

The University of Michigan

Senate Assembly

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 17 March 1986

ATTENDANCE

Present: Bailey, Bassett, Beutler, Briggs, Burdi, Checkoway, Chudacoff, Comninou, Durrance, Easley, Eaton, English, Glover, Hanks, Hudson, Kalisch, Kusnerz, Larson, Lehmann, Loup, Lusk, Ard, Margolis, Manis, McCarus, McClamroch, Meyer, Kearney, Moerman, Moran, Mosher, Nadelman, Radine, Reed, Marc Ross, Muriel Ross, Rutledge, Sanders, Olson, Schteingart, Snyder, Stapp, Stebbins, Warschausky, Wiseman

Absent: Ascione, Bissell, Brewer, Boyd, Carnahan, Cornell, Thomson, Eschman, Farley, Vinh, Han, Herbert, Howe, Jacobs, Kahn, Lavoie, Leonard, Lewis, Lockwood, Lorey, Lougee, Malvin, Mermier, Oleinick, Olsen, Payne, Pierce, Rizki, Schauer, Sears, Arnett, Sargous, Todor, White, Zelenock, Zweifler

Professor Robert Green convened the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of 17 February were approved as written.

MATTERS ARISING

Professor Durrance, Chair, ad hoc Committee on the University's Influence, reported that the group had consulted with individual faculty members and external groups (e.g., businesses). It will hold open hearings, 1:30 p.m. April 24, West Alcove, Rackham, preceding the Assembly meeting. Assembly members are invited; those unable to attend may contact the committee separately.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The packet for today's meeting included designation forms for University committees to which SACUA appoints members. Assembly members are encouraged to volunteer for these committees and to nominate others who will serve well.

2. The Tenure Committee is now studying the new senior lecturer proposal and will meet shortly with Dean Steiner and Associate Dean Walker. It will submit its report to SACUA and the Senate Assembly for subsequent discussion. With SACUA's endorsement, the Tenure Committee is encouraging wide discussion at the level of the individual faculty members. Professor Green encouraged members to facilitate the discussion.

3. SACUA is co-sponsoring a reception to honor Vice President Billy Frye, Monday, March 24, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., Hussey Room, Michigan League. Over 600 people are expected to attend.

4. SACUA and AAUP will co-sponsor a forum on faculty governance April 10, 12:30 p.m., Michigan Room, the League.

ELECTION OF SACUA

Professor Green announced that because Professor Muriel Ross has accepted a position with NASA and will be leaving the University, she has withdrawn as a nominee. Professor Jerry Hudson is the new nominee and materials pertaining to him have been distributed. The order of names on the ballot was determined randomly. According to election rules, members must rank all six candidates for ballots to be valid. Late ballots are not accepted. Subsequently, Professors Philip Margolis, Lorraine Nadelman and Beth Reed were elected.

REMARKS BY CHAIR

Stating that it was his last meeting as chair, Professor Green observed that the past year had been an interesting one for faculty governance. It is common to think of two types of governance: that in the schools and colleges and that of central groups. From his observation the latter is reasonably healthy, a view confirmed by responses to a recent survey he initiated. The President and the Vice President meet regularly with SACUA in mutually profitable sessions. But there are warning signs, he cautioned, which should be noted. There is a tendency among the Executive Officers to choose ad hoc groups rather than standing committees to study new issues. One possible reason may be that the Officers do not feel that the composition of the related standing groups may be as strong, representative or suitable as could be. He urged Assembly members to think about this matter and to encourage colleagues with broad interests to do similarly.

He urged members to be pleased and proud of the Assembly's vitality during the past year and suggested that the Reports from Schools and Colleges was a contributing factor. He asked those retiring members to stand and be

acknowledged for their participation. He also recognized Professors Richard Bailey and Cheryl Easley as retiring SACUA members and thanked Professor Stebbins for chairing SACUA's Opportunities and Obligations program this year. He encouraged the new SACUA to be a clear, articulate spokesperson for the faculty point of view. Finally, he noted that the real "perk" he enjoyed as chair was in the job itself because it gave him the opportunity to deal with ideas and situations which one does not normally encounter while in one's own academic "cubbyhole." He enjoyed the year more than he thought he would and thanked the Assembly for giving him the opportunity.

OLD BUSINESS

Professor Burdi, Chair, ad hoc Committee on University Programs, reported that the group is studying what academic programs the University should offer in the 21st century in order to remain a world class institution. The committee hopes to have its report ready by mid-April. Assembly members are invited to submit their comments to the committee.

As a result of Professor Chudacoff's inquiry, a correction was made to the SACUA minutes of 20 January, page 3. The group referred to should be Academic Affairs Advisory Council, not Academic Affairs Advisory Committee.

Professor Beutler reported that CESF met with Vice President Brinkerhoff and discussed retirees' benefits including health insurance. It is possible that benefits would be reduced in the future but there is no proposal currently under consideration.

Regarding the proposal for a smoke-free environment, Professor Kalisch reported that Vice President Brinkerhoff is working with the President's office on possible implementation. Student groups are also considering the proposal which is not scheduled to return to the Assembly for further review but will likely be discussed in other forums as it winds its way through the University.

In reply to Professor Burdi's question, Professor Green stated that SACUA meets with President Shapiro next week and has asked for an update on the search for a new Vice President for Academic Affairs. In Professor Green's view, the search committee has worked smoothly and well and the goal of naming the new officer before May is still achievable.

With reference to Professor Green's earlier remarks, Professor Stebbins concurred with the optimism and suggested that the Assembly owed the retiring chair a great debt of thanks. Professor Green, he stated, communicated the faculty viewpoint clearly and faithfully and kept SACUA informed of

developments in the Administration's thinking. An activist in the best sense, he moved SACUA and the Senate Assembly away from a reactive position and into a proactive one. Throughout, he was evenhanded and used his upbeat sense of humor in moving the groups on. Involved in civic theatre, Professor Green showed that it really was possible for a former actor to be an effective leader. Assembly members applauded these sentiments.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia B. Yocum
Senate Secretary