

Minutes of 20 March 2006
Circulated: 6 April 2006
Approved: 17 April 2006

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
20 MARCH 2006**

Present: Abdoo, Albers, Aller, Becker, Benamou, Brock, Brophy, Brown, Burant, Carter, Cebulski, Combi, Fraser, Frost, Garton, Giordani, Graham-Bermann, Gull, Hollar, Jackson, Koopmann, Lehman, Lemos, Li, Luera, Maddock, Matjias, Meerkov, Neuman, Peters, Pohl, Potter, Prygoski, Quint, Schultz, Seabury, Smith, Stark, Thouless, Younker, Ziff, Zorn

Alternates: Akingbehin (Dearborn - for Lachance), Cowdery (Flint - for Farmer), Durfee (Engineering - for Roe), Erickson (Dearborn - for Moran), Gest (Medicine - for Sabel), Kimball (LSA-Soc Sci - for Mitani), Satterfield (LSA-Humanities - for Liu)

Requested Alternate, none available: Powell (Social Work), Volling (LSA-Soc Sci)

Absent: Agrawal, Annich, Ben-Shahar, Bhavnani, Carson, Chang, Fricke, Green, Hesseltine, Hu, Hutchinson, Ismail, Kim, Lange, Ludlow, Ohye, Pritchard, Sahiner, Sellers, Severance, Senkevitch, Stoolman, Streetman, Watkins, Younger

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Senate Assembly agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 20 February 2006
3. Electronic mail message from J. Lehman to Senate Assembly members, dated 19 March 2006, regarding Senate Assembly Action Item
4. Electronic mail message from J. Zorn to Senate Assembly members, dated 20 March 2006, regarding election of SACUA chair/vice-chair
5. Electronic mail message from R. Green to Senate Assembly members, dated 20 March 2006, regarding election of SACUA chair/vice-chair
6. Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) Election Procedures Guidelines, dated 16 February 2004
7. Four faculty members vie for SACUA slots," *The University Record*, 13 March 2006.
8. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule, updated 17 March 2006
9. University Senate Agenda
10. Draft minutes of the University Senate Regular Meeting of 15 March 2004
11. Notes from the University Senate meeting of 21 March 2005

The meeting was convened by the chair at 3:25 P.M. The draft agenda was approved with a change in order of business by vote of 22 to 12.

ELECTION OF SACUA MEMBERS

Chair Giordani announced that election of new SACUA members for 2006-2007 would begin. He called for nominations from floor; none were offered. He then invited Professors Frier, MacAdam, and Potter to make statements from the floor. Secretary Lehman then read aloud a written statement that had been submitted by Professor Riles, who was out of town.

Professors Abdo, Moore, and Stark were selected as Tellers.

Paper ballots were distributed by the Senate Office staff; the number of eligible voters present was 46. Voters were instructed to vote for up to three candidates. Ballots were collected and turned over to the tellers. The tellers reported the outcome as follows:

Professor MacAdam- 38
Professor Frier- 29
Professor Potter- 28
Professor Riles- 28

Professors MacAdam and Frier were declared elected. A run-off election was conducted between Potter and Riles. Voters were instructed to vote for at most one candidate. Paper ballots were distributed by the Senate Office staff; the number of eligible voters present was 47. Ballots were collected and turned over to the tellers. The tellers reported the outcome as follows:

Professor Riles- 25
Professor Potter- 22

Professor Riles was declared elected.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 20 February 2006 Assembly meeting were approved as distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Giordani announced that SACUA had met the previous week with provost-select Sullivan by way of mutual introductions; no governance business was discussed.

PROPOSED ACTION

Professor Lehman offered the following motion (Professor Meerkov seconded):

WHEREAS four seats (of nine total) on SACUA for the 2006-2007 year will become filled by election this March, and

WHEREAS the Senate Assembly recognizes the basic principle that a group should be able to choose its own leadership,

THEREFORE The Assembly rules that SACUA and Senate Assembly Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected by the SACUA members who expect to hold office during the 2006-2007 academic year. The election shall occur as soon after May 1 as is practicable.

Professor Zorn spoke against the motion, stating that retiring members of SACUA were better situated to judge the merits of a potential chair than were the new members just joining the group. Professor Gull expressed agreement with Professor Zorn, as did Professor Combi. Professor Thouless remarked that there seemed to be a conflict between Regents' Bylaws and Rules of the Senate Assembly regarding the election process, timing, and seating of new members. Professor Koopmann said that he did not think it would be a good idea to select either the chair or vice chair from the incoming SACUA class, but that he could see both pros and cons about the new year class voting for their chair.

Professor Aller moved to place the motion to the table. His motion was seconded.

Vote on the derivative motion-
Number approving- 24
Number opposing- 8

The main motion was placed to the table.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Giordani read a prepared statement as retiring chair of the Assembly. He reviewed the status of various Assembly initiatives including:

1. Conflict of Interest/Conflict of Commitment procedures, which have passed to the unit level;
2. Reporting relations of the Academic Performance Committee of the Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, citing affirmation of the faculty role in academic review;
3. Provost's committee on tenure policy, noting Assembly recommendations have been transmitted to the committee and that decisions will not be made this spring, but rather next fall;
4. Childcare, noting that implementation is now in the hands of the administration;
5. Retiree benefits, awaiting reports from Budget Study and CESF;
6. Academic preparation for disadvantaged high school students, an emerging initiative within SACUA;
7. Undergraduate admissions, an on-going initiative of AAAC;
8. Faculty ombuds position, fully operational;
9. Faculty grievance process, still in need of reform but a follow-up to outcomes has been approved;

10. Unit shared governance, reform proposals have been transmitted to the unit level and Assembly members should follow up on their progress;
11. Shared governance at the central university level, report in progress;
12. Interdisciplinary research, an initiative of the Research Policies Committee
13. Governance role of clinical faculty and some additional librarians is still in committee review;
14. Academic Freedom Lecture, noting there will be a visiting named professorship;
15. Address by Robert O'Neil on a topical issue relevant to the tenure debate;
16. Faculty participation in governance, noting the need for new voices and renewed participation.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Professor Kimball suggested that the Assembly might want to create a committee that could advise faculty about strategic investment decisions regarding their pension benefits. He said that many university faculty are experts in how to allocate portfolios. Professor Smith noted that the CESF has been considering retirement benefits and will give a report to the Regents later in the year. Professor Kimball replied that what he was talking about was separate from the issue of what kinds of benefits are being offered. Professor Meerkov said that Kimball's suggestion sounded excellent and that he, for one, would welcome the advice if it were offered.

A member of the Assembly called attention to actions on the West Coast regarding academic freedom, including an alleged FBI interview of a faculty member without notice and in front of students; she said that we need to monitor activities and keep apprised of developments. Chair Giordani replied that the AAAC and the Civil Liberties Board have been asked to look into the allegations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 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.

Senate meeting of 20 March 2006
First Circulated 6 April 2006

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SENATE
THE REGULAR MEETING OF 20 MARCH 2006**

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Agendas for Senate Assembly and Senate meetings
2. Draft minutes of the University Senate Regular Meeting of 15 March 2004
3. Notes from the Regular Meeting 21 March 2005.

Faculty chair Giordani convened the meeting at 4:55 P.M. and declared lack of quorum.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

John T. Lehman
Senate Secretary

Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.01: *The University Senate* (in part): 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.
