

Minutes of 26 January 2009
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
26 JANUARY 2009

Present: Abdoo, Adlerstein-Gonzales, Altschuler, Andjelkovic-Zochowska, Bergin, Boxer, Brown, Clague, Culver, Denver, Eagle, Fossum, Hirshorn, Holland, Kearfott, Kileny, Koopman, Lehman, Lenk, Lim, Maher, Maybaum, Navvab, Ottaviani, Poe, Potter (Chair), Prygoski, Queen, Riles, Rothman, Saunders, Sheets, Smith, Staller, Stark, Sweeney, Thornton, Thouless, von Buelow, Wakefield,

Requested Alternate, none available: Ensminger (Medicine), Sweeney (LSA-Humanities)

Alternates: Gretebeck (Ketefian-Nursing),

Absent: Adriaens, Andre, Avi-Yonah, Currie, Dey, Fitzgerald, Fraser, Frier, Friesen-Lynn, Frost, Geary, C. Green, R. Green, Hardin, Jackson, Kabamba, Karni, Kosch, Larsen, Mahalingam, Moore, Mueggler, Najita, Patil, Primus, Rahme, Reddy, Salesa, Samson, Senkevitch, Shah, Silverman, Thompson, Yang, Ziff

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 8 December 2008
3. Action Items for the Senate Assembly meeting of 26 January 2009
4. [Athletic Advising Committee Report and Recommendations, submitted to SACUA 26 January 2009](#)
5. Letter to SACUA from W. C. Martin, dated 17 November 2008, regarding the Academic Performance Committee
6. Background information about Bowl travel, dated January 2009
7. Memorandum to W. C. Martin and P. J. Hanlon from C. F. Senneff, S. L. Cogswell, and S. L. Meads, dated 18 July 2007, regarding Intercollegiate Athletics Academic Support Services
8. Editorial: Editorial about free bowl trips based on incorrect assumptions, by Douglas A. Kahn, Ann Arbor News, 21 December 2008
9. Travel perk looks like a juicy bone for U-M faculty watchdogs, by K. Riles, 28 December 2008 (<http://blog.mlive.com>).

Chair Potter convened the meeting at 3:20 P.M. The draft agenda was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 8 December 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. As reported in its minutes, SACUA has been involved with an action under Regents' Bylaw 5.09 (demotion or dismissal of tenured faculty) that has been discussed exclusively in executive session. The chair hopes to have an announcement soon that can be shared with the Assembly.

ACTION ITEM: EXPAND SACUA ELIGIBILITY

Chair Potter called attention to the Action Item on SACUA eligibility listed on distributed item 3, noting that because it was proposed by SACUA, a committee of the Assembly, it qualifies as an Active Motion.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY SA012609-1

Amend the Rules to read:

“Eligibility for membership on SACUA shall be limited to voting members of the University Senate who are currently or were previously members (including alternates) of the Senate Assembly or its standing committees.”

Vote on the Active Motion

Number approving- unanimous approval, with no abstentions of record

VISIT OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS JAMES DUDERSTADT

The chair introduced the president emeritus at 3:25 P.M. Professor Duderstadt pointed out that the U-M's bicentennial will occur in 2017. He reviewed some of the pioneering achievements of U-M faculty over its history. He proposed that the university begin to assemble digital public databases that highlight the faculty and their activities. He called on the provost and the president to provide seed money to “jump start” the initiative. He said that the biggest challenge will be to document the intellectual history and intellectual life of faculty at the department levels. He asked the Assembly to deliberate about the role that faculty and faculty governance can play in the initiative. He concluded his presentation at 3:45 P.M. The text of his remarks is posted at: http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/SenAssb/Duderstadt_sa01-26-09.pdf.

Professor Poe asked whether there would be similar initiatives focused on past students. Professor Duderstadt assured the audience that there would be a series of initiatives aimed not only at past students and alumni, but at staff, as well.

REPORT OF THE ATHLETE ACADEMIC ADVISING COMMITTEE

Chair Potter introduced Professor Rothman, chair of the Athlete Academic Advising Committee, at 4:50 P.M. Professor Rothman presented the committee report (distributed item 4) and reviewed the seven recommendations it contains. He concluded his prepared remarks at 4:10 P.M.

