

Minutes of 17 March 2003
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

17 March 2003

ATTENDANCE

Present: Andersen, Andre, Brown, Byosiere, Carlisle, Combi, Elenbogen, Ensminger, Faerber, Fisher, Giordani, Gobetti, Goldman, Gould, Green, Gull, Hall, Huntley, Karr, Keller-Cohen, Kim, Koopmann, Kosch, McDonagh, Okada, Pedraza, Peterson, Powell, Raisler, Remick, Riebesell, Sagher, Schwendeman, Seyhun, Shimp, Simpson, Thornton, Tropman, Watkins, Wechlser, Winter; Lehman **Alternates:** Durfee (Engineering-Atreya), Hagen (LSA-Orr), Hayes (LSA-Page), Ray (Medicine-Robertson), Ohye (Medicine-Cho), Rosenberg (Information-Bhavnani), Smith (Medicine-Ruffin)
Absent: Akerlof, Alfred, Barsky, Bartlett, Berent, Boyd, Bradley, Burdi, Clark, Colas, Drach, Fishman, Frier, Hills, Ketefian, Johnson, Lindner, Lithgow-Bertelloni, Moore, Ni, Norris, Overmyer, Pennell Ross, Prasad, Savage, Sension, Sheldon, Tappenden, Whatley, Yakel, Yeo

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Senate Assembly agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 17 February 2003
3. Committee Volunteer Form 2003
4. 2002-2003 Senate Assembly Committees
5. Faculty Awards information sheet
6. Five faculty members vie for three SACUA spots, The University Record, 10 March 2003
7. Recommendations for Procedures to Attain Tenure: A proposal to the Senate Assembly, dated 8 January 2003
8. Memorandum to members of the University of Michigan academic community from P. N. Courant, dated 21 February 2002 regarding guiding principles for tenure review for instructional track faculty at the University of Michigan
9. Spring Break Proposal from Michigan Student Assembly and message of transmittal from Ms. Sara Boot, dated 10 March 2003

Chair Koopmann convened the meeting at 3:20 P.M. The proposed agenda was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF 17 FEBRUARY 2003

The minutes of 17 February 2003 were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Chair Koopmann announced:

1. Athletic Director Martin and members of his staff will attend the next meeting of the Senate Assembly.
2. Volunteers are requested to serve on Senate Assembly committees. See distributed item 3.
3. The private consulting firm of William Mercer Associates (architects of the new prescription drug plan) has been hired by Staff Benefits to make recommendations to the Executive Officers about faculty and staff benefits in general. The report is due 1 April 2003 and B. Butterfield informed SACUA that a decision by executive officers is anticipated by 1 May 2003. No information about this planning has been shared with faculty governance. Note that recently there have been increases in charges to units for benefits. Concern about pending developments has been conveyed to both president and provost. They assured the faculty chair that decisions to alter benefits would not be made without open discussion and vetting.
4. The Annual Davis, Markert, Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture sponsored by Senate Assembly is slated for Monday, 20 October 2003 at the close of the Senate Assembly meeting. The speaker will be Professor David Cole from Georgetown University.

SACUA ELECTION

At 3:30 P.M. Senate Assembly business turned to its annual election of representatives to SACUA, the executive committee of the Senate Assembly. Assembly members were directed by Chair Koopmann to a ballot that had been prepared from a list of five candidates developed by the nominating committee. Professor Ensminger moved to add one additional candidate to the list- Professor John Lehman (Gobetti seconded).

The chair invited a motion to close nominations, and multiple sponsors responded affirmatively. Professor Smith moved that Professors Gobetti and Riebesell be named as tellers for the election (multiple seconds). The action passed by unanimous approval.

After ballots were marked, the tellers retired with them. They returned later in the meeting and reported that the three candidates elected by the Assembly were professors Richard Gull (UM-Flint), John Lehman (LSA) and Jens Zorn (LSA).

