

Minutes of 21 April 2003
First Circulated 22 April 2003
Re-Circulated 25 September 2003

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

21 April 2003

ATTENDANCE

Present: Berent, Brown, Burdi, Cho, Combi, Drach, Elenbogen, Ensminger, Fisher, Gobetti, Gould, Gull, Hall, Karr, Koopmann (Chair), Kosch, Johnson, McDonagh, Overmyer, Pedraza, Powell, Raisler, Remick, Riebesell, Schwendeman, Sension, Shimp, Tappenden, Thornton, Tropman, Watkins, Yeo; Lehman

Alternates: Gordon (Dearborn-Huntley), Ohye (Medicine-Sagher), Rothman (LSA-Keller-Cohen), Ziff (Engineering-Goldman)

Absent: Akerlof, Alfred, Andersen, Andre, Atreya, Barsky, Bartlett, Bhavnani, Boyd, Bradley, Byosiere, Carlisle, Clark, Colas, Faerber, Fishman, Frier, Giordani, Green, Hills, Ketefian, Kim, Lindner, Lithgow-Bertelloni, Moore, Ni, Norris, Okada, Orr, Page, Pennell Ross, Peterson, Prasad, Robertson, Ruffin, Savage, Seyhun, Shelden, Simpson, Wechsler, Whatley, Winter, Yakel

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Senate Assembly agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 17 March 2003
3. Annual faculty composition report, dated 2 April 2003
4. Budget Study Committee Report 1, dated 15 April 2003
5. Budget Study Committee Report 1 handout
6. Senate Assembly Item for Action dated 21 April 2003

Chair Koopmann convened proceedings at 3:20 P.M. in absence of a quorum. Secretary Lehman maintained a record of the proceedings in expectation of a quorum.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF 17 MARCH 2003

Consideration of the minutes of 17 March 2003 was postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Chair Koopmann announced:

1. Former interim president J. White has transmitted a letter of thanks to SACUA for making a contribution in his name to the UM scholarship fund for children of 9/11 victims.
2. Three members of SACUA are retiring from their terms: Professors Gobetti, Lindner, and Savage. Senate Assembly members acknowledged their service with a round of

applause.

3. A new faculty composition report has been released (distributed item 3).

Chair Koopmann also provided a review of faculty governance activities over the past year. These included

Benefits issues-

pharmacy benefits manager

use of social security numbers

childcare issues.

Faculty grievance policy revisions

Potential central faculty ombuds program

Revision of Principles of Teaching document

Tenure Committee report

Budget Study Committee activities

Continued discount for faculty and staff athletic tickets

Planning for fitness and recreational facilities for faculty, staff and students

VISIT OF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

At 3:30 P.M. Athletic Director Bill Martin, Warde Manuel (associate director) and Mel Sanders (student advisor) joined the meeting. Chair Koopmann invited the Athletic Director to address the Assembly.

AD Martin reported that of 730 varsity athletes at U-M, 305 have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or above during the past year. Menís basketball has achieved a 100% graduation rate within 4 years for the last 2 years. He provided other comparison data for athletes against a benchmark overall UM graduation rate of 83% within 4 years. He reviewed developments within the NCAA emphasizing academics. Martin also described a recent NCAA integrity report that presents comparisons across conferences.

At 3:40 P.M. Mr. Manuel presented remarks about a planned ‘Academic Success Center’ to be built on State Street within the Athletic Campus. He described an ongoing program of academic tutoring for athletes.

Professor Hall asked which athletic groups are expected to take advantage of the Center. Mr. Manuel replied that the Center would be a general facility of value to all athletes as well as study groups including non athletes. Professor Riebesell asked if there were any plans to offer courses in the Center. Manuel responded that there are no plans to do so. Professor Brown asked for a breakdown of student athlete academic performance by academic major. Mr. Manuel replied that he would supply the requested information to the Senate Assembly chair.

Professor Tropman suggested that a better title than ‘Academic Success’ could be found for the proposed Center. Members of the Assembly suggested, inter alia, ‘Academic Excellence Center.’ Mr. Manuel said that he would welcome additional feedback and suggestions, which could be transmitted to him directly by phone or e-mail (wmanuel@umich.edu).

Professor Raisler asked what percent of athletes use the program, and whether there is a correlation with markers of success like GPA. Manuel replied that 100% of the athletes are served, but that degree of use is variable. He said that on a continuing basis they probably work with 60 to 70% of the athletes.

At 4:10 P.M. M. Sanders distributed an information sheet about a 'guest coaches program.' Professor Raisler inquired about different graduation rates for women and men athletes. AD Martin responded that there are many male athletes who turn professional and leave the university, creating a male specific impact on graduation rates.

