

Minutes of 1 October 2007  
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs**  
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**MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 1 OCTOBER 2007**

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

**Absent:** Fraser

**Guests:** Bill Martin (Athletic Director), Shari Acho (Associate Athletic Director), Sue Shand, Esrold Nurse

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 24 September 2007
3. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 17 September 2007
4. ["Controversial NCAA Proposal Would Allow Colleges to Cash Players' Images." \*The Chronicle of Higher Education\*, 27 September 2007.](#)
5. Proposal from Academic Women's Caucus for a new university award
6. Electronic mail message from S. Berent to T. Schneider, dated 1 October 2007, regarding the 1 October SACUA meeting
7. PowerPoint slide presentation prepared by Athletic Department
8. ["President's message – Academic-reform effort: Making the changes real," by M. Brand. \*The NCAA News\*, 24 September 2007.](#)

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of 17 September 2007 were approved.

The minutes of 24 September 2007 were approved.

**VISIT OF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

1. The guests joined the meeting at 3:00 P.M. AD Martin made some initial comments about the COIA report, pointing out that the document touches on all the significant issues in college athletics nationally, but that many of the issues are not problems at the U-M. He said

that his department uses as a benchmark the overall undergraduate graduation rate as a target for students in the athletic program.

2. Associate AD Acho gave a prepared talk assisted by a PowerPoint presentation (item 7). She noted that in 2006 the overall undergraduate graduation rate was 87%, whereas the comparable rate for student athletes was 78%. Professor Riles asked what proportion of athletes who are offered scholarships subsequently are denied admission. Sue Shand volunteered the fact that she was the liaison between athletics and undergraduate admissions. She said that for LSA admission, the student must have at least a 3.0 GPA. She said that the admissions office evaluates whether the student is admissible under U-M criteria before a scholarship is offered. Professor Friedman suggested that Shand be invited to a future meeting together with Director of Admissions Ted Spencer.

3. Ms. Acho reported that the Bachelor of General Studies comprised 22.4% of all student-athlete degrees conferred in 2006-2007. In that same year, 24 of the 92 BGS degrees conferred were student athletes. She said that 10 of 15 graduating football players received the BGS. Professor Friedman asked why football players select the BGS at such a high frequency. Ms. Acho said that the students tell her that they feel they are more assured they will graduate if they pursue the BGS. Professor Friedman referred to a statement attributed to former U-M quarterback J. Harbaugh claiming that he was discouraged from pursuing a degree in History. Ms. Acho said that such a thing would “absolutely not happen” today.

4. Esrold Nurse reviewed the history of the BGS degree within LSA as well as the academic requirements for the degree. Professor Friedman asked if there was any evidence about whether BGS recipients are equally employable compared with other LSA degrees. Mr. Nurse said that he did not have any information on the subject. Professor Riles asked whether SACUA could obtain the GPAs of all students receiving the BGS. Mr. Nurse said that the request should be directed to Associate Dean Megginson.

The guests left the meeting at 4:15 P.M.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. Professor Thouless will attend the football game this Saturday, as well as represent SACUA at the university tailgate event hosted by vice president Willbanks.
2. The 8 October SACUA meeting will feature presentations about (a) Memoranda of Understanding by the Office of General Counsel, and (b) the new open enrollment options for health benefits.
3. The next Faculty Governance Update to the Board of Regents is due 12 October.
4. The faculty undergraduate scholarship fund is still not experiencing significant influx of new funds.
5. There will be no SACUA meeting on 15 October.

## LIAISON REPORTS

**Rules-** Professor Frier said that progress is being made on proposed changes to Rules.

**Civil Liberties Board-** Professor Frier reported that the chair of the committee has asked for specific charges from SACUA.

**AAAC-** Professor Riles said that AAAC met and set its agenda for the year.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

5. SACUA members asked the chair to prepare a letter to the president and provost expressing concern about significant changes in the health benefits program, and to request an extension to the open enrollment period.

6. Professor Stark proposed that SACUA invite a Regent to a SACUA meeting once each month. Chair Smith said that he would issue invitations.

7. SACUA members discussed a proposal from the Academic Women's Caucus (item 5) for a new university award. Professor Friedman suggested that the AWC might want to consult with legal counsel to make sure it conforms to the State constitution. There was no consensus expressed about the need or desirability for SACUA to be involved in the administration of the proposed award.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 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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