

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY

Minutes of Assembly Meeting, April 18, 1977

- ATTENDANCE Present: Members Angus, Aupperle, Barnett, Brazer, Butler, Caldwell, Cartwright, Christensen, Cohen B., Coon, Cooper, Corpron, Crichton, Diamond, Downen, Edwards, A., Fowler, Gay, Gelehrter, Gordon, Gray, Harris, J., Harris, R., Heers, Herbert, Hungerman, Johnson, Juvinall, Kaplan, Uttal, Leary, Lehmann, Lindberg, Livermore, Merte, Millard, Naylor, Portman, Rabkin, Schanck, Shannon, Sherman, Sinsheimer, Tilly, Tonsor, Votaw, Weeks, West, Winans, Schulze, Williams
- Absent: Members Bornstein, Brown, D., Brown, M., Browne, R., Cohen, P., Dingle, Edwards, O., Elving, Fekety, Hildebrandt, Jones, Lands, Morley, Penner, Porter, Proctor, ~~Cornell~~, Simonds, Stross, White, Zorn, Trojan
- Guests: Professors David Aminoff and Lawrence McMahon, Co-Chairpersons, Academic Affairs Committee
Professor Wallace Berry, Chairperson, SARC
- CALL TO ORDER Professor Williams called the meeting to order at 3:24 p.m.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of March 21, 1977 were approved as distributed.
- SACUA ELECTION The Assembly elected Professors Corpron, Portman, and Votaw to three-year terms on SACUA. Later, SACUA met and elected Professor Lehmann, Chairman, and Professor Robert Weeks, Vice-Chairman.
- APPOINTMENT The Assembly elected Professor Peter Smith to a three-year term on The Michigan Union Board of Directors.
- FINANCIAL AID Professor Aminoff reported on the proposals of the Academic Affairs Committee concerning Undergraduate Financial Aid. A written report was distributed to the Assembly along with recommendations. Professor Aminoff stressed the importance of three of the recommendations:
1. The appointment of a person to carry on statistical analysis of the data already available (the amount and complexity of the data require it);
 2. A means of quantifying information must be sought so that judgments on aid may be more objective;
 3. We should commit ourselves to experimentation in order to better utilize financial aid to attract the best students possible.
- Professor Aminoff then called for questions. Professor B. Cohen asked if there were any way to increase the total funds committed to financial aid. Professor Aminoff was doubtful about increasing funds, but thought that our objectives would have to be met by a better distribution of available funds. Professor Tonsor called attention to a recommendation concerning minority students, and asked about its relation to the "merit principle" invoked throughout the document. Professor Aminoff could find no incompatibility.

Professor Brazer then spoke about the failure of the report to connect financial aid to the issue of tuition. He claimed that every resident undergraduate receives a tuition subsidy of about \$3,000 per year. Eliminating that subsidy would free up huge amounts of money that could then be distributed to students according to merit and need. Professor Aminoff replied that Professor Brazer's idea seemed too simple, and that we can improve our situation by experimentation into how best in new ways to distribute the funds we have. Professor Kaplan commented that the State Legislature might regard the elimination of the "subsidy" as an invitation to reduce appropriations.

Professor Gordon suggested that one way of making the University more attractive would be to make sure that good students be given the opportunity to work with our most distinguished scholars. Professor Aminoff replied that that certainly was a worthwhile experiment to try.

Professor Gelehrter asked if we are currently attempting to recruit National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists. Professor Aminoff replied that we apparently are not doing enough, and that we ought to do more. He then asked the Assembly to endorse the report of the Committee, and especially the idea of experimentation in the recruitment of students. Endorsement of the report was moved and seconded with the additional provision that SACUA be given responsibility for implementing the recommendations. The motion passed.

Professor Williams thanked Professors Aminoff and McMahon for their effective work on the report.

