

Minutes of 13 February 2017  
Circulated 6 March 2017  
Recirculated 13 March  
Approved 13 March 2017

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)  
Wednesday, February 13, 2016 3:15 pm  
Regents Room, Fleming Building

Present: Atzmon (BlueJeans), Carlos, Lehman, Ortega, Schultz (chair), Wright, Weineck (BlueJeans), Potter

Absent: Smith, Szymanski

Guests: Provost Search Committee Abbas Alaweih, David Uhlmann, Melody Racine, Lori Piece, Mark Schlissel, Tim Mackay, Lynn Videka, Jack Hu, Liz Berry, members of the Press

3:30 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

3:32 Guests: President Mark Schlissel and Provost Search Committee

President Schlissel said the open part of the search process for a new provost will continue to the end of the month, his hope is to have a new provost for fall semester of the 2017/18 academic year. There is a web site [umich-provost@cornferry.com](mailto:umich-provost@cornferry.com) for suggestions; people can also contact the search committee at its e-mail address ([provost.search.committee@umich.edu](mailto:provost.search.committee@umich.edu)). President Schlissel invited SACUA for discussion of the qualities of the new provost. Professor Lehman said the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) had assembled some questions it hoped the committee would ask candidates:

1. What is the purpose of the university and why should students aspire to be educated here?
2. What does the candidate regard as his/her the best achievement?
3. How are academic initiatives evaluated?
4. How can the provost encourage the faculty to come up with new ideas?
5. What is your vision for research and innovation?
6. Should the provost be the only person to oversee all undergraduate programs in the University?
7. How do you respond to complaints that it is elitist and expensive?
8. Will you teach an undergraduate course?

Professor Carlos asked that the candidates be asked how a provost can encourage independence at the intersection between the university and the state. Professor Ortega, suggested asking the candidates provide examples demonstrating their commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

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Chair Schultz discussed the dichotomy between strong institutions of faculty governance at the campus level, and the administrative exercise of power focused at the unit level. For example, faculty governance is asked to help university personnel who are not part of the faculty senate. The definition of ‘faculty’ is unit dependent, and the new Provost should provide guidance as to how Faculty Governance should interact with units. He noted unit executive committees are less likely to be faculty-centric; that they tend to be more allied to the dean and institution than the faculty. President Schlissel replied that executive committees consist of faculty. Professor Lehman pointed out that the executive committees are elected from pre-selected lists, which often do not present candidates who faculty would otherwise support for positions on an executive committee.

President Schlissel asked what the committee should be looking out for in terms of relationship with SACUA? Professor Lehman said the biggest complaint faculty have is that decisions are largely made before faculty are consulted. Professor Weineck said that, given the Academy is faced with hostile federal administration, the provost must have game plans to deal with vulnerabilities such as plans to restrict student loans to certain areas of study, and research grants. She said a new provost should have experience dealing with government and the ability to communicate effectively with people of different views.

President Schlissel asked about having a political conservative as provost. Professor Weineck said conservatives were generally opposed to public education. She added that, in terms of hiring and retention, Michigan rarely sees itself in competition with public universities, but often in competition with private universities. She asked how the university should deal with its budgetary pressures as a public university and that faculty mindset differs from the public.

Chair Schultz said senior staff of the provost’s office was large, and asked if the new provost would review staffing. He noted that, while the senior staff of the provost’s office had increased, many university wide initiatives, which might otherwise be controlled by the provost’s office, gravitate to the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. President Schlissel said he was unaware of expansion of the provost's staff. Professor Pierce said it had expanded. Chair Schultz said parts Michigan’s efforts at outreach have not been well focused.

Professor Ortega asked how the new provost will view community engaged service and teaching innovation approaches in promotion efforts. President Schlissel said this was an important responsibility of the provost and dean. Professor Ortega asked about the connection between the academic and athletic enterprises of the university, and asked how a new provost would deal with athletics. President Schlissel replied that while the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics reports to him, the provost and faculty have a role because athletes are students, who should have the same high value education. He said a provost can help faculty correct stereotypes about student athletes and help faculty colleagues to embrace student athletes.

