

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SENATE ASSEMBLY

Minutes of Assembly Meeting, April 24, 1978

ATTENDANCE            Present:  Members Quackenbush, Barnett, Baumgarten, Berg, P.Jones, M.Brown, Browne, Butler, Caldwell, Cooper, Corpron, Crichton, Saxonhouse, Dingle, Eckert, Elving, Fowler, Gay, Gordon, Harris, Heers, Gedney, Hinerman, Hungerman, Juvinall, Kaplan, Koran, Leary, Lindberg, Livermore, Lynch-Sauer, Merte, Lyon, Nisbett, Ostrander, Parkinson, Penner, Porter, Portman, Rabkin, Rowe, Shannon, Sinsheimer, Tonsor, Uttal, Verhey, Votaw, White, Zorn, George, Flener, Schulze, Lehmann

                        Absent:  Angus, Blumenfeld, D.Brown, Cohen, Coon, Dabich, Whitmore, Edwards, Fekety, Gelehrter, Gull, L.Jones, Abrams, Powers, Poznanski, Romani, Simonds, Tilly, Trojan, Vasse, Winans

                        Guest:  Professor J. Raymond Pearson, Chairman, Budget Priorities Committee

CALL TO ORDER            The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m., in the Rackham Amphitheater.

                        Professor Lehmann opened the meeting by welcoming the new members of the Assembly.

MINUTES                    The minutes of March 17, 1978 were approved as circulated.

ELECTION OF  
NEW MEMBERS  
TO SACUA                    Elected to three-year terms were Deming Brown, LS&A, Jesse Gordon, Social Work, and Arch Naylor, Engineering. Elected to a two-year term was Janice Lindberg, Nursing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS            1.  Lehmann called attention to the summary of Assembly activities circulated with the call to the Senate meeting. He referred to a letter from Professor Park, Chairman of the Program Evaluation Committee, criticizing the summary of his report to the Assembly last May. The letter and the minutes of the meeting are on file in the SACUA office.

                        2.  Lehmann reviewed briefly the meetings of SACUA with faculty at Dearborn, March 27 and with the faculty at Flint, April 17. Notes of those meetings will be circulated next month.

                        3.  He reported a memorandum from David Heebink, Assistant to the President, on the decline in the number of class days in the academic year calendar. (copy attached) In the last five years each term has diminished by two class days.

                        4.  He announced that the Tenure Committee report will be made in May.

5. He asked the Assembly to enable SACUA to make one or two temporary replacements on SARC for the purpose of hearing a current case. The Assembly approved the request unanimously.

6. Lehmann announced that President Fleming had acknowledged an unfortunate error in his statement on South African investments: The Assembly had not discussed or approved the report of the Financial Affairs Committee as his statement had alleged.

NOMINATIONS &  
APPOINTMENTS

The Assembly approved the appointment of Professor Dorin Hinerman, Medicine, to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Union.

REPORT OF THE  
BUDGET PRIOR-  
ITIES COMMIT-  
TEE--PROF.  
PEARSON

Professor Pearson began by reviewing the history and composition of the Budget Priorities Committee. He described its function as providing assistance in the formation of the budget in accordance with established priorities. The work of the Committee includes participation in budget conferences with all of the units of the University conducted by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Formation of the 1979-80 budget began in the fall with the development of Program Revision Requests--the budget asked for from the State. A special request for the book budget was included this year. The University remains committed to giving first priority to improvement of the book budget by \$400,000 each year for the next three, whether or not the increase is included in the State appropriation. A principal part of the appropriations request reflects the recommendations of the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty.

Two special concerns were brought to Budget Priorities this fall. One, concerning administrative costs, has resulted in an ad hoc investigating committee including three members of Budget Priorities. The other, concerning a tuition pool for GSRA's, as been discussed favorably. Vice-President Shapiro has noted that it will cost between three and four hundred thousand dollars, and cannot be effected until a means of financing has been found. Effort is being made to determine such means.

This winter, in addition to its round of budget conferences with deans and directors, the Committee has considered the new graduate fee schedule. Professor Pearson cited the importance of receiving opinion from the faculty at large. A continuing supply of information is essential to the Committee's successful operation.

Professor Pearson then called for questions.