FACULTY SALARY
DISCLOSURE

Professor Williams reported that the Regents have decided not to change their policy on the publication of faculty salaries. Professor Williams, Vice-President Rhodes, President Fleming and two Deans all spoke against disclosure.

FOOTBALL
TICKET
PRICES

Professor Brazer called attention to the announcement in the latest University Record that season tickets for faculty and staff will cost 71% more next fall. He objected both to the extent of the rise in price and to the manner of its announcement. The rise is more than twice as great for faculty and staff as for any other group, and amounts to a considerable reduction in what is fairly understood as a fringe benefit. Professor Johnson supported Professor Brazer's concern and said that The Board in Control of Intercollegiate Athletics did not inform SACUA of the increase.

The following resolution was moved and passed by a wide margin:

RESOLVED: That the Board in Control of Intercollegiate Athletics reconsider its decision to institute a 71% rise in season tickets for faculty, and that in the future it consult with SACUA before making any changes in the price of tickets.

SARC
ACTIVITIES

Professor Berry began his report by describing the role and function of SARC: the hearing and consideration of faculty complaints. Although all manner of complaints may be heard, most complaints have concerned the denial of tenure, reappointment, or promotion.

This year only one complaint, from a faculty member from UM-Flint, whose appointment was not to be continued, reached the hearing stage. The allegation concerned claims of improper procedures, denial of information, and incorrect procedures in developing policy toward elimination of an academic position. SARC found that the complaint lacked merit. It also found the procedures employed to be generally acceptable, but recommended certain improvements. Professor Berry explained that efforts toward the improvement of procedures is a major role of SARC. Almost every complaint heard involves some deficiency in communication between faculty members and their supervisors.

In February SARC met with SACUA and staff from the Office of Academic Affairs to discuss problems in SARC's procedures. These were essentially questions of authority and jurisdiction. Two proposals were discussed: 1) to make explicit SARC's decision, repeated from year to year, not to consider the substance of evaluations of faculty, but only the procedures by which evaluations were conducted; and 2) to make more specific the role of the President of the University in terms of the action he might or might not take with respect to SARC recommendations. There was no consensus on these matters. An outline of SARC's own procedures, however, formulated during the past several months, will soon be forwarded to SACUA. Professor Berry then explained that unit representatives play an important part in the handling of complaints. Unit representatives in LS&A, the Medical School, and Nursing reported activity. Professor Berry said that many complaints are handled at the local level. He concluded his report by asking for questions, but there were none.

Professor Williams thanked Professor Berry for his leadership of SARC this year.

RESOLUTION

Professor Lehmann then rose to offer a resolution. Professor Lehmann:

Mr. Chairman:

I should like to offer a Resolution, but before doing so, would appreciate the Assembly's indulgence for a brief prefatory statement. It is customary at this time of year when new members of the Assembly are present, and elections to SACUA are completed, to acknowledge in some way the outgoing Chairman's contribution.

I will do so formally in a moment. However, in a more personal way, I want you to know that this is not meant as an empty gesture. Brymer Williams has, in his quiet, deliberate, but determined fashion been an exceptionally effective representative for us across the entire University community during the past year.

Furthermore, he has a sense of history about this place and its institutions which he has turned to our advantage on many occasions. And then, too, he has a nice wry humor about himself and the whole human condition. If he has any failing, it is to have allowed those of us on SACUA to take advantage of his concern that our feelings on all issues should be fully aired.

Therefore, with a genuine sense of gratitude, I offer the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION: That the Senate Assembly express its sincere appreciation for the diligence, care, effectiveness and unfailing courtesy with which its Chairman, Brymer Williams has carried out his duties on our behalf during the past year.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously and with enthusiastic applause.

Professor Williams thanked the Assembly. He paid his own tribute to the work of Professor Harold Johnson and of Professor Lands who were also retiring from SACUA. There was more applause.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on this note of thanksgiving at 4:50 p.m.

Earl J. Schulze
Senate Secretary

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