

Minutes of 26 November 2007
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 26 NOVEMBER 2007

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

Absent: Riles

Guests: Provost Sullivan, K. Gibbons, K. Brown (*University Record*), D. Gershman (*Ann Arbor News*), B. van der Pluijm (special assistant to provost), G. Haskell (assistant provost)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 19 November 2007
3. Draft of proposed statement of commendation of Lloyd Carr
4. [“Decline of the Tenure Track Raises Concerns”, The New York Times, November 20, 2007.](#)
5. [“Accreditation 2010”](#) – the proposed accreditation process.
6. [“Five Years Forward: An Address to the University of Michigan Community”, by President Mary Sue Coleman, 15 November 2007.](#)

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 19 November 2007 were adopted.

VISIT OF PROVOST

The provost and K. Gibbons arrived at 3:02 P.M.

Shared University Governance-

The provost explained that shared governance principles are understood and shared by all people in Academic Affairs. She said that the disagreement with the draft Shared Governance document involves only one sentence regarding prior consultation with faculty governance on

matters not traditionally in the faculty's areas of influence. That one sentence applies to a statement about matters that are not in her exclusive domain, and she said that she has had to create a dialog with other executive officers who are not experienced with academic affairs, and for whom shared governance may be an unfamiliar concept. SACUA members commented that proposed language seemed to be acceptable after editorial corrections. The provost said that she would discuss the language with executive officers the following day with the objective of seeking their agreement.

Research Faculty-

The provost recommended that SACUA meet with the vice president for research to learn about changes he may propose regarding the research faculty tracks. She noted that research scientist appointments currently do not go through her office.

Undergraduate Enrollment-

Professor Stark pointed out that the College of Engineering has a plan to significantly increase its undergraduate enrollment. The provost replied that she understood that the dean of engineering has expressed plans to increase the number of transfer students to replace the attrition in upper class ranks that habitually affects the engineering school. She pointed out that similar efforts are planned in nursing and education.

Veteran Enrollment and the GI Bill-

The provost said that she met with representatives of the undergraduate veterans' group and that her office would be establishing a liaison to assist with enrollment and education of veterans. She noted that the GI Bill provides only three years of financial support, under the presumption that colleges would grant one year of credit for military service. She said that she does not believe college curriculum committees would automatically grant such credit. She said that she is exploring other financial aid options.

University Accreditation-

Professor van der Pluijm and G. Haskell described the plan being developed within the provost's office for U-M's accreditation review, which is slated for 2010 (distributed item 5). Dr. Fraser suggested that the accreditation review might benefit by acquiring information about the types of activities that bring benefit to the people within the State of Michigan. The provost pointed out that accreditation organizations are fundamentally membership-created organizations, but that the U.S. Department of Education requires universities to be accredited in order for them to receive federal financial aid.

The guests left the meeting at 4:05 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. The chief financial officer will be invited to a future meeting to explain university debt obligations.
2. SACUA members are invited to offer suggestions for speakers who might address the Senate Assembly in December.

LIAISON REPORTS

AEC-

Professor Stark said that response rates are running at 10 percent. Several SACUA members pointed out that they did not receive Professor Lehman's message, and they expressed concern that the messages were being trapped by e-mail filters.

Government Relations-

Professor Potter said that the committee met and reviewed some of the outreach programs sponsored by the Department of Education.

Conflict of Interest/Conflict of Commitment-

Professor Potter said that most units have filed policy statements.

Research Policies-

Professor Thouless reported that the OVPR presented proposals to revise the research appointment tracks.

PRESIDENT COLEMAN'S FIVE YEAR PLAN

SACUA members noted that the president's proposal to add 100 new assistant professorships represented yet another case in which administrative decisions are being made to expend substantial university resources, and to affect the academic affairs of the university, with no discernible consultation with faculty representatives. They suggested that the plan would be a good topic for discussion at the December meeting of the Senate Assembly.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

SACUA members asked Professor Potter to draft a letter commending Coach Lloyd Carr for his stress on academic achievement by student athletes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:50 to discuss a complaint brought by a faculty member under the provisions of the Faculty Hearing Committee.

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.