AD Martin announced his willingness to turn over the facilities of the athletic campus to faculty for a day if a volunteer would come forward to help with the details. Professor Gobetti volunteered his willingness to help set up the experiment.

The athletic director invited the faculty to contact him directly by telephone if they wish to provide additional feedback. The guests left the meeting at 4:25 P.M.

CHILDCARE ISSUE UPDATE

Professor Yeo reported that she had attended meetings on 8 April with both the president and the provost to discuss childcare concerns. She said that the U-M administration has made progress in providing financing for student childcare. However, she said, the irregular schedules of faculty and staff presents challenges. She said that the president and provost invited a proposal for how to optimize resources, and that SACUA is considering a task force to study the subject.

BUDGET STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Smith, chair of the Budget Study Committee, addressed the Assembly at 4:30 P.M. He described the structure of the committee and the key elements of its first report (distributed item 4). Professor Smith described the continuing difficulties encountered by the BSC in eliciting public information from the UM administration.

Professor Smith pointed out that by shifting benefits costs to employees, salaries are being reduced. He declared that ongoing practice is actually a salary reduction program. Smith also pointed out that the BSC learned that the Periodic Health Appraisal Unit is extraordinarily cost effective, but that the UM administration has decided to terminate the program. He pointed out that PHAU has been instructed to discontinue notification of people about eligibility for their services, in the expectation that use will decline and the unit will atrophy. Smith pointed out that the UM approach to budget rescissions is different from that of other state universities. He noted that Northern Michigan University has dealt with its budget woes by cutting the size of its administration.

A member of the Assembly remarked that it is possible that cost of instruction has been restrained in growth rate by shifting from tenure track faculty to lecturers. Professor Smith replied that it was true that all growth has been through non tenure track appointments.

Professor Tropman pointed out that he experienced a sharp increase in his life insurance premium this year. He said he phoned Staff Benefits six times to inquire but they do not return calls. Professor Smith replied that the Budget Study Committee could look into the premium question.

Professor Raisler praised the work of the BSC. She said that what it has uncovered with its report is very disturbing. She asked what the next steps should be. Professor Smith pointed out that within months the UM administration would start extracting salary from UM employees to subsidize health care premiums, a traditional benefit of employment. Professor Burdi commended the BSC for uncovering important information. He declared that the Assembly should develop a series of forums to discuss the issues.

Chair Koopmann invited Assembly members to bring forward the topics they want explored. He said that faculty governance would push for the information that the BSC needs. He said that SACUA would acquire more data about the cost shifting practices being employed and would present them to a new benefits committee constructed by the provost. Professor Burdi clarified his call for forums by saying that he was not interested in forums where faculty attend merely to listen to executive officers or their staff.

Professor Raisler proposed an all-faculty e-mailing pointing out the BSC information. Professor Smith commented that the UM Chapter of AAUP has instituted a Benefits Watch feature on its website (www.umich.edu/~aaupum/).

Professor Berent said that he wanted to know if there was a way to forestall efforts to dismantle the PHAU. He said it has been useful to him, and he did not know how to get comparable service elsewhere. He stated that physical examinations performed by outside health care providers are symptom-driven and less useful. Professor Ensminger pointed out that the UM administration will always place budget problems on faculty and their benefits, and will not throttle the accelerating growth of administration itself. He declared that the elected representatives of the faculty need to take some stands by vote, and to pursue their principles in all public meetings with executive officers. He said the faculty should also observe how bargained-for groups retain benefits whereas those of faculty erode. He said the erosion was piecemeal, but the cumulative effect should evoke outrage and reaction.

Professor Pedraza pointed out that budget woes are going to pit one group against another. She said that it is important to learn the definitions of 'administrative costs' that the BSC discovered have been growing at 12% per year. Professor Smith said that the BSC needs to find that answer.

The proceedings ended at 5:30 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.

April 21, 2003 Senate Assembly Meeting Agenda

3:15 pm	Call to Order
3:20 pm	Consideration of Minutes
3:25 pm	Announcements/Updates
	1. Faculty Composition Report
	2. Childcare ñ SeonAe Yeo
3:30 pm	Athletic Department Guests
	Bill Martin, Athletic Director
	Warde Manuel, Associate Director
	Mel Sanders, Student Advisor
4:30 pm	Budget Study Committee Report
	Charles B. Smith, Chair
	http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/BSCmin/bscreport4-15-03.pdf
5:00 pm	AAAC Admissions Resolution
5:10 pm	SACUA Election
5:25 pm	Old/New Business
5:30 pm	Adjournment
