

Minutes of 3 December 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 3 DECEMBER 2007**

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

**Absent:** MacAdam

**Guests:** President Mary Sue Coleman, E. Hrabec (president's office), K. Brown (*University Record*), D. Gershman (*Ann Arbor News*), A. Kroll (*Michigan Daily*), J. Lee (Michigan Conference AAUP), S. Meerkov, L. D'Alecy

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Draft agenda
2. ["Coleman: 'U' can't comply with ADA" by Gabe Nelson, Daily News Editor, 11/28/07, Michigan Daily.com.](#)
3. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 26 November 2007.
4. ["Five Years Forward: An Address to the University of Michigan Community", by President Mary Sue Coleman, 15 November 2007.](#)
5. "Five Years Forward" – A précis of the recommendations in President Coleman's Address in #4 by Bruce Frier.
6. ["Future Directions: Shaping the Michigan Difference" by President Mary Sue Coleman, 22 April 2004.](#)
7. "Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Revised 11/29/07.
8. Electronic mail from Tom Schneider to Julia Darlow regarding proposed questions.

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 26 November 2007 were adopted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Smith announced:

1. The U-M Chapter of AAUP is sponsoring a forum about contingent faculty on 12 December 2007. He asked whether SACUA wished to co-sponsor the meeting. The members voted unanimously to list SACUA as a co-sponsor.
2. CFO Slottow has expressed interest in attending the January meeting of the Senate Assembly, and will prepare answers
3. Next Thursday there will be regularly scheduled private meetings with both the president and the provost. The chair asked Professor Friedman to join him at the meetings.

## LIAISON REPORTS

### **AAAC –**

Professor Riles reported that the committee met on November 28 and came up with a list of questions to ask Ted Spencer in a (postponed) meeting with him in January. The committee has invited Lester Monts to discuss linkages with high schools. There was discussion of setting up a subcommittee to study threats to tenure posed by the growing population of non-tenure faculty.

The committee plans to discuss with the Provost on December 20 the President's proposal to add 100 multidisciplinary junior faculty.

### **Budget Study –**

The committee met on November 20 and discussed the rise in student attendance costs (tuition, board, books, etc.) over the last few decades.

### **AEC –**

The ongoing evaluation round will run until December 12, the day after classes end.

### **Communications-**

Professor Frier said that the committee received a thorough briefing about communications within the university. There is a plan to change the format of the *University Record*.

### **Provost Budget Advisory-**

Professor Potter reported that the committee met last week and had a wide ranging discussion about university budget models. The provost is interested in learning ways to communicate more effectively the economic benefits that the university brings to the state.

### **Multicultural University-**

Chair Smith reported that the committee is updating its report about underrepresented faculty, and is developing a resolution for Senate Assembly consideration.

## VISIT OF PRESIDENT

The guest and E. Hrabec arrived at 2:40 P.M.

Chair Smith asked the president at the outset whether there are any actions being considered by the administration that the faculty should know about. The president replied that the answer was “no.”

### **Five Years Forward Plan-**

Professor Frier pointed out that the Senate Assembly would be discussing the initiatives proposed by the president, and that the key points have been summarized in distributed item 5. The president replied that some of her proposed initiatives were not heavily emphasized in her address, but she regards them as important, nonetheless. As examples of the latter, she cited the university research corridor, an outpost in western Michigan, and outreach to primary and secondary schools. Chair Smith asked the president whether she wished to send someone from her office to field questions at the Senate Assembly meeting. The president tentatively indicated that she could do so but that the text of her address was fairly self-evident. She said that she is always interested in feedback.

Professor Potter expressed interest in the Study Abroad program initiative. He suggested that study abroad programs would be facilitated if there were provisions for exchange students, which would have to be subsidized. The president replied that she was focusing more on U-M students, and was looking at the prospect of raising private money to create a pool with several uses. She said she was also willing to collaborate with other Big 10 universities. She said there may be a need to set up a task force with knowledgeable faculty members. She said she thought it might be an area that some U-M donors are interested in.

The chair asked about U-M links to China, and specifically how much the interaction is costing, what benefits we get, and what happens for our students. President Coleman stated that engineering links have been in place at Shanghai for 8 years. She said that lots of faculty go back and forth, but that the venture is unsustainable unless there is curriculum development and long term commitments. She said that the provost had visited China recently and reported to her that there are 500 Chinese students enrolled in the program, and 30 U-M students joined them this summer. She said that our financial participation has been limited. She added that GM China has indicated that they would be willing to hire every Chinese student who comes out of the program.

