

Minutes of 14 May 2007
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Approved 24 September 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
14 MAY 2007

Present: Albers, Aller, Altschuler, Becker, Benamou, Brock, Brown, Chang, Eagle, Fitzgerald, Fraser, Friedman, Frier, Frost, Garton, Green, Hesseltine, Im, Ketefian, Koopman, Li, Lomax, MacAdam, Maddock, Maybaum, Moore, Potter, Powell, Riles, Rothman, Smith (Chair), Stark; Lehman (Secretary of Senate Assembly)

Alternates: Kearfott (Engineering-for Wakefield), Mengozzi (Music-for Hahn), Mullan (Medicine-for Annich), Ziff (Engineering-for Thouless),

Requested Alternate, none available: Brophy (Business), Dowling (Alternate for Schultz – Engineering), Graham-Bermann (LSA-Soc Sci), Gull (Flint-CAS), Hollar (Information), Lachance (Dearborn-CASL), Rahme (Flint-CAS), Tropman (Alternate for Reisch – Social Work)

Absent: Abdo, Adriaens, Agrawal, Anspach, Avi-Yonah, Bastedo, Boxer, Carson, Currie, Engsminger, Fricke, George, Kim, Kosch, Lange, Ludlow, Luera, Mahalingam, Navvab, Neuman, Peters, Primus, Roe, Sabel, Samson, Sellers, Severance, Stoolman, Streetman, Thornton, Volling, Younger

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Senate Assembly agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 16 April 2007
3. CIC Provosts' Statement on Publishing Agreement
4. "Copyrights and the Paradox of Scholarly Publishing" by Michael Tanner, Provost, University of Illinois at Chicago, Draft 3 dated 4 December 2006.
5. "The High Cost of Scholarly Journals (And What to Do About It)", Edwards, R. and Schulenberger, D., Change, Nov/Dec 2003, pp. 11-19.

The meeting was convened by Chair Smith at 3:15 P.M. The draft agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 16 April 2007 were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S YEAR END REPORT

Chair Smith made a report on the activities of faculty governance during the 2006-2007 academic year. He stated that the text of the full report would be posted to the faculty governance website (<http://www.umich.edu/~sacua>).

REACTION TO VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

Professor Frier reported on the discussions that SACUA had with university administrators regarding student mental health both prior to and after the tragic events at Virginia Tech. He said that continuing discussions are planned, but that there appear to be no foolproof measures. Professor Frier said that DPS officials recommend that everyone program the number 763-1131 into their cell phones. The number reaches the Department of Public Safety (DPS); land phones on campus can reach DPS by dialing 911.

VISIT OF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Chair Smith introduced the Athletic Director at 3:40 P.M. AD Martin pointed out that 10 faculty members serve on the Advisory Board for the Athletic Program. He said that the faculty have complete control over eligibility of athletes. He added that the Dean of Admissions has exclusive control over admission of students to Michigan, including to athletics. He said he had no comment on the remarks ascribed to former U-M football player Jim Harbaugh regarding academic standards within the athletic program. AD Martin also offered remarks about the Duke Lacrosse case and its aftermath.

Michigan Stadium-

AD Martin said that one further meeting is planned with the Board of Regents regarding bids and award for renovation of Michigan Stadium. He said there are on-going issues with U.S. Department of Education officials about provisions for wheelchair seating under conditions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He said that he anticipates the need for such seating to be fully met after renovation; there will be in excess of 300 seats compared with only 90 at present. He said that the cost of renovation will be paid by the 5000 premium seats to be created. He added that paid advertising within Michigan Stadium would not happen on his watch.

Academic Performance-

The athletic director declared that 2006-2007 projected graduation rates for athletes who are seniors are 95% compared with 82% for the general student population. He said that of 25 seniors on the football team, 20 graduated in April and 3 more will complete degree requirements this summer; 2 left early to join the NFL. He pointed out that the Athletic Department provides 243 hours per week of academic tutors for student athletes.

Five Year Eligibility-

AD Martin reported that a proposal has emerged within the Big-10 Conference calling for a 5th year of eligibility and scholarship aid for varsity football players. He said that he saw equity issues in the proposal and that he did not think it will pass.

