

Minutes of 22 October 2007
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 22 OCTOBER 2007

Present: Fraser, MacAdam, Potter, Riles, Smith (chair), Stark; Lehman; Carr, Schneider

Absent: Friedman, Frier, Thouless

Guests: L. Friesen-Lynn (Faculty Council Chair, UM-Flint), L. Redding (Faculty Senate Chair, UM-Dearborn)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. AAAC Liaison Report submitted by K. Riles

Chair Smith convened the meeting at 2:30 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the SACUA meeting of 8 October 2007 were adopted as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. The faculty chairs from UM-Flint and UM-Dearborn have been invited to the meeting to discuss governance issues of common interest to all campuses.
2. The provost has still not produced a draft statement regarding consultation with elected faculty before seeking Regental action on proposals that involve large expenditures.
3. Professors Riles and Friedman will prepare a draft of the November Faculty Governance Update to the Board of Regents.
4. There has been no action from the provost's office regarding a joint faculty-administration grievance reform committee. SACUA members discussed the possibility of inviting a committee of visitors from faculty governance groups at other universities to review the history of non-response by administration to resolutions from the Senate Assembly.
5. Regent Taylor has been invited to attend a SACUA meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

AAAC- Professor Riles provided the following report:

AAAC met with the Provost and Maya Kobersy (General Counsel's Office) on October 11.

* The provost reported that the university will receive the state funding originally withheld in August. The university prepared its budget in July under the assumption of receiving \$320M, which may work out well under the recent tentative budget agreement between the Governor and the State Legislature

* The provost reported that a new centralized website for course textbook listings is now under development, in response to requests from students (and AAAC). The new system is expected to be fully implemented by Winter 2009.

* The provost requested AAAC's advice on how to increase faculty involvement in the Fulbright Scholarship application process. The university was overwhelmed with applications this year and had to forgo the faculty interviews that can lead to endorsements (which strengthen applications).

There was a discussion of faculty access to the results of the ongoing AAAC Student Academic Success Study. The provost and GC Kobersy reiterated that AAAC and SACUA members must abide by the non-disclosure clause of the original Memorandum of Understanding with the AAAC subcommittee, in order to see results of the study. The Provost may, in the future, authorize disclosure of the results to other faculty.

The provost cited as reasons for insisting on the non-disclosure clause

- 1) Consistency of policy with the treatment of the many Freedom of Information Act requests the university receives for student data.
- 2) Caution, given pending litigation against the university.
- 3) Concerns about the methodology being used in the study
- 4) Concerns about the lack of social science experts among the study's investigators

GC Kobersy from the Office of General Counsel stated that abiding by the non-disclosure clause would be satisfied by AAAC's or SACUA's discussing results only in executive session, as long as distributed materials are collected at the end by me. Members are also allowed to view a password-protected web site, as long as they do not print out tables or graphs.

Other AAAC members present agreed to these conditions (against my advice), and I distributed the URL and password information to everyone present.

At AAAC's request, GC Kobersy provided after the meeting the following explanatory statement for inclusion in AAAC minutes:

Supplementary Statement Provided by M. Kobersy regarding Information Sharing and the AAAC Academic Success Study

** Members of AAAC may, consistent with Section 6 of the MOU signed by Professor Riles and his study team, (a) access the preliminary results of the study, including any charts or graphs*

prepared in connection with the study, via a secure, password-protected website and (b) discuss the study, including preliminary results or charts or graphs prepared in connection with the study in executive session, provided that such discussions are conducted without minutes and that AAAC members understand that they are not to discuss issues raised in executive session with others who are not AAAC members. Professor Riles is responsible for ensuring that the site is in fact password-protected and that only those AAAC members who have agreed to comply with these requirements may access that site. In addition, if any materials related to the study are distributed during executive session, those materials should be collected by Professor Riles at the close of executive session.

** If AAAC determines that it would like to share preliminary study results with SACUA members, AAAC may do so provided that SACUA members comply with the same terms set forth above.*

AEC-

Professor Riles pointed out that no list of Dearborn librarians has been provided from that campus, and he asked representatives from Dearborn to help him assemble the information. Otherwise AEC is on target for a November kickoff. Professor Potter commented that he thought the list of general administration questions should not grow beyond its present length.

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The guests reviewed the status of faculty governance issues on the regional campuses. UM-Flint- There are ongoing efforts to revise the general education curriculum, and that is proving to be controversial. In addition, there is no current mechanism to provide faculty input about governance issues campus-wide.

UM-Dearborn- There are ongoing efforts to engage the faculty senate with emerging governance issues. The Dearborn provost and chancellor, however, do attend all meetings and there is excellent opportunity for communication.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Professor Stark asked that the provost be asked about the status of maintenance for campus recreation buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 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.