Professor Riles asked why the NCAA's admission standards can affect U-M's admission standards if the latter are higher. Professor Rothman answered that the effect was potential only,

and that he did not have the data to speak further. Professor Eagle asked whether it was the intent of the committee to have all academic advising of student athletes within LSA. Professor Rothman said that the committee's intent was that academic advising of student athletes should occur within the units in which the student athletes are enrolled.

Professor Abdo asked whether the committee investigated academic programs at units other than LSA. Professor Rothman said that time constraints limited the comparisons that the committee could undertake. He pointed out that the vast majority of student athletes graduate from LSA.

A member of the Assembly asked whether the committee had any data about the post-graduate activities of students who graduate with a Bachelors of General Studies. Professor Rothman said that the committee sought such data, but was unable to obtain them.

Professor Eagle pointed out that the recommendation calling for a faculty advisory committee for BGS degrees makes it look very much like the existing Independent Concentration Program.

Professor Rothman concluded his report at 4:30 P.M.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY SA012609-2

Chair Potter asked vice chair Thouless to chair the discussion. Chair Thouless declared the motion introduced by Professor Rothman at the December meeting to be the Active Motion.

Professor Eagle proposed a friendly amendment to the language of Rothman's motion, and the amendment was accepted. The Active Motion then was:

A student-athlete shall be in good academic standing as determined by the academic authorities who determine the meaning of such phrases for all students of the institution. The academic authorities who make these determinations are located in the academic advising units of the schools and colleges where the students are enrolled; these academic advising units will make recommendations about a student athlete's eligibility to the provost.

Adjustments in the timing of recommendations should be made to meet NCAA requirements. In order to accommodate the timing requirements of determining eligibility each semester, the academic advising units should set timelines for approving academic plans and recommending certification of eligibility by the Provost by the first day of classes each semester.

Discussion of the Active Motion-

A member of the Assembly asked for clarification of the role of the Academic Performance Committee (APC). Professor Potter explained that the APC spends most of its time looking into the academic experiences of student athletes, and that eligibility issues take up a relatively small fraction of its time.

Vote on the Active Motion:

Number Approving- 29
Number Opposing- 1
Number Abstaining-1

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY SA012609-3

Professor Riles moved (multiple seconds):

Whereas members of the Academic Performance Committee (APC) are offered reimbursement for bowl game attendance and travel expenses, including game tickets, airfare, hotel accommodations, and meal per diem, and

Whereas the University Audits Office has found this reimbursement to pose an apparent conflict of interest for APC members in carrying out their advisory responsibilities on academic performance,

The Senate Assembly urges the President to end the practice of reimbursing APC members for any expenses associated with attending bowl games.

Derivative Motion-

Professor Eagle moved to postpone further deliberation on the Active Motion until September 2009.

Vote on the Motion to Postpone Further Debate:

The Derivative Motion was disapproved by majority vote. The Active Motion reverted to the primary motion introduced by Professor Riles.

Discussion of the Active Motion-

Professor Abdo asked about the source of money for the perks. Professor Riles said that he understands that the money is generated by athletic revenues. Professor Poe asked about the full range of conflicts of interest that Professor Riles was concerned about. Professor Riles said that the athletes, and the football athletes in particular, are responsible for the \$90M in revenue that pay the coaches and staff of the Athletics Department as well as the APC perks. Professor Smith said that he attended two Bowl games while chair of SACUA and that there was a lot of functions involved, including meeting with alumni, prospective students, and representing the faculty of the university.

Vote on the Active Motion:

Number approving- 19
Number disapproving- 11
Abstentions were not called for or recorded.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

John T. Lehman
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:

Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

In each school, college, or degree granting division of the University, including those at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and at the University of Michigan-Flint, the governing faculty shall be in charge of the affairs of the school, college, or division, except as delegated to the executive committee, if any, and except that in the School of Graduate Studies the governing board shall be the executive board, and in the Medical School shall be the executive faculty.
