

Minutes of 29 September 2008  
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
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**MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 29 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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

**Absent:** none

**Guests:** T. Sullivan (provost), K. Gibbons (office of provost), K. Brown (*University Record*), M. J. Frank (News and Information)

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 22 September 2008
3. Regents' Bylaw 5.09, revised November 1993
4. Report to SACUA on Algebra Tutoring Activity at Forsyth Middle School and Pioneer High School, prepared by P.T. Kabamba and S.M. Meerkov, dated 3 September 2008
5. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule, updated 26 September 2008
6. Comparison of benefits at the University of Michigan versus peer institutions

Chair Potter convened the meeting at 3:00 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved. Professor Frost asked that an item be added to the agenda under new business.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of 22 September were approved

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Professor Thouless will join the chair for a meeting of the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics.
2. Senate Assembly members are invited to attend SACUA's meeting with benefits office personnel.

3. Professor Thouless and the chair met with the president on 24 September. The agenda included concerns about the proposal from Rackham for a continuous enrollment requirement and its implications for graduate student support.
4. Professor Poe will join the chair for a regular private meeting with the president on 9 Oct; Professor Frost will join the chair for a regular private meeting with the provost on 16 Oct.
5. Chair Potter said that he would develop a Regents' Update for October that discusses the upcoming CIC conference. He said that the November update would focus on grievance procedures.

#### BENEFITS

SACUA examined distributed item 6, a table of benefits comparisons developed by the Michigan State Conference of AAUP. Professor Lehman said that he would request an explanation of the precise meaning of the column titles from the AAUP.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 3:13 P.M. to discuss a potential hearing under Regents Bylaw 5.09 that could lead to dismissal of a tenured faculty member.

The meeting resumed open session at 3:30 P.M. The provost and K. Gibbons joined the meeting at 3:33 P.M.

The meeting re-entered executive session at the request of the provost at 3:34 P.M. Topics included (1) requested SACUA action under Regents' Bylaw 5.09, (2) university budget and the national financial situation, (3) outcome from a Regents' Bylaw 5.09 action initiated last year. The meeting resumed open session at 3:45 P.M.

#### VISIT OF THE UNIVERSITY PROVOST

Professor Stark pointed out that Professors Meerkov and Kabamba have been tutoring public school students in high school algebra, and that they have inquired whether their outreach efforts could be given the endorsement or sponsorship of the U-M so as to encourage others to participate as well. The provost replied that a report had been completed by Dean Ball to inventory the many K-12 efforts at the U-M, and the new Outreach Center was established, in part, to coordinate information about outreach programs to public schools.

Professor Stark remarked that central faculty governance activity is historically undervalued or ignored at the unit level, and that a statement from the provost to the deans should be considered. The Provost indicated that she has conveyed to the deans the importance of SACUA and Senate Assembly service but that message may not be transmitted down to department chairs.

Dr. Fraser asked the provost about distributed item 6. SACUA and the provost discussed some of the numbers in the chart. Professor Lehman inquired whether SACUA could obtain and review the database used by U-M's health benefits consultant to develop its advice to the executive officers. The provost replied that the database is proprietary, but that the Hewitt report

itself could be shared with SACUA, and that the report should provide some detail about methodology and data.

Professor Riles asked whether actions were taken in response to the university audit office's concerns about potential conflict of interest arising from attendance at bowl games by members of the Academic Performance Committee of the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics. The provost said that the issue remains unresolved, but that it is not within her realm of responsibility.

Chair Potter asked why the U-M fell out of the USN&WR top 25 list of universities. The provost replied that she has had a member of her staff look deeply into the situation and discovered that arcane factors built into the algorithms apparently contributed to the lower rank. She encouraged SACUA to consult with the cognizant staff member directly to understand the situation. The provost expressed concern that the scholarly reputation of the U-M has dropped, and that it accounts for 25% of the total score. She said that she has been consulting with the vice president for research about possible strategies to redress the situation.

Professor Frost asked about the status of discussions between the Museum of Anthropology and representatives of the Chippewa Nation regarding repatriation of tribal artifacts. The provost suggested that Professor Frost consult with Museum officials directly.

The guests left the meeting at 4:10 P.M.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Professor Stark recommended that questions about the Rackham enrollment proposal be placed on the AEC evaluation under the category of general administration. He asked the chair to convey that information to the Rackham dean and to invite from her a concise statement about the proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 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.

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