

Minutes of 15 April 1996 Senate Assembly Meeting
Circulated 8 May 1996
Approved 20 May 1996

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
MINUTES OF 15 APRIL 1996

Chair Brewer convened the meeting at 3:17 P.M. in the absence of a quorum.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Agenda
2. Items for Information, dated 15 April 1996
3. Skeletal agendas for SACUA and Senate Assembly, April and May 1996
4. Approved Senate Assembly minutes of 19 February 1996
5. Draft Senate Assembly minutes of 18 March 1996
6. Approved SACUA minutes of 29 January 1996
7. Approved SACUA minutes of 5 February 1996
8. Approved SACUA minutes of 12 February 1996
9. Approved SACUA minutes of 26 February 1996
10. Item for Action: Motion on Academic Freedom Lectures, dated 15 April 1996
11. Item for Action: Senate Assembly Statement on Diversity, undated
12. Item for Action: Letter from G. Brewer, dated 6 April 1996, to Senate Assembly Members regarding a motion about Regents' Bylaw 5.09

No action was taken to consider the minutes of 18 March 1996 in the absence of a quorum.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM LECTURE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Chair Brewer invited Professor Moore to take the chair and to introduce a motion on the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund, printed and distributed as item 10. Moore asked if there was any objection to the Assembly receiving the motion in the absence of a quorum. No objection was expressed, and Moore introduced the motion (Lomax seconded). No action occurred.

POTENTIAL REVISION OF REGENTS' BYLAW 5.09

Brewer asked Professor Moore to remain as chair so that Brewer could make a presentation and motion to the Assembly. Brewer made a set of opening remarks about his effort to revise the provisions of RB 5.09 (Appendix I). He then introduced the motion that had been printed and distributed to Senate Assembly members (item 12; Christiansen seconded). Moore ruled that in the absence of a quorum, discussion could proceed but that no action was in order. Professor Montalvo moved an amendment to the main motion (Smith seconded). The active motion stated:

That Senate Assembly supports the concept of revision of Regental Bylaw 5.09, to include making the procedure accessible to faculty for purposes of a hearing on alleged constructive demotion or dismissal. Senate Assembly supports the concept of formation of a joint faculty/administration committee to further develop this document, with the committee to report to Senate Assembly sometime during the Fall of 1996.

Professor Kaplan pointed out that RB 5.09 had been established because in the past the University of Michigan had dismissed faculty and violated their academic freedom.

Professor Dunn moved that the issue be referred to the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee and to the Tenure Committee for consultation and recommendations (Montalvo seconded).

Professor Steneck proposed that the language of the motion be amended to:

That Senate Assembly supports the concept of review of Regental Bylaw 5.09, considering among other possible items to include making the procedure accessible to faculty for purposes of a hearing on alleged constructive demotion or dismissal. Senate Assembly supports the concept of formation of a joint faculty/administration committee to further develop this document, with the committee to report to Senate Assembly sometime during the Fall of 1996.

No quorum was present, and further actions were suspended.

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

Brewer returned to the chair. Professor Montalvo moved that Senate Assembly adopt the Statement on Diversity that had been printed and distributed (item 11; Feld seconded). Some discussion proceeded in the absence of a quorum. Professor Deskins invited Senate Assembly members to direct written comments to him and the Committee for a Multicultural University.

STATE OF FACULTY GOVERNANCE

Chair Brewer delivered about the state of faculty governance, the faculty, and the university (Appendix II). At the conclusion of his remarks, he expressed thanks to the SACUA staff, including T. Schneider, M. Mandeville, and J. Hermann, as well as to the Senate Secretary. He further expressed his appreciation to SACUA members Dunn, D'Alecy, Montalvo, Lomax, Lee, and McNamara. Brewer turned the chair over to Professor Dunn at 4:42 P.M.

Dunn expressed thanks to Professor Brewer, as well as to the other retiring members of SACUA: Professors Moore, Montalvo, and Smith. He announced his intention to work with the new SACUA to further strengthen faculty governance. Dunn praised the new relations established with the Office of the Provost as a great step forward.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Lehman
Senate Secretary