

Minutes of 16 February 2009  
Circulated 16 February 2009  
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Approved 16 March 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING  
16 FEBRUARY 2009

**Present:** Abdoo, Adlerstein-Gonzales, Bergin, Boxer, Brown, Clague, Denver, Ensminger, Fitzgerald, Hardin, Hirshorn, Holland, Karni, Kearfott, Ketefian, Kileny, Koopman, Larsen, Lehman, Lenk, Maher, Maybaum, Navvab, Potter (Chair), Queen, Reddy, Riles, Rothman, Saunders, Sheets, Smith, Staller, Stark, Sweeney, Thornton, Thouless, von Buelow

**Requested Alternate, none available:** Altschuler (Medicine), Wakefield (Engineering)

**Alternates:** Li (Fossum-Education/Dearborn)

**Absent:** Adriaens, Andjelkovic-Zochowska, Andre, Avi-Yonah, Culver, Currie, Dey, Eagle, Fraser, Frier, Friesen-Lynn, Frost, Geary, C. Green, R. Green, Jackson, Kabamba, Kosch, Lim, Mahalingam, Moore, Mueggler, Najita, Ottaviani, Patil, Poe, Primus, Prygoski, Rahme, Salesa, Samson, Senkevitch, Shah, Silverman, Thompson, Yang, Ziff

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 26 January 2009
3. NCAA Graduation Rates
4. Big Ten Athletic Rankings
5. Michigan Student Athlete Majors & Degree Programs

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the 26 January 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The March meeting of the Assembly will include visits by Vice President for Development May and President Coleman.
2. SACUA elections will be held at the March meeting; at this point the nominating committee has identified 4 candidates for the 3 open seats.
3. SACUA has been engaged with a variety of issues involving aggrieved faculty, including questions about deans' discretion to initiate demotion independent of Regents' Bylaw 5.09; SACUA hopes to bring that discussion to the Senate Assembly soon.

**VISIT OF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR BILL MARTIN**

Chair Potter introduced AD Martin at 3:22 P.M. The athletic director called attention to the presence of Shari Acho director of the athlete academic success program. He then reviewed the status of the athletic program at the U-M in comparison with peer institutions. He said that the U-M program has a stable financial model. He pointed out that the current budget surplus will decline as payments on stadium renovations begin. He also expressed the belief that the economic climate will likely lead to a decline in development activity.

AD Martin provided a report on the status of stadium renovations, and indicated that both finances and structural progress were on track. He called attention to distributed items 3 to 5; he said that his goal was to match the graduation rates of the general undergraduate population.

The athletic director complimented the work of Professor Rothman's taskforce (see January 2009 minutes), and said that he and the provost were studying its recommendations. He said that he welcomed input and feedback from faculty. He concluded his prepared remarks at 3:45 P.M.

Professor Boxer asked about the academic performance of the Men's Basketball team in comparison to Women's sports. Ms. Acho replied that the information was accessible through ncaa.org. AD Martin said that grades and graduation rates were probably better for women's sports than men.

Professor Ketefian asked whether the athletic director was aware of recent actions by Senate Assembly regarding bowl game participation by faculty members of the academic performance committee. The AD replied that he personally supported the practice of paying the costs of faculty participation, but that the decision will rest with the university president. Professor Ketefian asked where the money came from for reimbursements. He said that it came from bowl game allotments.

Professor Riles asked the athletic director to describe current practices regarding admission of football players. He specifically asked for the average SAT scores of football players admitted over the past five years. AD Martin said that he and Ms. Acho would research the answer. A member of the Assembly pointed out that the information had been published recently in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. Professor Riles said that he was able to access the article on the paper's website, and that the average SAT score was 997. ([http://www.ajc.com/sports/content/sports/stories/2008/12/28/acadmain\\_1228\\_3DOT.html](http://www.ajc.com/sports/content/sports/stories/2008/12/28/acadmain_1228_3DOT.html))

The guests left the meeting at 4:00 P.M.

#### FACULTY DEMOTIONS

Chair Potter commented that a recent Regents Update addresses the history of Regents Bylaw 5.09, and that SACUA is considering the issue of what actions might constitute a faculty demotion.

#### VISIT OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN PAUL COURANT

Chair Potter introduced the guest at 4:05 P.M. Professor Courant narrated an informational PowerPoint presentation about the University library. He pointed out that the university library

has steadily absorbed most of the departmental libraries that formerly were common. He reported that status of the collaborative project with Google to digitize the library holdings; he said that close to 3 million volumes have already been digitized.

Professor Courant said that a recent settlement with Google will allow users to browse the digitized texts. He also recounted a series of public benefits including accommodations for users with print disabilities, and access for public libraries. He concluded his prepared remarks at 4:45 P.M.

Chair Potter asked about the likely future of peer review in light of changes in publication practices. Professor Courant replied that academia will never be without peer review. But, he said, it will be harder to review tenure cases without the implied merit that comes with publication. Chair Potter observed that peer review adds value to the resulting publications.

Professor Navvab expressed his gratitude for the tremendous support he has received from university library staff for his research.

Professor Sheets observed that the library remains an important meeting place, but he asked how many people are actually using the physical books. Professor Courant replied that within a decade or so the primary use copy of most works will become a digital file, and that the great collections will likely be moved off site and shared.

The university librarian expressed his willingness to return at another time to talk about the library's digital archive "Deep Blue. The guest left the meeting at 5 P.M.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

John T. Lehman  
Senate Secretary

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#### **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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