REPORT FROM THE TENURE COMMITTEE

Tenure Committee Chair Ken Adams took the floor at 3:37 P.M. Professor Adams reviewed the history and contents of distributed items 7 and 8. He said that the provost confirmed to the Tenure Committee that faculty are vested with tenure decisions, and that the role of administration is strictly to make sure units follow their own rules.

Adams said that the guidelines circulated by the provost (item 8) seem to be aspirational, whereas the Senate Assembly document (item 7) is more operational. He reported that the Tenure Committee is still working on a document about the value of tenure to the university and society.

Adams asked Senate Assembly members if they agree that the provost should be asked for explicit endorsement of the operational document (item 7) as a model for all units. He pointed out that current practices varied widely across the university. Professor Brown asked Adams to provide an example of divergent practices for tenure decisions. Adams replied that there is variance in the structure of committees and eligibility of members to serve. He said there is also great difference in degrees of specificity to candidates about the evidence that would be considered.

Professor Ensminger inquired about the status of the document previously developed by the Tenure Committee and endorsed by Senate Assembly (item 7). Chair Koopmann replied that its development traces to the time period when Nancy Cantor was provost. He said the current provost has never decided one way or the other about the Senate Assembly document. He added that one option is that the provost be asked to adopt the item 7 as the operational complement to the principles he articulated in item 8.

Professor Tropman voiced agreement. He added that an on-going review of practices across units would likewise be a good idea. He said that it would be worthwhile to conduct retrospective analysis of tenure decision-making in terms of outcomes both pro and con. Professor Adams responded that a retrospective analysis is an excellent suggestion. Professor Raisler commented that she could support the provost's document, but that she thought there should be an effort to adopt more uniform procedures across units that are fair to everyone. Professor Andersen remarked that many units are conducting joint hires, and he expressed the opinion that interdisciplinary issues emerging from these collaborative ventures need to be addressed.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY 031703-1

Professor Ensminger moved that Senate Assembly endorses the document circulated by the provost (item 8) and re-endorses its existing document (item 7) and asks that both be distributed to the units in combined form (multiple seconds).

The action was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Professor Adams offered to ask his committee to develop proposals of how to conduct periodic review and self study of unit procedures for tenure decisions. Consensus was expressed to have the Tenure Committee proceed with that as a charge.

PROPOSAL FROM MICHIGAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Chair Koopmann introduced MSA president Sarah Boot at 4:12 P.M. Ms. Boot reviewed the content of distributed item 9. She noted that there is overwhelming support from the undergraduate students to change the Winter Term recess from the last week of February to the first week of March.

Professor Gobetti moved that Senate Assembly endorses the proposal developed by MSA (multiple seconds).

Discussion of the Active Motion-

Senate Assembly members expressed opinions that two issues are involved: the timing of exams and the timing of recess. They noted that the present inter-semester break between fall and winter terms is very short, and that it needs reform, as well. Professor Brown stated that the argument ought to be based on academic rationales. Professor Pedraza stated that she thought many faculty would support this change. She said that the current calendar conflicts with the national meetings of some professional societies. Professor Riebesell inquired if there were many units that offered mini-courses that conclude after 7 weeks. Professor Andersen responded that Art and Design has just instituted new curriculum based on 7 week courses for 1.5 credits each.

Vote on the Active Motion-

The action was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 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.

March 17, 2003 Senate Assembly Meeting Agenda

3:15 pm

Call to Order

3:20 pm

Consideration of Minutes

3:25 pm	Announcements/Updates
3:30 pm	SACUA Election
3:45 pm	Tenure Committee Chair Ken Adams http://www.umich.edu/~provost/pdf/tenureguide.pdf http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/tenure-jan00.htm
4:15 pm	MSA President Sarah Boot ñ Spring Break
4:45 pm	Old/New Business
4:50 pm*	Adjournment

*University Senate meeting will follow immediately.
