

Minutes of 3 April 2017
Circulated 24 April 2017
Approved 24 April 2017

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

Present: Carlos (Bluejeans), Lehman (Bluejeans), Ortega, Schultz (chair), Smith, Szymanski (Bluejeans), Weineck (Bluejeans), Wright: Potter, Schneider, Snyder

Absent: Atzmon

Guests: President Schlissel, Professor Eaton, Professor Malek, Professor Marsh, members of the press

3:12 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes/Announcements

3:16 The agenda was approved

3:21: the minutes for February 6, 2017, March 6, 2017, and March 28, 2017 were approved.

3:20 Preparation for Guest

Chair Schultz said he had discussed SACUA involvement in the GEO negotiations with Associate General Counsel Gerdes; Ms. Gerdes' position is that SACUA may be considered an administration unit, and should consider not being involved. Chair Schultz believes faculty governance has an interest in the contract negotiations and Professor Weineck feels that SACUA should be consulted on matters affecting faculty interests and try to discover if there were faculty concerns in the contract negotiations, but not be involved otherwise. Chair Schultz said the current negotiations will be ending by May 1.

Professor Marsh asked about the "grievance glut." Chair Schultz said that there were more grievances in process than in other years.

3:30 Guest: President Mark Schlissel

President Schlissel reminded SACUA of upcoming Bicentennial colloquia. One is on April 6, a public forum about the future of research universities, includes all living University of Michigan presidents will join him to discuss the challenges each faced when the values of the university clashed with those of society as a whole. On June 26, there will be a gathering of the presidents serving as the trustees of the Tanner Lectures on Human Values (U-M, U-C Berkeley, Cambridge, Harvard, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford, Utah, and Yale) for a public panel discussing the evolving bargain between the

academy and society, to ask why society doubts the value of universities when data suggests there is a tremendous return on the investment in a college education.

President Schlissel mentioned the Stumbling Blocks exhibits as a consciousness-raising project about challenges to the University's aspiration for a diverse campus community (<http://futureuniversitycommunity.umichsites.org/stumbling-blocks/>). As a part of the exhibition, the Fleming Building has been renamed the "The 33,616 Staff Building" to honor all the staff who have worked there (<https://record.umich.edu/articles/stumbling-blocks-bicentennial-exhibition-tackle-u-ms-history-look-future>).

President Schlissel addressed the controversy brewing amongst undergraduates about the absence of a traditional commencement speaker for Spring Commencement. The goal of the administration is to have a special ceremony, focusing on students, to maintain the sense of tradition and celebrate their achievements. There was a student advisory group to review the planned festivities.

President Schlissel pointed out that even very fine speakers had been controversial, and noted that it would have been very difficult to invite a political speaker in the current politically polarized atmosphere. There will traditional commencement speakers in the future.

This year plans include having students walk into the stadium through the tunnel and sit in chairs on the field (allowing for more tickets for the students' families). The ceremony will begin with recognition of ROTC students, who will be sworn in by the Commandant of the Naval Academy and will feature notable members of the community reading selections from famous speeches that have been offered on the Michigan campus (these will include Coach Harbaugh, Vice President Harper, and Professor Curzan). The 20-person student advisory committee has been asked to design a 7-minute video in which today's students offer a message to those in the future and there will be 10 bicentennial alumni awards. Award winners include Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (known professionally as Pasek and Paul), winners of the Academy Award for Best Original Song for the *La La Land*. Pasek and Paul will do a live performance and accompany students from the School of Music Theater and Dance (<https://president.umich.edu/honors-awards/umbaa/>).

President Schlissel understands the student perspective with respect to the absence of a traditional speaker, but hopes that students will approach the ceremony, which is stepping away from tradition to make this a special event, with open minds.

Chair Schultz asked President Schlissel if his conversations assuaged student concerns.

President Schlissel said students had expressed disappointment that he did not "listen" to them. He believes that it would be more accurate to say that he "heard" but did not "obey." While he feels that student voice is always welcome, it is misleading to think that it is always determinative. In this case, the leadership of the university decided that the special thing we will be doing will be worthwhile. He stressed that one criticism that is not true is that the University did not want to spend money. The University never pays commencement speakers (they get expenses).

