

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
MINUTES OF 27 JANUARY 1997

Chair Dunn convened the meeting at 3:20 P.M.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 9 December 1996
3. SACUA and Senate Assembly skeletal agendas
4. Approved minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 18 November 1996
5. Approved minutes of the SACUA meeting of 6 January 1997
6. Approved minutes of the SACUA meeting of 2 December 1996
7. Approved minutes of the SACUA meeting of 25 November 1996
8. Approved minutes of the SACUA meeting of 11 November 1996
9. Letter and attachments to T. Dunn from C. E. Cook, dated 5 December 1996, regarding CRLT evaluations
10. Announcement: Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award, undated
11. University of Michigan NCAA Certification Academic Integrity Subcommittee membership and recommendations, undated

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF 9 DECEMBER 1997

The minutes of 18 November 1996 were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dunn announced the death of Professor Warner Rice, who had served as Chair of English Language and Literature for more than 20 years, after joining the UM faculty in 1925. Professor Rice was 98 years old. Chair Dunn led the Senate Assembly in a gesture of silent respect for Professor Rice. Chair Dunn then reported that he had written letters of condolence to the relatives of Dean Betty Jean Jones, recent casualty of an airline accident, on behalf of the faculty.

Chair Dunn announced that he would meet with the chair of the NCAA committee of visitors which was reviewing programs at the University of Michigan as part of an accreditation process. Dunn invited comments and suggestions from faculty prior to his meeting.

Chair Dunn reported that the Martin Luther King Day symposium co-sponsored with the MSA was successful, with 200 to 300 people in attendance. He also reported that SACUA members had met with members of the LSA Executive Committee to discuss topics of common interest, and he said that the communications were beneficial.

Chair Dunn reported that, pursuant to concerns expressed by SACUA on 11 November 1996 regarding widespread commercialization of UM trademarks and

endorsements, President Neal announced to the Regents the establishment of a committee to establish policy for the practice.

Chair Dunn also reported that the national AAUP has established a Blue Ribbon committee to review the present AAUP policy statement on tenure.

Chair Dunn reminded Senate Assembly members that VCM is in full application this year, and that faculty are encouraged to communicate identifiable problems or concerns to the oversight committee, of which he is a member.

Dunn announced that the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee has drafted a statement on the general principles of faculty governance. Professor D'Alecy added that the statement is a working document intended to stimulate discussion among faculty and with the Provost. Dunn said that the document would be distributed to the Senate Assembly shortly. Dunn added that two reports from committees established by President Duderstadt at about the time of his announced resignation will be distributed to the entire Senate. Dunn asked that members read the reports carefully and to prepare for possible discussions in the Senate Assembly.

DIVERSITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair Dunn announced that a committee would be constructed to recommend implementation of the Senate Assembly Statement on Diversity. He said the committee would be composed of members from the Senate Assembly, SACUA, and the Multicultural Committee. He invited members to send their nominations to him by electronic mail.

JOINT GRIEVANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chair Dunn reported that the first meeting of the joint administration-faculty committee charged with reconciling the faculty grievance policy document with administration policy efforts would occur on 31 January 1997. Dunn said that the reconciliation document would subsequently be presented to the Senate Assembly, and to the Provost.

SACUA NOMINATIONS

Chair Dunn reported that six candidates have been nominated to stand for election to three 3-year terms on SACUA: Professors Lewis Kleinsmith, Barbara MacAdam, Gordon MacAlpine, Pat Maloy, Nick Steneck, and Bernard Yeoung.

CRLT EVALUATIONS

Chair Dunn announced that C. Cook will appear at the February meeting of the Senate Assembly to explain the reasons for the recent changes in CRLT evaluations, and to respond to faculty questions. He referred members to the SACUA minutes of 6 January 1997 for a background to the situation. Professor D'Alecy pointed out that the recent changes in format, content, title, and use of the evaluations represented a marked change from their initial purpose, and that it was useful to apply faculty perspective at this time.

Professor Marich reminded members that some units were using the evaluation results to determine as much as 30% of merit. Professor Lee pointed out that the practice puts all of the weight of teaching quality assessment on students. Professor Thornton said that he recollected that a number of years ago the Civil Liberties Board had declared it an abridgment of civil liberties to use the forms in such an evaluative manner. He said that he recalled that the Regents had delegated their authority for decision-making on the matter to the CLB, and that the ruling may therefore be binding. He recommended that the archives be studied for the specific formal resolution on the subject. Chair Dunn said that the matter would be investigated and reported upon.

Professor Burdi said that the CRLT changes raise important issues about ownership of the data, how they are used, and who can gain access to the data. He suggested that development of teaching portfolios for the faculty might be a better alternative.

Professor Shotwell said that he has served on a committee that was established by former Provost Whittaker and which addressed teaching at research universities. He offered to provide information from the committee to the Senate Assembly. Chair Dunn asked him to send the information to the SACUA office.

NCAA ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Chair Dunn introduced Professor Percy Bates at 4:04 P.M. and invited him to report about the ongoing activities of the NCAA certification committee. Professor Bates distributed item 11. He explained that the certification process is an outgrowth of the Presidents' reform agenda within the NCAA. Bates said that the process involved self study and review of academic integrity, rules, gender equity, and fiscal integrity. He said that the UM had originally voted against the certification process, on the basis that it is expensive in terms of staff time, visitor expenses, and associated costs. He added that he believed now in retrospect that the process was healthy and beneficial. Bates said that the final written report from the visiting committee would not be delivered for about 90 days.

Professor Deskins asked about the standards of integrity that must be met for certification. Professor Bates replied that there are operational principles, with a stated standard, but that he did not come to talk about them at this time. Professor Deskins asked if there was any chance that a Division I school would not be certified. Bates replied that it was possible that heavy conditions could be placed on some schools. Professor Kleinsmith observed that week-long athletic competitions in the middle of a term seem to be incompatible with academic progress. Bates replied that tournaments often come up after the start of a term, and are usually not the decision of the coaches. Kleinsmith asked if there was any policy on the subject. Bates replied that he did not think there was one.

Professor D'Alecy asked whether the recommendations proposed by the academic integrity subcommittee, which were of general application, would be communicated to

the leadership of the NCAA. Professor Bates replied that the recommendations were exclusively internal. Professor Bates concluded his remarks at 4:37 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Professor MacAdam moved the following resolution (Professor Bryant seconded):

The Senate Assembly records its expression of gratitude and appreciation to Homer Neal for his service to the University as Interim President, and his special efforts with regard to faculty relations during this important transition for the campus.

The active motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. Chair Dunn expressed his view that the Provost also deserved praise for his efforts during the transition period.

Chair Dunn announced that President Lee Bollinger had expressed an interest in developing an improved forum for a faculty awards ceremony. Dunn said that he would be happy to assemble faculty recommendations and would transmit them to the new president.

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Lehman
Senate Secretary