

Minutes of 13 February 2012 Senate Assembly Meeting  
Circulated 16 February 2012  
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Approved 19 March 2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING  
13 FEBRUARY 2012

**Present:** Adlerstein-Gonzalez, Armitage, Aronoff, Atkins, Barald (chair), Barber, Bayraktar, Bielinska, Borer, Carson, Christman, DiPietro, Dorsey, Folger, Giordani, Goldman, Gumucio, Hirshorn, Kearfott, Koopman, Koopmann, Larsen, Lehman, Lusmann, Mars, Millunchick, Moore, Mora, Mutschler, Ortega, Prygoski, Rothman, Schriber, Staller, Szymanski, Thornton, Williams, Wright

**Requested Alternate, None Available:** Hollingsworth (Social Work), Muehlberger (LSA), Singh (Dearborn)

**Alternates:** Custer (Beck-Medicine), Young (Boxer-Medicine), Miller (McCullagh-Nursing), Dynarski (Miller-Education), Schmaltz (Nevett-LSA), Mead (Westlake-Music), Hicken (Zemgulys-LSA)

**Absent:** Ahbel-Rappe, Booth, Brown, Crane, Davis, Friese, Hardin, Holland, Jagadish, Jenckes, Johnson, Jones, Mansfield, Odetola, Pando Zayas, Pipe, Poulsen, Shah, Shore, Soellner, Sonnega, Sun, Thompson, Trandafirescu, von Buelow, Wolfe, Wong

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of the 23 January 2012 Senate Assembly meeting
3. Senate Assembly Resolution 012312-1 regarding reporting criminal activity on campus
4. University Safety and Security Communication, Reporting and Incident Investigation, issue data 10 February 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor Lusmann announced that the election for three new members of SACUA will be held at the 19 March 2012 meeting of Senate Assembly.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS DUDERSTADT

The chair introduced the guest at 3:20 P.M. The guest provided an overview of plans for the UM bicentennial celebration with the aid of prepared remarks ([Appendix A](#)). He concluded his presentation at 3:41 P.M.

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#### ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY SA021312-1

Professor Kearfott moved that the Senate Assembly strongly supports President-Emeritus Duderstadt's vision of the University of Michigan's bicentennial celebration, in particular that a broadly defined academic core dominate (Rothman seconded).

The Action was approved by show of hands.

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#### AGENDA AND MINUTES

The draft Agenda (distributed item 1) was approved.

The Minutes of 23 January 2012 (distributed item 2) were approved.

#### ITEM FOR ACTION

The Chair Barald yielded the chair to Professor Larsen at 3:43 P.M., and he introduced a resolution proposed by SACUA (distributed item 1).

We, the Senate Assembly of the faculty at the University of Michigan, support the creation of an environment at the University of Michigan where all students, staff, and faculty members feel comfortable to take a stance (either for or against) GSRA Unionization.

In particular, we oppose retaliation against activists supporting GSRA unionization. In doing so we respond positively to calls from union activists that individual faculty members endorse this principle. In short, we affirm the commitment of University faculty to uphold federal and state law in this and all other matters.

Our explicit support of free and open debate comes in light of widespread false accusations of intimidation directed at the faculty at large, and one faculty member in particular. We call on such innuendo and defamation to end, in order that a dignified exchange of ideas be restored.

Several members of the Assembly voiced objections to the third paragraph of the resolution, and stated that they had no evidence for or against the assertions of fact that were contained therein. Members of the Assembly moved to separate the motion and to consider the first two paragraphs after deletion of the third paragraph. Professor Larsen suggested that the Assembly should not acknowledge either the existence or non-existence of any wide-spread conspiracy. Professor Kearfott stated that false statements have been directed at one faculty member in particular. Professor Larsen added that students are pressing a wedge against faculty members. A member responded that the language of the proposed resolution seemed inflammatory and that faculty should model good behavior, and be both positive and constructive.

Vote on the motion to strike the third paragraph:

Number approving- 31

Number disapproving- 2

Abstentions of record- 3

Several members of the Assembly offered additions and corrections to the remaining two paragraphs that were accepted as friendly amendments by Professor Larsen. After amendment, the action item read:

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**ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY SA021312-2**

We, the Senate Assembly of the faculty at the University of Michigan, support the creation of an environment at the University of Michigan where all students, staff, and faculty members feel comfortable to take a stance (either for or against) GSRA Unionization.

In particular, we oppose intimidation or retaliation against individuals supporting or opposing GSRA unionization. In doing so we respond positively to calls from union activists that individual faculty members endorse this principle. In short, we affirm the commitment of University faculty to uphold federal and state law in this and all other matters. We also call on all parties to put forward only claims that can be documented with reasonable evidence in order that a dignified exchange of ideas be encouraged.

Vote on the active motion:

Number approving- 36

Number disapproving- 0

Abstentions of record- 0

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Based on the vote count, a member asked for a quorum call. Secretary Lehman censused the members and ascertained that a valid quorum remained.

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**ACTION SENATE ASSEMBLY SA021312-3**

Chair Barald introduced an action item (distributed item 1) calling on the University to carefully consider the recommendations of Senate Assembly resolution 012312-1 on reporting criminal activity. She noted that hospital security, NCRC security, and housing security do not report to DPS. There was no discussion.

Vote on the Active Motion:

Number approving- 40

Number opposing- 0

Abstentions of record- 0

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## REVIEW OF JANUARY SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

Chair Barald reviewed 27 comments she had received from Assembly members regarding the January visit of both president and provost to the Assembly meeting. She said that most of the comments were about the change to Regents' Bylaw 5.09. She reported that the prevailing opinion was that the executive officers did not respond to questions but talked around them. Members expressed concern that the executive officers do not respect the Senate Assembly as the representative voice of the faculty.

The chair said that, in addition, concern was expressed about continuous enrollment, in particular that books are being balanced on the backs of sponsored projects. Two comments referenced the GSRA unionization effort, citing concerns about freedom of speech and faculty being intimidated. Another comment raised the question of where tenure would reside for the 100 faculty lines held by central administration, and expressed concerns about diversity. An additional comment was that more time is needed for the Senate Assembly to discuss important issues. The chair suggested that the comment website could be used to augment Assembly discussion.

Professor Armitage asked if SACUA has taken action on SA012312-3 to assemble a list of committees demanding secrecy of their members. Mr. Schneider responded that he censured former SACUA chairs, but they recollected only two such committees, both of them from Human Resources. Professor Armitage called on faculty to report additional committees if they knew of any.

Chair Barald announced that she might transmit the 27 comments to the provost because all the comments were about him. Professor Koopmann commented that because the president selects the provost, she should probably know the concerns, as well. Professor Rothman stated that Human Resources recommendations about benefits go directly to the Regents, and that the comments should be sent to them, as well. The chair said that she would transmit the comments verbatim and without interpretation.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 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.

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**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.