President Schlissel said the provostal search is moving along very well. He is still optimistic that the new provost will be announced before the summer break, but expressed his appreciation for the strong leadership of Interim Provost Courant.

President Schlissel said he cannot talk about the GEO negotiations and noted that SACUA had been sent information about the faculty involved. He is confident that everyone will think they have been treated fairly. He said that the University is sensitive to the 20-hour rule in the current climate.

President Schlissel observed that the new administration had posted its “skinny budget plan,” which calls for a large increase in defense spending and significant cuts to many things, especially research funding. The University is lobbying on this, taking the view that effective research cannot lurch from good to bad funding environments. This Friday, the Center for the History of Medicine is sponsoring a conference entitled “Pandemic! Contagious Crises from AIDS to Zika” (<http://chm.med.umich.edu/pandemic-contagious-crises-from-aids-to-zika/>). In President Schlissel’s view there is no better example of our value to the country and the world than our ability to confront emerging infectious diseases. Shifting this money away from biomedical research will not make us safer.

President Schlissel discussed the assertion by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tom Price that \$5.8 billion could be cut from the 2018 budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), with the NIH still funding as least as much research if it eliminated overhead payments to universities and research institutions. President Schlissel regards this as a very interesting political position that will require universities to help people understand indirect costs. The University has joined others in speaking out about the proposed cuts to the National Endowment for the Art and the National Endowment for the Humanities. At the state level, he noted significant lobbying against the proposal to cut the *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*. Given the nature of the debate he is concerned that a reduction in proposed reductions (e.g. from a 18% cut to the NIH to a 9% cut) will be regarded as a victory, which would be wrong. In his view the country will be safer if more money is spent on discovery.

Professor Malek said that the business model for scientific research has been broken for some time.

President Schlissel said that the University has been diversifying the sources of research funding, that its resources have grown faster than the cuts, and that there are more relationships with the private sector (especially in engineering), but, in the long run, these cannot replace a steady, but modest, rates of growth in public sector funding.

Professor March said the Defense Department (DOD) is funding projects that would have been funded by NIH—there is willingness to fund very basic research through defense. President Schlissel pointed to breast cancer research funded on a large scale by the DOD and noted that energy research is important to the military.

Professor Smith stressed the continuing importance of NIH funding; President Schlissel said the University is competing well, having a larger slice of what is unfortunately a smaller pie.

Professor Lehman observed that the funding model for US university system is different from the Canadian system, that Canadian colleagues have a more consistent and

reliable source so they could take on longer term challenges. Professor Smith observed that Canadians do not fund graduate students, and supply costs are about the same.

Professor Smith asked about the announced efforts to revoke tenure from Professors at the Wayne State Medical School (<http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/wayne-state-u-seeks-to-revoke-tenure-from-5-medical-school-professors/117511>). President Schlissel said he does not know more than what he has read. He feels that a strong commitment to tenure is important for a university's success, but there needs to be a mechanism to address faculty who take advantage of tenure. Extreme lack of productivity is a serious threat to tenure and universities need their own mechanisms to deal with people who abuse tenure.

Chair Schultz mentioned last week's discussion with Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs (EVPMA) Runge about his dual position as Dean/CEO, noting that EVPMA Runge said that it was hard to do both jobs, and asking what President Schlissel thought about the reorganization of the Medical School. President Schlissel said it was better to see this as a Health System reorganization to enhance integration of research with clinical care delivery. The Health System and Medical School are both big and complicated with the result that many proposals do not make it to the level of the EVPMA until things have been locked in place on both sides. The new administrative model is used at peer institutions such as Johns Hopkins and the University of Pennsylvania, but it is too early to say how things will work out at Michigan. The world of health care and the research funding environments are changing rapidly. The Board of Regents is spending a lot of time on Health System issues, and is sensitive of the financial risks to the university.

Professor Weineck asked about the criteria for evaluating the success of the change. President Schlissel said the issue is how big an enterprise the Health System needs to be to offer training in specialized care, that it must be able to contract with population based insurers and develop affiliations to be stable in an environment in which many companies are switching insurance to be targeted at specific health systems.