President Schlissel asked if the committee should look for an internal or external candidate. Professor Potter indicated we have had two successful internal provosts, but it might be time to have another external candidate, pointing to Chief Information Officer Trosvig’s ability to isolate peculiarities in Michigan’s approach because of her

experience at the University of Washington. Professor Potter said the provost should discuss what is meant by academic excellence. Professor Atzmon supported Professor Potter's views, and pointed to the need for someone who had experience dealing with large-scale budgets. President Schlissel asked if SACUA could imagine having a provost who had not been a chair or dean. Professor Weineck said that with all the new deans, the University needs a provost who understands the University's identity. Professor Atzmon asked the committee to consider input from colleagues in the trenches—references from faculty who know the person. President Schlissel said he would be happy to accept help reaching larger groups. Professor Ortega said the AAAC discussed the difference between a provost being an intellectual leader and visionary; he hoped the candidate would consider the new ideas an outsider can bring to the University. President Schlissel said vision is important, but had to be balanced with the ability to handle a huge management job.

#### 4:14 SACUA Nominating Committee

Professor Weineck will replace Professor Smith and will serve as chair. Professor Weineck said she was interested in recruiting a member of the Law School faculty. The slate of at least SACUA candidates will be developed in the next few weeks. Chair Schultz urged the nominating committee to look for candidates from the Medical School and LSA, and that attention should be paid to representation from the Flint and Dearborn campuses on SACUA.

#### 4:16 Matters Arising

Chair Schultz introduced the issue of SACUA's continuing involvement in the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), which is currently in the process of revising its Bylaws. He said colleagues in the Big Ten have expressed concerns about the revision process, and that past and current Faculty Athletic Representatives (FARs) at the University of Michigan thought it would be good to suspend membership. Professor Wright is considering going to the next COIA meeting gather information at the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to be held at Wake Forest University. Professor Carlos observed that the decision-making process appeared very hasty, and wanted to know if SACUA could affect the decision-making process? Professor Wright returned to the question of whether SACUA should to be involved at all? Chair Schultz said COIA's original goal was student athlete welfare and academic integrity. Professor Potter said COIA is inefficient and hence SACUA should not be a member. He suggested SACUA look to developing a connection with the Knight Commission. Professors Carlos Wright expressed concern for the University's brand if SACUA remained involved with COIA.

Professor Lehman said an aggrieved individual has approached him about a grievance, since, according to the grievant, the Faculty Grievance Monitor (FGM) is saturated.

#### 4:26 Executive Session

[Suggestion of potential SACUA candidates]

[Proposed Rule Change so the ABIA will be treated like other Faculty Senate Committees for determining eligibility for SACUA nomination]

4:40 The proposed rule change passed unanimously

4:41 Executive session continued

[FGM] [Feedback of Discussion with the Search Committee] [Review of Private Meetings with President and APG]

4:55 Minutes for January 30 were approved

5:00 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,  
David S. Potter  
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:  
Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

Sec. 4.01 The University Senate

"...[t]he Senate is authorized to consider any subject pertaining to the interests of the university, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in regard thereto. Decisions of the University Senate with respect to matters within its jurisdiction shall constitute the binding action of the university faculties. Jurisdiction over academic policies shall reside in the faculties of the various schools and colleges, but insofar as actions by the several faculties affect university policy as a whole, or schools and colleges other than the one in which they originate, they shall be brought before the University Senate."

Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs:

Senate: "In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed."

Assembly: "The Assembly may adopt rules for the transaction of its business. In appropriate cases not covered by rules of the Assembly, the rules of the University Senate shall apply."

SACUA: "The committee may adopt rules for the transaction of its business."