

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SENATE ASSEMBLY

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 18 February 1985

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aberbach, Bailey, Bassett, Briggs, Boyd, Bulkley, Burdi, Chudacoff, Cohen, Dahlke, Danielson, Easley, King, English, Eschman, Green, Hilbert, Hopwood, Jacobs, Janecke, Hacker, Kaplan, Kelsey, Knudsvig, Kusnerz, Larson, Lehmann, Lockwood, Lougee, Loup, Lusk, Deshpande, McClamroch, Mermier, Meyer, Moerman, Mosher, Nadelman, Powell, Radine, Rae, Veroff, Rucknagel, Rutledge, Sanders, Schteingart, Sears, Snyder, Lewis, Stebbins, Whitehouse

Absent: Ascione, Barald, Beutler, Burt, Catford, Courant, Farley, Fellin, Glover, Grosse, Gulari, Hanks, Herbert, Howe, Kahn, Lawrence, Leonard, Lorey, Ludema, Margolis, Payne, Reed, Schauer, Scheele, Simon, Solomon, Stapp, Taylor, Warschausky, Zweifler, Yocum

CALL TO ORDER

Professor Hilbert convened the meeting at 3:20 p.m., noting that the University Senate would meet at 3:45 and that the Assembly meeting would thus be shorter than usual.

MINUTES

Professor McClamroch offered three clarifications. The first involved page 4, line 1 of the Senate Assembly Minutes of 1/21/85, wherein he requested that the words "Health Plan" be changed to read "McAuley Health Plan." On page 5 of the same minutes, he requested that the second and third sentences of paragraph two be deleted, and offered the replacement sentence: "Direct membership of CESF on the Staff Benefits Committee has not been achieved, but they have agreed to keep CESF informed." His third change involved replacing the last sentence in the paragraph under the chart on page 6 with the language: "There was a request that HMO's not include prescription drug coverage."

Professor Bulkley asked that his request (on page 3) for a report on football starters' graduation rates (paragraph 5) be modified to read "football and basketball starters."

The Minutes of the Senate Assembly Meeting of January 21, 1985 were approved with these clarifications.

REMARKS BY CHAIR

Referring to a request that SACUA ask the administration whether the timetable for faculty decision-making with regard to health plans was immutable, Professor Hilbert reported that the question had been put, and that the answer was that the February 28 deadline for choosing an option was still in place, and that the October 1985 window for making another choice was also still operative.

The Chair then thanked Professor Richmond Browne for serving as interim Secretary for today's meetings of the Senate and Senate Assembly.

The Chair thanked Professor Kaplan for bringing TIAA-CREF alternatives to the attention of the Assembly and reminded the members that SACUA will distribute material of interest to the Assembly if given it in sufficient time.

In connection with the invitation to Dr. Kenneth Mortimer to address the University Senate this afternoon on the topic of "The Emerging State of the University," Professor Hilbert noted that SACUA had been considering various reports including the N.I.E. Study chaired by Dr. Mortimer and the (Michigan) Governor's statement on "The Future of Higher Education."

Professor Hilbert asked Assembly members to note the forms available in their packets for gathering names of persons who might serve on various University committees to which SACUA nominates candidates. He also noted a letter in the packet concerning Integrity of Scholarship, which has been sent by Vice-President Frye, Vice-President Sussman, and SACUA Chair Hilbert via the Deans and Directors to the faculty. He urged the Assembly members to follow up on this initiative by bringing the matter to the attention of their colleagues.

Finally, Professor Hilbert put forth SACUA's nomination of Professor Shaw Livermore to the University Council for a two-year term. The nomination was approved by a voice vote.

SACUA NOMINATIONS

The SACUA Nominating Committee (Professors Burdi, Bulkley, Kaplan, Rucknagel, Whitehouse and Hilbert) met on January 11 and prepared the slate of candidates distributed. Professor Hilbert asked each nominee to rise as he introduced the slate. Those nominated by the committee were Professors Joel D. Aberbach (Political Science and Public Policy), Edward Chudacoff (Music),

Charles F. Lehmann (Education), N. Harris McClamroch (Engineering), Daniel E. Moerman (Anthropology/Dearborn), and Frank Whitehouse, Jr. (Medical School:Microbiology). The information packet includes photographs and brief vitae for each candidate.