4:00: President Schlissel left the meeting.

There was discussion amongst Professors Carlos, Smith, Malek and Marsh about the direction of the Medical School and Health System under the previous administrative model.

4:10 Declarations of Intent to Run for SACUA Chair or Vice Chair, Past Chair Continued Discussion

Professor Ortega has expressed interest in running for SACUA chair. Chair Schultz asked for a motion to close nominations for chair. It was passed unanimously.

Professor Lehman moved that Professor Ortega be named by acclamation, Professor Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Professor Ortega is elected Chair of SACUA for 2017/8.

Professor Wright nominated Professor Atzmon as Vice Chair. Chair Schultz pointed out that the Vice Chair will be responsible for the grievance process. It was agreed to allow Professors Atzmon and Wright to discuss the position of Vice Chair.

Professor Lehman asked if there was there a common theme to grievances?

Chair Schultz said there was not, the issues are linked to tenure and promotion in different areas; there were no indications of the use of the Professional Standards or Fitness for Duty SPGs to force out people out. There has been pressure from administrators on faculty to avoid the grievance process, and to use the Office of Institutional Equity to sidetrack grievances.

Chair Schultz introduced the issue of creating the position of Past Chair, asking if this should be institutionalized as an ex officio position. If it became a regular appointment this would require a change of Regents Bylaws.

Professor Smith and Weineck favored the more informal process, with Professor Weineck noting that it would still be a major time commitment meriting compensation. She said that consideration should be given to the size of SACUA, with a view to possible expansion, or longer terms for SACUA members. In her view, it might be a good idea to have a task force to review the issues.

Professor Lehman said that it would be better to use the whole body of ex-chairs. Professor Smith said that an immediate past-chairs could be available for counsel on a regular basis, but need not come to every meeting.

Chair Schultz said that there should be a strong expectation that the past chair will continue and proposed that the Vice Chair, Chair and Immediate Past Chair should receive expanded stipends.

Professors Lehman and Weineck said that the Senate Assembly should be asked about restructuring the committee. Professor Lehman moved postponement of the discussion. The motion passed.

4:20 Davis, Markert, Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Update

Chair emerita Hollingsworth noted that updates about the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund (AFLF) have been in executive sessions. Chair Schultz noted the continued strained relationship between the AFLF leadership and faculty governance and the Faculty Senate Office.

Professor Weineck drew attention to the fact that the lecture itself is fully funded, but that more money is required to realize the desire of the AFLF board for the creation of a Visiting Professor, a position approved by the regents (without funding) in 2005. The Academic Freedom Lecture (and the fund that supports it) is administered by SACUA. There is a memorandum of understanding, which should have been signed by the AFLF President today.

4:45 Preparation for April 20 Chair's Annual Report to Regents

Chair Schultz asked for advice on items to be covered in his address to the Regents, he hopes to make this more of a SACUA review than a SACUA chair review.

He will raise the issue that SACUA only has one occasion while CSG can address the Regents at every meeting.

4:50 Approval of draft April 17 Senate Assembly Agenda

3:00 Meet and Greet and Eat

3:15 Call to order/approval of Agenda and Minutes

3:20 Athletics Guests

Kedra Armstrong (FAR), Anne Curzan (former FAR), Yago Colas
(COIA)

4:15 Tri Campus Task Force Progress Report: Professor Ortega

4:40 Senate Assembly Chair Report

4:45 Possible SRAC resolution

4:45 Final Remarks of the Chair: William Schultz

4:55 Matters Arising

5:00 Adjournment

The agenda was unanimously approved

4:55 Executive Session

[Medical School and Health System administrative and research issues]

[Faculty Governance issues at UM-Flint and UM-Dearborn]

5:03 Adjournment

4:55 Executive Session

[Medical School and Health System administrative and research issues]

[Faculty Governance issues at UM-Flint and UM-Dearborn]

5:03 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."

Minutes of 3 April 2017

Circulated 24 April 2017

Approved 24 April 2017