

Minutes of 18 February 2013 Senate Assembly Meeting
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
18 FEBRUARY 2013

Present: Armitage, Bayraktar, Biteen, Boxer, Bradley, Brown, Campbell, Cervetti, Custer, Fagerlin, Fenno, Folger, Goldman, Hayes, Holland, Jacobsen, Jenckes, Jones, Katapodi, Kearfott (Chair), Kee, Koopmann, Lehman, Masten, Moore, Mutschler, Odetola, Poulsen, Princen, Prygoski, Sarma, Schriber, Sept, Staller, Thornton, von Buelow, West, Westlake, Young

Requested Alternate, None Available: Barald (Medicine), Barolo (Medicine), Gumucio (Medicine), Johnson (LSA), Larsen (LSA), Muehlberger (LSA), Oey (LSA), Pipe (Engineering), Ryan (Education)

Alternates: Gutierrez (Danziger-Social Work)

Absent: Adler, Adlerstein-Gonzalez, Ahbel-Rappe, Atkins, Barald, Booth, Christman, Cotera, DiPietro, Hershovitz, Hirshorn, Hollingsworth, Kao, Koopman, Lu, Mansfield, Mora, Nevett, Pando Zayas, Primus, Shah, Silveira, Sonnega, Szymanski, Thompson, Trandafirescu, Turnley, Wong, Wright, Ziff

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of the 28 January 2013 Senate Assembly meeting
3. How America's Top Colleges Reflect (and Massively Distort) the Country's Racial Evolution, by D. Thompson. *The Atlantic*, 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The annual AEC evaluation of academic administrators is in progress. Please encourage participation by your faculty colleagues.
2. The 18 March Senate Assembly and Senate meeting will feature the SACUA election. Presentations and workshops on college affordability will follow the main business meeting.

VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH STEPHEN FORREST

The chair introduced the guest at 3:17 P.M. The vice president presented a status report about research at the U-M and future challenges (<http://research.umich.edu/files/2013/02/2013-annual-report.pdf>). He concluded his prepared presentation at 3:42 P.M.

In response to questions from the floor regarding potential effects of sequestration of the federal budget, the vice president responded as follows:

- Agencies will experience a 5.1% across the board cut on 1 March if sequestration proceeds. The action would likely put a permanent dent in research competitiveness. It would hurt people on soft money the most: graduate students and research faculty. The reduction in government spending may lead to recession and a cycle of increased unemployment and reduced tax revenue. Nothing good will come of it. Active planning is underway, but it is not necessarily aggressive outside the health system. The Office of Management and Budget will have to issue advice and guidelines to agencies, so we won't see the effects for about a month.
- Funding levels for new grants are at risk.
- Sequestration may be rolled back shortly after it occurs. The Military will be hit hard by it and the Military-Industrial Complex is a formidable political, lobbying machine.
- Bridge funding for some projects can come from faculty grants and awards funds. Bridging funds can be provided for one year in cases where there is a good prospect the projects will eventually be funded.

The visitor left the meeting at 3:55 P.M.

Chair Kearfott convened the business meeting at 3:55 P.M.
The draft agenda was approved.

MINUTES

The draft minutes of 28 January 2013 were approved.

SACUA NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Staller reported that there are presently 7 nominations for 3 seats. Additional nominations are welcome.

COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY VALUES

The chair invited comment on a draft statement from the committee that was included with the draft agenda. She yielded the floor to Professors Carson and Ortega and asked them to lead a discussion of the Committee of the Whole. Professor Carson distributed a statistical table illustrating demographic trends at the U-M, MSU, Wayne State University, University of Wisconsin, and Ohio State University as well as the States of Michigan and Wisconsin. He said the statistics included U.S. citizens only.

Professor Ortega pointed out that ethnic diversity among U-M faculty has declined.

Professor Goldman displayed a graphic depicting ethnic demographics in the U.S. by county.

Professor Holland said that he thought the statistics were problematic and deserve careful study and institutional response.

A member of the Assembly expressed concern with the limited nature of the data and suggested that more thorough review was in order. Other members pointed out that the numbers were obtained by research survey among students rather than absolute enrollment counts, and that the percentages do not sum to 100%. Additional members raised issues about details of the statistical summary including timing of the student surveys.

Committee of the Whole discussion concluded at 4:45 P.M. with no action items of record.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

John T. Lehman
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.01:

The University Senate

The senate is authorized to consider any subject pertaining to the interests of the university, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in regard thereto. Decisions of the University Senate with respect to matters within its jurisdiction shall constitute the binding action of the university faculties.

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.04:

The Senate Assembly

The Senate Assembly shall serve as the legislative arm of the senate.

The assembly shall have power to consider and advise regarding all matters within the jurisdiction of the University Senate which affect the functioning of the university as an institution of higher learning, which concern its obligations to the state and to the community at large, and which relate to its internal organization insofar as such matters of internal organization involve general questions of educational policy.

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.