

Minutes of 24 April 2017
Circulated 9 May 2017
Approved 22 May 2017

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, April 24, 2016 3:15 pm
Room 4025, Fleming Building

Present: Atzmon, Carlos, Ortega, Schultz (chair), Wright; Potter, Schneider, Snyder

Absent: Lehman, Smith, Szymanski, Weineck

Guests: Interim Provost Courant, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Provost
Cunningham, Marsh, Malek, members of the Press

3:15 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chair Schultz called the meeting to order at 3:20 pm and asked SACUA members to observe a moment of silence in recognition of SACUA member David Smith's loss of his son Michael a few days earlier.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

The draft SACUA minutes of April 3, 2017 and April 10, 2017 were both approved unanimously but with one abstention and with a slight modification of changing "Wednesday" to "Monday" in the April 3 draft minutes' header.

3:20 Announcements

Professor Carlos provided SACUA members with an account of the April 19 private meeting with Provost Courant. Issues discussed were 1) collaboration between faculty and the administration, 2) the cost effectiveness of using the Inglis House, 3) the football team and the Rome trip, 4) the resignation of the Music, Theatre and Dance Dean, and 5) the Institute for the Humanities. Professor Ortega asked how to get faculty input for issues such as the Rome trip.

Chair Schultz stated that he had provided copies of his annual Regents' address, the Academic Program Group (APG) address, and portions of his final Senate Assembly address in the packet.

3:35 Provost Paul Courant

Provost Courant and his Chief of Staff Kelly Cunningham arrived at 3:35.

A discussion followed concerning the advantages and disadvantages of a provost having control of the budget and therefore the expectation of greater emphasis on academic values in the budget priorities. Provost Courant stated that most Big Ten universities have a provost in charge of the budget. Chair Schultz asked how many of the budget decisions are delegated. The Provost

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said nothing is delegated and that he is involved in every aspect of the budget process. Provost Courant said that he seeks advice from the Deans and Executive Officers and that the Regents are included extensively from the beginning of the budget process. He said that the Regents are particularly concerned about the budget's impact on tuition increases.

Chair Schultz asked if Provost Curren had any advice for the new provost. Provost Curren said that depended on who was chosen. Personally, Provost Curren said he would prefer an insider who would be already very much aware of the core or “secret sauce” that makes U-M so good at a lot of things.

Professor Ortega expressed concern about campus safety. Provost Courant said his impression is that the environment on campus is quite safe and that the Department of Public Safety and Security (DPSS) responds with added resources whenever there is an apparent increase in criminal activity. He did note incidents in south campus which led to the rapid implementation of new night rides, and that these may have improved safety. DPSS also takes the view that the environment around campus is part of its territory very seriously.

Professor Ortega asked about the situation at Berkeley concerning the planned speaking engagement of Anne Coulter, noting that he has not seen similar threats on the University of Michigan’s campus. Provost Courant indicated his sense that the concern at Berkeley was that broader communities around the campus posed danger to both Coulter and the campus community. There is not nearly as large mass of population near the Ann Arbor campus.

Professor Malek asked what Provost Courant felt the major challenges facing higher education will be in the next 3-5 years. Provost Curren said he feels that it will be the relationship between the University and society. Great research universities produce knowledge and education that transforms the world, work of very high value in many areas, the popular perception that these institutions are broadly valuable to society is weaker than it was 5-10 years ago. It is important to the University of Michigan that faculty and administration work hard to counter that view that research universities are not socially valuable, and articulate the value of investment in research universities. Outward facing engagement, some of which is political, is much more important than it used to be.

Another concern is effective pedagogy. Provost Courant has encouraged exploration of ways to put together ways to teach big introductory courses successfully and improve introductory teaching at a very large scale. He also sees information technology as an enhancement to good pedagogy.

