

The University of Michigan

Senate Assembly

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 20 January 1986

ATTENDANCE

Present: Ascione, Bailey, Bassett, Beutler, Bissell, Brewer, Briggs, Burdi, Carnahan, Checkoway, Chudacoff, Comninou, Cornell, Green, Thomson, Easley, Eaton, English, Han, Hanks, Hudson, Kalisch, Kusnerz, Larson, Lehmann, Leonard, Lorey, Weigel, Lusk, Ard, Margolis, Manis, McCarus, McClamroch, Meyer, Kearney, Moerman, Moran, Mosher, Nadelman, Oleinick, Olsen, Pierce, Radine, Reed, Rizki, Marc Ross, Muriel Ross, Rutledge, Sanders, Olson, Schteingart, Sears, Stapp, Stebbins, Sargous, Warschausky, Wiseman, Yocum

Absent: Boyd, Durrance, Eschman, Farley, Glover, Vinh, Herbert, Howe, Jacobs, Kahn, Lavoie, Lewis, Lockwood, Loup, Malvin, Mermier, Schauer, Snyder, Arnett, Todor, White, Zelenock, Zweifler

Professor Robert Green convened the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of 16 December 1985 were distributed only today, Professor Green deferred their consideration until February.

MATTERS ARISING

Regarding the questionnaire issued by the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty, Professor Nadelman noted that individual respondents may remain anonymous but the committee prefers that the school/college and department be identified.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A CESF statement regarding proposed Federal tax reform legislation was distributed. CESF urges members to read the material and to submit their concerns about changes to their Senators.

Copies of the Athletic Department report on academic performance of student-athletes were also distributed. Additional copies are available from the SACUA office.

SMOKING IN THE WORKPLACE

Professor Kalisch, Chair, Financial Affairs Committee, reported on a proposed policy whereby the University would take reasonable measures to provide a smoke free work environment. The Committee is considering whether or not to recommend a policy to Vice President Brinkerhoff and seeks broader input from the faculty. The policy proposed is similar to Stanford's. Professor Kalisch summarized the results of studies showing smoking's affect on health and business costs. She also noted various views on smoking policy, difficulties of implementation and in-house programs frequently offered to help staff quit smoking.

Professor Marc Ross asked if provision of smoking lounges would be included in the proposal. Professor Kalisch said that discussions have not progressed that far yet. Students would need to comply with the same rules. Application of the policy to the dormitories remains to be addressed. Professor Rutledge endorsed student compliance and suggested that that be made explicit in the proposal. Professor Sanders suggested that the lowered rate of air exchange aggravates the problem of smoke in the work place and asked Financial Affairs to urge Plant Department to review its practices.

Professors Eaton, Marc Ross, Hudson and Wiseman noted probable low impact of the proposal on their faculties but Professor Ross noted a probable higher impact on support staff. In response to Professor Beutler's question, Professor Kalisch acknowledged that enforcement is a difficult issue and the Committee welcomes suggestions regarding implementation.

It was moved that the Senate Assembly approve in principle the draft proposal as submitted. Professor Lusk seconded. Professor Chudacoff expressed reservations about the speed with which the proposal was being considered and suggested that input on it should come from a broader spectrum. Professor Warschusky noted that an approval in principle allows for modification while Professor Green noted that action could be deferred to the February meeting. Professor Bailey moved that the motion be tabled; Professor English seconded. The vote showed 17 Yes, 29 No. Motion to table was defeated. Main motion was voted upon and passed.

REPORT OF THE BOARD IN CONTROL OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS--DON CANHAM,
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Mr. Canham reported that the graduation rate survey (copies distributed) includes all male tendered student-athletes enrolling at the U of M 1974-79. Two graduation rates are provided. The raw graduation rate shows the percentage of all student-athletes who received athletic-related aid and earned a degree from an institution. The second rate factors out those athletes who transferred or signed professional contracts before receiving their U of M degrees.

Pertinent survey findings include the following:

1. The overall raw graduation rate is 71.2% for all student-athletes and 61.1% for all black student-athletes.

2. The graduation rate, less transfers and those who signed professional contracts, is 79.1% for all and 74.2% for blacks.

3. Transfers and pros total 20.5% for all and 26.7% for black student athletes.

4. In a study conducted by the U of M Office of the Registrar, the overall student body graduates at a rate of 65.0% (based upon the status of students after 5 years by year of entry 1974-79). The black student body graduated at the rate of 46.5%.

5. The most recent ACT survey showed that male non-athletes graduate at a 41.5% rate.

6. In the College Football Association survey of incoming freshmen, 1974-79, the average graduation rate is 46.1%.

Mr. Canham then reported on the recent NCAA convention. Rule 48 requires that incoming athletes meet specified minimum academic standards expressed in high school grades and national test scores in order to compete in their freshman year. Gambling and recruiting practices have pressured high school teachers to inflate grades so that athletes can play as soon as they reach college. Rule 48 is an attempt to circumvent this. In his view, eliminating freshman eligibility would be a more effective way of dampening gambling.

Mr. Canham said that he also favors testing for drugs. It has been done at the U of M on a selective basis for the last two years and has shown little drug use among U of M athletes. That which is uncovered seems to fall in the category of experimentation. Testing discourages such experimentation.

