

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Item for Information

Subject: Faculty Governance Update

The following letter was sent by SACUA chair Silke-Maria Weineck regarding committee participation and structure.

To: President Mark Schlissel
Provost Martha Pollack

Re: Senate Assembly Committees

February 12, 2016

Dear Mark and Martha:

The Regents' Bylaws stipulate that the "assembly shall establish standing committees to advise and consult with the vice presidents of the university on matters within the areas of their respective responsibilities. The number of persons on each committee and the terms of its members shall be determined by the assembly. The committee shall be nominated by SACUA." (4.06)

Currently, the success of the committee structure varies considerably, and some VPs have established separate advisory committees without input from SACUA or the assembly, leading to a duplication of effort. SACUA recognizes that administrators frequently seek specific expertise and/or have established good working relations with particular faculty. We therefore propose the following:

1. In April of each year, the SACUA chair asks the vice presidents of the University for nominations to their advisory committee, with the understanding that approximately half of the committee will consist of those nominees, should they be willing to serve. SACUA will nominate additional members according to their expertise and interest.
2. In addition, the assembly has established committees that are not currently aligned with a particular office, but could be. We propose that
 - a. the Committee for an Inclusive University be designated to advise the Vice Provost for Equity, Inclusion, and Academic Affairs, currently Rob Sellers
 - b. that the Information Technology Committee be designated to advise the CIO, a position to be filled by a Vice President in the future, we understand
3. We hope that this shared governance approach would reduce the need for ad hoc committees, but when one is formed whose charge concerns faculty in more than one unit, we suggest that SACUA be asked for nominations to that committee and that at least one SACUA nominated faculty be appointed to serve.

We hope these suggestions strike you as constructive and look forward to discussing them further with you,

Yours cordially,



Silke-Maria Weineck, Chair, SACUA

Submitted: March 2016