Nominations from the floor were entertained. Professor T. Michael Sanders nominated Professor Myra Larson (Art). Seconded, the nomination was accepted. Professor Larson was introduced, and will be given equal status with the other nominees on the ballot. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that the nominations be closed.

#### REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Academic Affairs Committee, as a creature of SACUA and the Senate Assembly, works with the Vice-President for Academic Affairs on matters of teaching, learning, and scholarship throughout the University. It has seen its role change recently as the Vice-President has become also the Provost and as the Budget Priorities Committee has assumed a larger role in the management process. Academic Affairs Chair, Margaret Leary, described the changing role of the committee, pointing out that during 1983 it had focused on the nature of the recently completed reviews by the three schools. Arriving at a statement of concerns for procedure which should be observed in future review processes, the Committee has discussed these matters with Vice-President Frye. Among the standards of fairness which the Committee/recommended be part of the process in the future were 1) that the faculty should be fully participatory in all stages of any review process; 2) that everyone involved in a review process should be informed of the criteria by which a unit is selected for review, the opportunities for participation in the process, the timing of the stages of the review, and the avenues of appeal; 3) that criteria for evaluations of quality should be explicit; and 4) that members of any review Committee should receive training and preparation for their role in the process.

Turning to the Committee's work in 1984-5, Ms. Leary noted that the question of program reduction (as opposed to program discontinuance) has occupied the group at the request of the Vice-President. With respect to this issue, the AAC feels that 1) program reduction must not be used as a means of selective discontinuance of individuals; 2) the faculty must be kept involved in any process which attempts to determine matters of centrality vs. quality (i.e., what are the things which the University must keep and strengthen at any cost vs. the things which can be deemed mutable and subject to market demand)--the point being that faculty cannot be subjected to the whims of changing market demand without due process; 3) judgments of competence must be kept separate, in individual cases, from desires by a department or unit for reduction of staff. Retraining or re-settling of individuals must be pursued when seen as a reasonable way of continuing the University's commitment to a tenured member. The AAC continues to discuss the issue of quality vs. centrality as the focus of decision-making, feeling that centrality is more decidable on objective grounds and that quality should be an ongoing concern, not a basis for reduction or discontinuance.

Ms. Leary continued by noting that the AAC had undertaken the job of asking what the central intellectual values of the University are. The core of this task is to disentangle the relation of the University to the society it serves. It seems to the Committee that phrases like "serving the needs" (of the society) or "excellent research" (without a referent as to University-defined priorities) are too vague to serve as guidelines for the policy-making which is already taking place. As an example of the kind of question the Committee is considering, Ms. Leary cited the matter of valuation of undergraduate vs. graduate teaching, and went on to ask whether the University has a considered policy with regard to the value of "research" as a scholarly activity vs. teaching and service roles.

Assembly members comments included those of Professor Kaplan, who asked why reviews of programs could not be regarded as a continuous and ongoing process, rather than a spotlighting and therefore invidious action, and Professor Bailey, who pointed out that the "quality" of research seemed to be being addressed only in terms of the funding it could attract. He went on to suggest that some funding should be provided for programs deemed worthy but unable to attract "outside" support. Professor Sanders asked if the AAC had gotten responses from Vice-President Frye to its concerns. Ms. Leary responded that the Committee had an ongoing communication with Mr. Frye.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Professor Nadelman asked if the statistics on athletes' graduation rates, requested from Mr. Canham at his appearance in January, had been received. Professor Easley (SACUA appointee on the Board in Control of Intercollegiate Athletics) replied that such statistics had been supplied in the Fall of 1984, and could be obtained now.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Professor Bulkley noted that a recent newspaper article had cited a case wherein the University had apparently offered a large interest-free loan to a faculty member, and asked if the faculty should not know, in times of financial stress, if this is a practice of the University. Professor Easley (SACUA appointee to CESF) replied that the matter would be investigated.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richmond Browne  
Acting Senate Secretary