

Minutes of 5 November 2007
Circulated 5 November 2007
Approved 12 November 2007

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/>
Approved minutes: <http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/sacmin/sacuaminutes.html>

MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 5 NOVEMBER 2007

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

Absent: none

Guests: S. Forrest (Vice President for Research), Arikia Millikan (*Daily* reporter), K. Brown (*University Record*), D. Gershman (*Ann Arbor News*)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 29 October 2007
3. Section of 29 October 2007 SACUA minutes representing visit of Provost Sullivan initialed by same
4. Section of 29 October 2007 SACUA minutes representing visit of President Coleman initialed by same
5. Letter from United States Department of Education to Gloria Hage, Acting General Counsel dated 26 October 2007 re: OCR Docket #15-05-2023.
6. Report of The Annual Faculty Governance Meeting of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation held 2-3 November 2007 by Chair Smith.
7. Printed power point presentation by VP Forrest regarding "Enhancing Relationships with Industry"

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the SACUA meeting of 29 October 2007 were adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. The Academic Freedom Lecture will be delivered this Friday at the Law School.

2. Professor Riles and the chair will meet with the president next Monday at 10 AM for a regularly scheduled private meeting.
3. Regent Taylor will meet with SACUA next Monday. SACUA may wish to develop an agenda of discussion topics.
4. The U-M Board of Regents meets next week. The chair of SACUA has been invited to speak with the Board privately. SACUA will have a luncheon meeting with the Board on Thursday. SACUA will discuss the agenda for that meeting next Monday. President Coleman will make statements about the status of the U-M at the Regents' business meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FINDING REGARDING FOOTBALL STADIUM

Chair Smith called attention to item X. He said that the office of general counsel will provide SACUA with the U-M's response as soon as it is complete. The deadline is 5 P.M. today.

VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH STEPHEN FORREST

1. The guest arrived at 3:30 P.M. The vice president reviewed distributed item Z: Enhancing Relationships with Industry. He described a series of administrative changes that have been made recently to improve the climate and ease of collaboration between faculty and industry. He made a plea for feedback from faculty regarding ways that interactions can be facilitated and improved.
2. Professor Frier asked how the new emphasis on university-industry collaboration would affect the questions of merit review that attend pure and applied research. The vice president replied that he did not regard the distinction to be relevant in the present world.
3. Professor Lehman asked whether university-industry collaborations present challenges to academic freedom and free exchange of information. He cited past stories about publication restrictions imposed by pharmaceutical companies. The vice president responded that the challenges were no different from those facing federal research today. He said that we have to keep the "pole star" in view with regard to open and timely publication, etc.
4. Professor Potter asked how successful the Life Sciences Institute has been in becoming a leader in technology transfer, especially given the restrictions on stem cell research in the State. Vice president Forrest said that he would not call it a leader at this point, but that it is still getting its legs. He said the LSI has a stellar cast of junior faculty, and future prospects are good. He said the U-M does regard the State's attitude toward stem cell research as a significant problem with respect to recruiting, etc.

The guest left the meeting at 4:15 P.M. He said that he would return at a future time to talk about the research track.

LIAISON REPORTS

CIC Meeting- Chair Smith called attention to item Y, and said that it was self-explanatory. He pointed out that the University of Iowa's athletic advisory board is elected by the faculty Senate, and it reports to the president and the athletic director.

General Counsel Advisory Committee- Professor Friedman reported that the committee discussed the stadium renovation project. He said that an important issue for the administration seems to be the prospect of unused capacity as a result of mandated handicap access. They argue that 12 to 14 regular seats are eliminated to accommodate each wheelchair seat. Chair Smith inquired whether there was any response to the request for summary judgment from the Paralyzed Veterans of America in its lawsuit. No one had any new information.

Research Policy Committee- Professor Thouless said that the RPC will meet on 21 November to discuss revisions to the research track faculty definitions.

AEC- Professor Riles reported that the AEC evaluation will have a start date of 15 November 2007, and that it will run for about three weeks.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

SACUA members discussed the topics that they would like to discuss with Regent Taylor the following week. Potential topics included:

- University Shared Governance
- Grievance Reform
- Representation of faculty at Regents' meetings
- Mechanisms of incorporating faculty advice and opinion regarding policy issues
- Use of AEC machinery for rapid assessment of opinions and advice on topics important to the Board of Regents
- Topics suggested by the Regent where faculty input would be helpful

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 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.