Finances-

The athletic director reported that the financial situation of his program is stable. He noted that the Big-10 will soon be launching its own television network in partnership with Fox. The

network will feature programming 24/7, and each institution will be 60 hours of time. He predicted that women's sports and Olympic sports will benefit most from the publicity.

Coaching Changes-

Both women's and men's basketball coaches were replaced this year for performance reasons.

Principles-

The AD articulated his principles as (1) academics, (2) ethical behavior, (3) winning, and (4) paying our own way.

Professor Friedman pointed out that football season ticket prices freeze out many U-M employees. Martin replied that only 35% of stadium seating requires paying a premium. He suggested that season ticket holders could have their seats moved to less expensive locations.

A member of the Assembly asked the athletic director to explain how the anticipated revenue stream would pay the cost of the renovation. Martin replied that the project cost is \$227 million, of which \$190M is being borrowed, and the rest is coming from athletic program reserves. He said that no university funds are being used. He said that CFO Slottow's office conducted the economic feasibility study. He said that pending gifts would reduce the \$190M. He invited interested faculty to visit him, saying that he would share the economic analysis with all who ask.

Professor Brown suggested that people's appetite for upgraded facilities seems to drive a national trend toward building huge sport complexes. The athletic director said that he agreed, to a degree. He pointed out that large football stadiums across the country were built mainly in the 1920s. Now there is a need to upgrade them to safety and convenience standards. He noted that it took more than 40 minutes to evacuate Michigan Stadium in reaction to a thunderstorm during the Michigan State game. He said that existing aisles not wide enough. He added that there is a lot of functional obsolescence in the existing athletic facilities.

Professor Riles asked how admission is handled now for prospective athletes. Martin replied that he did not know, but that he would find out. He said he would ask Director of Admissions Ted Spencer and provide the information to Professor Riles. He said that he knew that scholarship athletes are given extra consideration, but that he did not know the mechanism. The guest left the meeting at 4:25 P.M.

CESF

Professor Askari presented the 2007 report of the Committee for the Economic Status of the Faculty (<http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/cesf/cesfreport2007.html>). At conclusion of his presentation, Professor Ketefian asked whether salary information would be available at the website. Professor Askari replied that some is already available, and that the information is being updated. Professor MacAdam said that she heard that UM-Flint will be implementing tuition support for dependents of faculty members. Professor Askari said that UM-Dearborn already has such a program. He added that it is a good way to recruit good students. The CESF report concluded at 4:45 P.M.

BUDGET STUDY REPORT

Professor-Emeritus Lomax presented the 2007 report of the Budget Study Committee (<http://www.umich.edu/~sacua/BSC/reportbudgetcmt2007.pdf>). He noted that the study concluded that administrator salaries have vastly exceeded the rate of growth of regular faculty salaries.

Professor Riles read aloud the following statement:

I am the SACUA liaison to the Budget Study Committee and would like to add a few words of my personal opinion concerning the study Ron has presented today.

The increasing salary gap between regular faculty and administrators raises a number of concerns. One concern is that inflated salaries at the top not only contribute directly to budgetary pressures, but that those salaries also lead indirectly to inflated salaries for the much larger pool of administrative support staff.

Another concern is that when administrative salaries are grossly higher than those of ordinary faculty, there is an inevitable tendency among those administrators to view the regular faculty a bit patronizingly and to take less seriously their opinions on university affairs. The administrators can come to view themselves as the "professionals" with better judgment than those they are supposed to serve. After all, they make much more money, don't they? Relief from substantial teaching responsibility and detachment from research only aggravate the differences between administrators and regular faculty. Corporatization of the university becomes ever more pronounced.

A final concern is that large salary gaps can lead to cronyism and conformity to the opinions of those in power. The stronger the financial incentive to go into administration, the stronger the incentive not to rock the boat. And once appointed to a position, an administrator faces a higher penalty for displeasing superiors. In other words, a hierarchy can be established that deters the free exchange of ideas – and criticism - that should characterize a first-rank university. If you have ever held your tongue in the presence of your department chair, your dean, or an executive officer, you are well aware of this hierarchy, which will only worsen if administrative salaries continue their fast climb.

A member of the Assembly commented that only administrators at the highest levels are in the position to halt the widening salary gap. He said that it seems instead that they regard it to be a mark of prestige to have their salaries in the top rank.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 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.
