2 P.M. with Bob O'Neil and the Academic Freedom Statement Committee from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Regents' Room located on the ground floor of the Fleming Administration Building. The SACUA meeting will continue until approximately 4 P.M.

7. Private meetings with the president or provost are scheduled as follows:
 - a. 2 P.M. Monday Oct. 26- president
 - b. 3:30 P.M. Tuesday Oct. 27- provost
 - c. 11:30 A.M. Tuesday Nov 3- provost
 - d. 1:30 P.M. Wednesday Nov 11- president

VISIT OF PROVOST

The provost and K. Gibbons joined the meeting at 3:20 P.M.

Research Funding-

Research funding has topped \$1 billion, and the U-M has been awarded 190 stimulus funding grants so far.

Budget-

This year will be challenging, and cutbacks are underway. Core values must be preserved, however. Cost containment will be directed at thinking strategically. Centralization of some activities or services may prove to be cost-effective. New travel and hosting guidelines have been released. The biggest change will involve implementation of per diem rates. If this proves problematic, faculty should contact the provost's office. In some units, local rules are more stringent than general university rules.

In the current fiscal year, the State budget is \$9.6 billion, but only \$6.7 billion in revenue is projected for next year.

Rec Sports-

The provost's office is considering changing the reporting line of Rec Sports as well as other recommendations in a recent report. Acquisition of the Pfizer property (NCRC) with its own fitness facilities is a new factor in the case.

The guests left the meeting at 3:45 P.M.

CHARGE TO CESF

Chair Thouless asked SACUA members to offer suggestions for CESF activity this year. Suggestions included renewed interest in learning total compensation rates at the U-M, erosion of benefits in relation to peers, and preservation of retiree health benefits.

ACTION OF SACUA 092109-1

SACUA charges CESF with reporting total compensation rates at the U-M, documenting erosion of benefits in relation to peers, and anticipating challenges to retiree health benefits, and, further, to offer recommendations to faculty governance on each issue with attention to equity across employee categories.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

REGENTS' BYLAW 5.09 PROCESS

Chair Thouless called attention to distributed item 3. He invited a motion approving the statement. Professor Rothman moved (Lehman seconded):

ACTION OF SACUA 092109-2

SACUA approves the process document.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

SENATE ASSEMBLY APPORTIONMENT

Chair Thouless reviewed the current census of University Senate members by unit and discussed apportionment and attendance at Senate Assembly meetings. Consensus emerged that the Assembly roster continue to number 74 regular seats.

ACTION OF SACUA 091509-3

SACUA asks Senate Assembly to declare that if a member of the Assembly is absent from 3 consecutive Assembly meetings without requesting an alternate, the seat shall be declared vacant and shall not count against quorum.

The action was approved by unanimous vote.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no other business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:45 P.M. to discuss a matter relating to composition of the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics.

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.