In his view the biggest problems the NCAA currently faces are student progress toward a degree and recruiting problems. The Big Ten requires quantitative and qualitative course work of its student-athletes. These standards are higher than the NCAA's and attempts to raise the latter were not successful. In the matter of recruitment, he noted that style varies dramatically among schools. Complications can arise from booster clubs and their efforts to raise money. At the U of M all money from private sources goes to the Scholarship Fund and not the Athletic Department or Athletic Director. Both President Fleming and Shapiro have maintained close contact with the Athletic program.

In response to Professor Briggs question, Mr. Canham replied that freshman ineligibility would still allow a student to play for four years. Of the 95 football players, about 25-30 are freshmen. Some coaches believe that excluding these from competition would handicap the team while some college presidents are reluctant to issue an additional 25-30 scholarships to extend rosters.

Professor Bailey stated that it was nice for the University to have winning teams while also maintaining a "clean" record. He then recalled statistics issued last year regarding classes missed by athletes because of competition. It is his understanding that the baseball team is scheduled for a major trip during Winter term and asked if there had been any improvement in class attendance over the previous years. Mr. Canham replied that he did not have the statistics at hand to answer the question. Baseball faces a problem because the U of M academic calendar does not mesh well with that of Southern schools. If the University is to have a team rated in the top ten year after year, it must play against these schools. There is less academic difficulty among baseball players than among other teams.

Professor Thomson registered concern over the atmosphere surrounding recruiting as reported in several recent newspaper articles. He also inquired about the date that the Fiesta Bowl commitment was made. Mr. Canham noted the absence of rules violations in the newspaper articles cited and said he found nothing wrong in the atmosphere. U of M recruits carefully and restricts its coordinator to campus. The University's consideration and acceptance of the Fiesta Bowl invitation was done by the rules. Earlier that week he had discussed possibilities with the team and coaches who agreed that if they had a choice they would prefer the Fiesta over the Cotton Bowl.

THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA: A COMMEMORATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

Five videotapes made by the NBC Nightly News for broadcast Fall 1985 were shown.

Professor Green opened discussion by commenting on the bleakness of tone in the tapes and the immensity of the task indicated. Professor Bailey questioned the status of black students at the U of M and suggested that it appears to be not too well. In her book, Blacks in College, Jacqueline Fleming reports that black students do not learn at the same rate that white males do and white females do not learn at the same rate white males do. Professor Muriel Ross reported that a former Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action Programs noted that improvement would require faculty commitment. The Senate Assembly could show leadership in this area. Professor Han said that one of the solutions we can have as an instructional body is to institute clearly delineated programs of remedial instruction. A number of innovative approaches are available and others can be crafted.

Professor Thomson suggested that people at the University are unlikely to deal with the underclass depicted in the tapes and thus energies might be better directed toward the philosophical question of why we as a society seem to need this underclass. Referring to differential rates of learning, Professor Leonard suggested that faculty re-think fundamental approaches to learning and to examine related structures. For example, it may be advisable to change course schedules or provide day care for dependents. Professor Olson suggested that additionally the University may need to re-evaluate approaches to administrative action and discontinue procedures which are no longer pertinent or effective. Professor Stapp suggested examining University recruitment and retention programs.

Professor Green then introduced Niara Sudarkasa, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs whom SACUA had invited to the meeting. Ms. Sudarkasa stated that after reporting to the Executive Officers she will return to the Assembly to report on what the U of M is doing and could do to work more effectively with black students. Today, she would comment on the videotapes and the preceding discussion.

She noted that the series of tapes focused on the black underclass and it would be misleading to generalize to all of Black America. Underlying the series was the fact of black unemployment which has a strong connection to poverty and the sociology of the underclass. She found distressing the suggestion in the tapes that we don't know of solutions to the problems. These are available and known; they require policy at the governmental level. These are not problems of individuals except insofar as those individuals act in concert and with a plan that has the force of authority to back it up.

She noted that the phenomenon of women having children out of wedlock has increased for both blacks and whites; the higher rates among blacks may reflect male availability. Young women living alone and raising children without the protection of the extended family is a feature of Post World War II society and directly related to some social welfare programs. She also

questioned the statement that students learn at different rates because of the implication that the cause is linked to their ethnicity.

The first blacks came to this country 377 years ago but have not yet had anything approaching equal opportunity to society's fundamental rights or material benefits. In terms of the magnitude of the problem she was inclined to agree with the young speaker in the tape who said that we've not done anything. We need a plan that will take us clearly in to the 21st century and ought to be talking about how we can affect social policy. As scholars, we need to debate among ourselves about these matters.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Professor Beutler reported from the College of Engineering and spoke about the third largest academic unit in the University, the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. When it was established in the mid-1960's, Computer Science was a part of LSA. The 1970's saw an exponential increase in demand for the discipline but at a time when the University was pursuing a policy of strengthening its humanities and social sciences. In the early 1980's attention focused on ways to strengthen the University's offerings in computer science. One result was the transfer of Computer Science to the College of Engineering and the subsequent formation of the present department. The merger was discussed and agreed to by the faculty of the Computer and Communication Science Department. It was also discussed by the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department faculty, but there is no indication that the merger was the object of a faculty vote.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

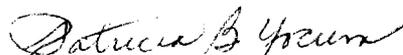
NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia B. Yocum
Senate Secretary