

Minutes of 15 April 2013 Senate Assembly Meeting
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
15 APRIL 2013

Present: Adler, Adlerstein-Gonzalez, Barald, Barolo, Bradley, Campbell, Cervetti, Cotera, Custer, Fagerlin, Fenno, Folger, Goldman, Hayes, Holland, Hollingsworth, Jenckes, Jones, Katapodi, Kearfott (Chair), Kee, Koopmann, Larsen, Lehman, Mansfield, Masten, Mora, Muehlberger, Mutschler, Oey, Pando Zayas, Prygoski, Silveira, Staller, Thornton, Turnley, von Buelow, West, Westlake, Wong, Ziff

Requested Alternate, None Available: Danziger (Social Work), DiPietro (Medicine), Johnson (LSA), Moore (Dearborn), Odetola (Medicine), Poulsen (LSA)

Alternates: Kao (McCullagh-Nursing)

Absent: Ahbel-Rappe, Armitage, Atkins, Bayraktar, Biteen, Booth, Boxer, Brown, Christman, Gumucio, Hershovitz, Hirshorn, Jacobsen, Lu, Nevett, Pipe, Primus, Princen, Ryan, Sarma, Schriber, Sept, Shah, Sonnega, Szymanski, Thompson, Trandafirescu, Wright, Young

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Agenda for Senate Assembly
2. Draft Minutes of the 18 March 2013 Senate Assembly meeting
3. Outcomes of 18 March 2013 Senate Workshop on college affordability
4. Draft Senate Assembly Statement on Diversity and Inclusivity and supporting documents

SENATE ASSEMBLY

Chair Kearfott convened the meeting of the Senate Assembly at 3:15 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

MINUTES

The draft minutes of 18 March 2013 were approved.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT AND RESOLUTION

Chair Kearfott called attention to distributed item 4. She invited Professor Carson to introduce the topic. Professor Carson provided his introductory remarks with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix). He concluded his statement at 3:30 P.M. and the Chair invited Senate Assembly sponsors to speak about the action item and then opened the floor to debate. Professor

Masten suggested that the proposed resolution was premature and that deliberation should be postponed until information can be obtained from the administration and university admissions. Professor Koopman expressed agreement. Other members of the Assembly and attending guests called for action on the resolution rather than postponement.

Professor Larsen spoke against the resolution, saying that he supports the position taken by the administration and he thinks they are doing their best in the face of complex legal issues and practical difficulties. He said that racial and ethnic diversity *per se* is not as important as the ways that we think about diversity. He stated that the basic intellectual argument behind the proposed resolution does not hang together. He acknowledged that there are great benefits from diversity but they are not the exclusive province of racial and ethnic diversity. He cited his own concern about the lessening socio-economic diversity on campus as a consequence of increasing enrollment of affluent non-residents.

Professor Carson said that he agreed with the importance of socio-economic diversity, and he worried that the situation was worsening, but that information was extremely difficult to obtain.

Chair Kearfott invited a “motion to call the question.” Members responded with a motion and seconds. Senate Office staff reported that 41 members of the Assembly had signed in as present, and the Secretary affirmed that a quorum was therefore present.

The Chair asked whether the Assembly needed to vote on calling the question and the Secretary replied “Yes.” The Chair asked for a show of hands on the motion to call the question and declared that the motion had been approved by a clear majority.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY 041513-1

The University of Michigan is a great public institution. It is imperative that the University continue to work strenuously to create a learning community that reflects its aspirations to be a leader for public education in our increasingly diverse twenty-first century society. Therefore, it is resolved that we request the administration to:

- 1) seek to determine the cause(s) of the now decades-long lack of progress in improving campus diversity;
- 2) redirect University resources and strengthen leadership where necessary to achieve this goal of a more diverse and inclusive campus, supplementing any existing institutionalized programs with new creative approaches;
- 3) broaden the scope of efforts to include modern definitions of diversity (not only race, color, and national origin, but also age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, veteran status, and economic class);

and

4) support initiatives such as the UM Alumni Association Leadership, Excellence, Achievement, Diversity (LEAD) scholarship program for out-of-state under-represented minority students, including, to the extent possible, making such programs a high priority in the next University capital campaign, within the limits defined by the state and federal Constitutions.

Vote on the Active Motion:

Number approving- 27

Number disapproving- 9

Number abstaining- 1

REPORT OF SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

General Counsel Advisory Committee (Professor Frier)-

Topics considered this year:

- indemnification of faculty
- copyright policy
- academic freedom statement
- faculty fitness for duty
- faculty conflict of interest (planned for May)
- security cameras on campus (planned)
- background checks on faculty and staff (planned)

Professor Frier invited members to suggest additional topics to the committee.

Professor Goldman asked for additional information about fitness for duty. Professor Frier replied that the proposed policy was in an early stage of development, but that it is motivated by a concern within the administration that the aging professorate includes some members who are growing incapable of teaching but who are unwilling to retire.

Civil Liberties Committee (Professor Stafford)-

Topics considered this year:

- access to higher education
- a planned symposium on the subject: 10 Oct 2013, 3:30-5 Palmer Commons

Advisory Committee on Budgetary Affairs (Professor Kearfott)-

A new committee with much orientation required to budget matters.

Committee on University Values (Professor Kearfott)-

This new committee provided feedback on the statement of diversity (distributed item 4) and is developing one additional statement that will be forthcoming.

Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (Professor Askari)-

CESF changed its calendar of activity to issue a report in the Fall when budgets are actively under development, rather than after decisions have been made in the Winter. The Board of Regents will again receive reports from CESF after a period of hiatus.

Additional topics of interest:

- Ann Arbor campus administrative FTEs are on par with UM Flint; needs further examination.
- gender equity issues in salaries, with lower equity in full professor ranks.
- more study of time in rank and gender distributions among fields.

FINAL REMARKS OF CHAIR

The Chair thanked retiring members of SACUA for their service and contributions. She also thanked Mr. Schneider and Ms. Carr from the Senate Office staff. She noted that charges to many committees had been updated during the past year and that some new committees had been created, including a task force on intercampus collaboration. She then passed the gavel to Professor Staller, chair-elect.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 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.