Professor Malek asked about the long-term strategy, or business model, to deal with the chronic issue with external funding. Provost Courant pointed to increasing growth in sponsored research, and observed that it was an open question if the massive cuts proposed by the current administration of substantial cuts will happen. This university is extremely dependent upon external support, which not so much an issue of business model, but, he noted, if there is no money the people doing the research will have less to do. The university needs to articulate the fact that this is a good social investment.

Professor Potter asked about larger lecture halls for introductory courses Provost Courant said that there will be a new classroom building which is at a pre-planning stage.

Chair Schultz asked if libraries will have the same fate as the video store. Provost Courant said he has written on the subject (<https://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub142/courant.html>), and that universities will have libraries that look like libraries for a long time. Most of the literature of the 20th century, which has been digitized, is not available. The library is increasingly becoming a place where things that are not books live and get used. Librarians have command of material that is valuable to faculty and students, and libraries are where academic services technologists, who help faculty teach better with technology, live. There will also be a museum

aspect of libraries (special collections) enabling people to see the scholarly and cultural record in the form in which it was produced.

Professor Carlos asked Provost Courant’s opinion of the library as a repository of public goods, including data bases being shut down by the government. Provost Courant said many places are engaged in preserving this material, but does not know how well organized the process is. It is also the case that the number of entities that are good at preserving data is small because it takes hard work to hold onto data sets in a way that they can be accessed. As an example, he offered the problem the Superintendent of Documents has in ensuring that accurate texts of government documents are available (The Superintendent of Documents (SupDocs) leads the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) in providing public access to Government information published by the U.S. Congress, Federal agencies, and the Federal courts see <https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/supdocs>). He noted one issue is that the depository libraries did not want to hold all the paper, another is that the federal government sometimes changes texts without telling people.

Chair Schultz asked what percentage of new acquisitions will be electronic only. Provost Courant said most academic journals are available in electronic form only, which is not true of books A great deal of work must be done to ensure electronic work can be preserved. He noted that stuff disappears. The library was buying over 100,000 volumes in print when he was librarian.

Chair Schultz asked about the interaction between library and the University’s Information Technology Officer. Provost Courant replied that the Library has made preservation and archiving a priority. He drew attention to The Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/>) which has been exploring the issues of data preservation and the principles for deaccessioning.

Chair Schultz asked about the failure of Google book project. Provost Courant replied that what failed was the ability to create a digital library cum bookstore that would enable the published literature of the 20th century to be digitally available. He said that there 20 million digital books in the Google collection and 6-7 million in the Hathi trust (a huge resource). The lesson learned was that you can’t twist the class action system so much as the prospect settlement would have required. He believes there will be great value to have access to all this literature in electronic form.

Professor Ortega asked about the wave of promotions, and whether the diversity of the faculty was enhanced. Provost Courant said he does not know. Ethnicity is not a feature in a promotion file. He observed that a plurality of the cases were connected to the Medical School (over 130 cases). One thing that was clear to him is that the range of national origins of people’s names has expanded and that there are an increasing number of interdisciplinary cases. There is an enormous amount of plainly excellent work. Those areas of evaluation have not changed very much.

Provost Courant left the meeting.

4:20 Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Membership Suspension
RESOLUTION 042417

WHEREAS the future of COIA membership and mission are uncertain, be it hereby
RESOLVED that the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
suspends the University of Michigan central faculty governance membership in COIA.

The measure passed with 4 affirmative votes and one abstention.

4:25 Davis, Markert, Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Update

The Memo of Understanding has been signed between the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund (AFLF) and the University. The Office of the General Counsel says that it is a contract. Professors Atzmon and Ortega will be on the board in the coming year. There is still uncertainty about the identity of the speaker for next year. Chair Schultz feels that the Academic Freedom Lecture (AFL) should be absorbed back into Senate Assembly hands and the AFLF should be in the hands of a separate committee.

4:41 Matters Arising

Professor Ortega thanked Professors Wright and Schultz for their service. Professor Schultz expressed gratitude to Professor Lehman, Smith and Weineck for their service.

4:43 Executive Session

[SACUA gatherings]; [Meetings with Provost Courant]; [DEI issues]

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 polices 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."