



Minutes of 26 October 2015
Circulated 14 December 2015
Approved 25 January 2016

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
26 OCTOBER 2015

Present: Aidala, Atzmon, Baker, Bhattacharyya, Brown, Casida, Cattaneo, Dolins, Ellis, EricksonFagerlin, Fossum, Freeman, Friesen, Kileny, Kirshner, Krivokapic, Kupferschmid, Lehman, Liu, Lyman, Malek, Mondro, Moss, Nielsen, Orady, Pecina, Raphael, Roddier, Rothman, Schultz, Schmidt, Schwank, Skolarus, Smith, Smith, Szymanski, Veatch, Weineck, Winful, Ziff, Zimmerman

Alternate Requested: Adunbi, Aidala, Broglio, Gaggio, Lim, Schloss

Alternates: Morrow (LSA), and Caron (LSA)

Absent: Adlerstein Gonzalez, Atchade, Bagley, Beck, Bertacco, Bruch, Carlos, Chen, Cohn, Mortenson, Fraser, Gocek, Grosh, Kaartinen, Keshamouni, Pandey, Princen, Shaefer, Swain, Wang, Welsh, Woodard, Wright, Zeisberg

Chair Silke-Maria Weineck called Senate Assembly Meeting to order at 3:19.

A motion to approve the agenda was seconded, and approved without discussion. A motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved without discussion.

A motion to pass a resolution to encourage that a greater number of large-enrollment class sections* be offered on Friday was seconded.

Discussion: a faculty member supported the resolution but expressed concerns about the availability of classrooms and limited resources and stressed that only large courses should be relevant. The SACUA chair expressed the belief that the resolution does not call for mandates but for encouragement, due to principles of faculty autonomy with regard to teaching.

A faculty member asked about the meaning of “incentivize”; the Chair suggested that incentives would be decided on the college level, with encouragement from the Provost.

A faculty member from UM Dearborn expressed concern that the motion appeared to exclude the Dearborn and Flint campuses. Two faculty members from Dearborn and Flint suggested that Thursday binge drinking predominantly afflicts the Ann Arbor. A motion to table the resolution until the administrations and faculties at Dearborn and Flint could be consulted failed.

A faculty member supported the resolution by pointing out that a five-day teaching week would help students manage their time and workload.

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A faculty member from Dearborn suggested to amend the resolution to specify classes with 10 or more sessions. Another faculty from Flint suggested that the faculty there could take up the issue locally. A motion to accept this change failed.

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Resolution – 102615

As the faculty of the University of Michigan is committed to providing the University's students with a world--class education, it recognizes the need to provide that education in a safe and healthy environment.

And

As the faculty of the University of Michigan recognizes that providing regular instruction for First and Second years students five days a week promotes a better and more secure learning environment, and it recognizes that Friday classes, especially Friday morning classes, reduce the incidence of alcohol abuse in university communities.

The Senate Assembly therefore strongly urges the Provost to promote and incentivize the regular teaching of large enrollment 100 and 200 level courses (defined as courses having ten or more sections) with a Friday meeting. It recommends that in cases where such classes have a lecture component, those classes will regularly have a lecture on Friday.

The motion passed with great majority.

3:40 pm. Senate Assembly meeting suspended and Senate meeting called to order.

4:45: The Senate Assembly meeting resumed, followed by a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Ziff

Senate Secretary Pro Tempore

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.01:

The University Senate

The 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.

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.04:

The Senate Assembly

The Senate Assembly shall serve as the legislative arm of the senate.

The assembly shall have power to consider and advise regarding all matters within the jurisdiction of the University Senate which affect the functioning of the university as an institution of higher learning, which concern its obligations to the state and to the community at large, and which relate to its internal organization insofar as such matters of internal organization involve general questions of educational policy.



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

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