Professor Stark pointed out that last year he taught a graduate course that was exclusively international students. He said it would be nice if funding became available to encourage local students to enter the doctoral programs. The president replied that she was trying to develop a pool of scholarship money for graduate students.

Professor Potter suggested that a living learning program on North Campus should include representation from the Hopwood program because creative writing programs are physically separated from the performing arts on this campus and asked whether there is any way to find an economically viable model to attract good restaurants to the North Campus. The president replied that she is interested in any good ideas.

Dr. Fraser asked whether the president's vision for expansion at UM-Dearborn would emphasize undergraduate over graduate programs. The president said that she views UM-Dearborn as an anchor to the local community, and the undergraduate program is vital to that role. She said she does not want the campus to give up on the goal of increasing undergraduate enrollment. She added that she told the Dearborn chancellor and dean of engineering that they can try to develop graduate programs through Rackham, but they would have to satisfy all

appropriate criteria. Moreover, she said, graduate programs are very expensive, and can become sinks for money.

Professor Potter commented that the provost mentioned the possibility of increased transfers of students from regional campuses to Ann Arbor, particularly in Engineering. The president said that she thinks it offers a good opportunity, and that she was thrilled when the program started.

### **Shared Governance Document-**

Chair Smith said that SACUA learned this week that the executive officers proposed language for an updated Principles of Governance document that has been in draft for over two years. He asked the president to give an example of a kind of interest that would be outside of traditional faculty interests. She replied that buying a hospital, for example, would be such an example.

Chair Smith asked whether the faculty representatives with whom the president would consult on important issues would include elected faculty representatives. The president said yes, and added that there could be an entire range of consultation. Professor Riles said that it would help achieve agreement if the word “elected” was included. The president replied that if SACUA wants to propose alternative language, it should feel free to do so. She said doing so may generate additional conversation. Professor Friedman remarked that the language proposed by the executive officers struck him as grudging and weak. He said there ought to be a presumption of consultation with elected governance, with recognition that in some cases it is not appropriate. He said that the idea of the Shared Governance Document is to set guidelines.

The president stated that she has always tried to be transparent, but there are many things that go on at a university that cannot be discussed in an open forum. Professor Riles cited a recent letter from the Department of Education informing the U-M about non-compliance with the ADA as an example of a case where consultation would have been appropriate. The president replied that it was a legal issue that had been ongoing for years. Professor Friedman said that he did not think there should be an adversarial relationship between elected faculty and the administration, but that he was startled that the president would meet with SACUA and talk about the stadium without mentioning that letter.

Professor Friedman also expressed concern that in her address to the Regents she said that she consulted with the faculty through the deans. The president replied that there may have been a misunderstanding. She said that her meaning was that programmatic ideas come up from the faculty through the deans. She added that she does not want the faculty to feel that she is keeping information from them, because she aims to be very transparent.

Chair Smith asked the president to clarify her statement to the *Michigan Daily* about ADA compliance. The president replied that her published remarks did not accurately reflect her position. She explained that because of the structure of the stadium and its access portals, there is not physically enough room to add many more seats. She added that there is some precedence in case law for saying that replacement of old concrete is a repair, not a renovation. She said she

is told that there have been amendments of ADA requirements, and the new standard is rumored to be 0.5% rather than 1% of total seating that should be reserved for disability seating.

Professor Stark asked whether during the last 5 years there have been issues of significant faculty concern outside those of traditional faculty responsibility that under the proposed language in the principles document she would have been obliged to consult with SACUA but she did not. Professor Riles asked whether there were any issues that would be of concern to SACUA that the President wished to discuss, in public or executive session. The President responded 'no'.

The guests left the meeting at 3:25 P.M.

SACUA discussed the current state of the Shared Governance document. The main point of contention between SACUA and the executive officers was the importance of insisting that the document should state “inform and seek the input of [elected] faculty representatives.” SACUA asked Professor Friedman to attempt another draft of the contentious section in an attempt to reach a compromise.

#### VISIT OF REGENT JULIA DARLOW

The meeting entered executive session at 3:55 P.M. for discussions with Regent Darlow. Topics of discussion included (1) tuition and financial aid plans at the U-M in comparison to other institutions, (2) academic-industry relationships and innovations, (3) faculty governance structure and operation, (4) athletic programs, (5) grievance procedures, (6) gender equity issues, and (7) the University Press.

The meeting continued in executive session at 5:15 to discuss an amended grievance from a faculty member.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 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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