Professor Tonsor noted that a 6% salary increase has been mentioned as a target. He regarded the 12% request of CESF as utopian, but was sure that 6% was inadequate. It falls short of inflation by 2%, and should be viewed with alarm. It is an invitation to unionization. Professor Pearson responded by pointing out that the entire request was incorporated into the Program Revision Request in the fall. He added that salary increases have not been finally decided.

Professor Lyon asked, "What resources might be found to finance the GSRA tuition pool?" Professor Pearson said that he was hopeful that some way would be found. He said that there was a possibility that money could be found to allow out-of-state GSRA's to pay in-state tuition. Professor Lyon continued: "Have the Regents ruled on GSRA's paying in-state fees?" Professor Pearson replied that the idea had not advanced to the stage of a request for Regental approval.

Professor Portman asked how much such a tuition pool would cost. Professor Pearson estimated the cost as between three and four hundred thousand dollars.

Professor Elving asked that he comment further on the impact of the Budget Priorities Committee's work on the formation of the budget. Professor Pearson thought it inappropriate for him to assess the Committee's impact, that it might be more objectively assessed by SACUA, Mr. Shapiro, or others. At the least, he felt, the Committee represented a faculty voice analogous and supplementary to that of CESF.

Professor Elving addressed the point of effectiveness. "Are faculty committees still effective? Is it not hard work for nothing?" He acknowledged that procedures have been made better, but doubted that decisions have been influenced. Pearson agreed that influence had not been exerted to a sufficient degree, although he did not despair of the mechanism. Lehmann joined the discussion and asserted that the faculty had had a strong impact on budget decisions. Professor Pearson added that he had confidence that Vice-President Shapiro was sensitive to faculty opinion.

Professor Tonsor re-emphasized, however, the import of Elving's question. The administration seems insensitive on economic matters, and if it continues to be insensitive unionization will occur.

Professor M. Brown asked if the Committee on Budget Priorities knew enough to make significant cuts in our programs. Professor Pearson replied that the Committee had been asked to consider the case of Population Planning last year. As a rule it does not consider the viability of specific programs, and has not to date found reason to

recommend the discontinuance of any program.

Professor Lehmann thanked Professor Pearson for his report.

NEW OR OLD  
BUSINESS

There was neither old nor new business.

Professor Lehmann thanked Professor Kaplan, Vice-Chairman of SACUA for his untiring efforts through the year, thanked SACUA for its diligence, the Assembly for its ideas and its concern, and Mrs. Downs for her invaluable assistance as Administrator in the SACUA Office. Professor Livermore then rose to thank Professor Lehmann for his work. His remarks follow.

It would not be meet, Mr. Chairman, to close without one of your colleagues on SACUA and from this Assembly taking public note of your year's term as our chairman.

I need avail myself of no extravagance to say that faculty governance is rooted as tenaciously in this University now as at any time I can remember in my four years at this seat. You have looked out for this objective doggedly-- it may be that down some corridors and behind some doors they would say rabidly.

Mr. Chairman, I hope I do not press upon your diffidence if I remind those here that you have led us in making direct, formal representations to the Regents on matters that we, the faculty, believe must be understood clearly; that you have insisted upon the principle that new policy formulations should be brought before SACUA as early as possible while they are percolating through the administration; that you have pressed for SACUA attendance at weekly meetings of the administrative officers and that you have seized every chance during SACUA's frequent conversations with President Fleming and Vice-President Shapiro to impress upon them our views. I regret I cannot say impose upon them.

Similarly, you have moved to insure that our Assembly committee empire remains in good order. You have met with and encouraged the chairmen and chairwomen and you have acted quickly to bring committee proposals before SACUA and this Assembly. Just so, you have initiated SACUA meetings with faculty groups at both Flint and Dearborn.

I must also tell those here, Mr. Chairman, that you have cleverly superintended our Monday festivals, sometimes called in the minutes SACUA meetings. You brought before us every kind of intelligence, emergency and outrage. You held us to our duty through idle filibuster and advanced fatigue. For when, with just a trace of grumpiness, that film of impatience started down over your eyes we knew that the moment for action was nigh.

Mr. Chairman, I fear that this spate of unremitting flattery might go to your head, and, perhaps, might even cause you to begin levitating over the podium down there. Since you are always considerate, I feel sure that you do not wish to be the occasion for those colleagues who are charged with keeping the sacred laws of nature to stumble back in some panic to their mini-computers.

For all of us here, Mr. Chairman, we thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The assembly adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Earl J. Schulze  
Senate Secretary