

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SENATE ASSEMBLY

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 15 May 1989

ATTENDANCE

Present: Birdsall, Bornstein, Brooks, Burdi, Cameron, Chudacoff, Croxton, Davies, Debler, Diana, Didier, Duell, Eggertsen, Floyd, Goepfinger, Greenwood, Grosse, Hollingsworth, Jenkins, Jensen, Jones, Ketefian, Kimeldorf, Brown, M. Lomax, Chen, Marcelo, Markey, McLaughlin, McLeod, Meyerhoff, Miller, Mosher, Ness, Owens, Papalambros, Potter, Radine, Rosenthal, Senkevitch, D. Smith, G. Smith, Tentler, Turner, Verhoff, C. Smith, Wrobleski, Wulff, Yano, Kilham

Absent: Adorno, Baird, Bartholomew, Blane, Chesler, Connelly, Davis, Dirks, Dobbins, Dressman, Foss, Friedman, Gilgenbach, Gull, Hinton, Kelsey, Lenaghan, McDonald, Mignolo, Morley, Morris, Ross, Seligman, P. Smith, To, Warner, Winn, Woods

Professor Ness convened the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of 17 April were amended and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A list of Senate Assembly issues was distributed. Each member was asked to assess the priority rankings for these issues and return them at the conclusion of the meeting.

2. Attention was called to the Sederburg questionnaire. This has been personally done by Sederburg and is not an official State of Michigan survey.

3. Senate Assembly has a group name on the MTS message system to facilitate communication between members. The group name is: Senate\_Assembly@um. If you are not on the message system already we encourage you to contact the Computing Center Business Office for a faculty request account. Please notify the SACUA office once you are on MTS. The SACUA office has available simplified instructions for getting into and using the message system.

WELCOME TO NEW SENATE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Ness introduced each new Senate Assembly member; they were greeted by a round of applause.

A statement on the Structure of Faculty Governance was distributed with the agenda. Ness stressed the importance of participating in governance. He congratulated each new member on their election by their peers to represent them. The Senate Assembly is part of a network of communication by which faculty gain a voice in the University. This year is a propitious time to mobilize this voice. All of the new executive officers are now in place and they have a new vision of where the University should be going, e.g., The Michigan Mandate. These are interesting times to serve on behalf of the faculty.

#### STATUS REPORT ON THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Professor Tom Croxton addressed this issue and introduced Professor Jens Zorn and Virginia Nordby, Associate Vice President for Government Relations.

The University Council was reconstituted 3 months ago, with Professor Zorn as Co-Chair. It has proposed changes in Bylaw 7.02 to make the Council a more effective body. They are currently working on the Procedures for the Statement on Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression: The Rights and Obligations of Speakers, Performers, Audience Members, and Protestors At The University of Michigan.

Professor Croxton presented a resolution for consideration by Senate Assembly:

#### SACUA AND SENATE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

We support and encourage the current efforts of the University Council. We strongly urge that Regents' Bylaw 7.02, which grants participatory decision-making to students, faculty and the administration, in formulating rules governing conduct be extended at least until their current work has been completed.

Professor Ketefian: What is the University Council?

Professor Croxton: It is made up of students, faculty and administrators and has the jurisdiction to devise and recommend rules of conduct for the University community.

Professor Burdi: To what extent does SACUA and the Senate Assembly believe that the three parts should be involved in University business?

Professor Croxton: We are simply asking for an extension of the life of the University Council.

Professor Birdsall moved to accept the resolution; Senkevitch seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND PROVOST CHARLES VEST

I appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I address five areas in particular.

1. Budget Outlook: The State position on the budget was made in January with the Governor's speech. Higher education was not mentioned in the State of the State Address. Overall a 3.9% increase is proposed for the University of Michigan, 3% in the total budget and 0.9% in operating costs for the new Chemistry building. The House Subcommittee agrees and the final budget will be decided by the end of this month. Inflation is projected at 5.5%. Michigan is 30th in per capita appropriation for higher education. It is unlikely that we will climb out of this hole this year, although the picture is a bit rosier for capital outlays.

Within the University, this will be a very tight year. A modest faculty/staff salary program leaves little left over. We will use differential approaches across units. We must continue strategic long-term planning. The priorities will be excellence in research, increased graduate student support, increased support of the diversity agenda, and increased support for the undergraduate experience. There will be a strong emphasis on allocations for student financial aid and for diversity among faculty and graduate students.

2. Increasing Costs of Higher Education: A Task Force has been established to address these problems. They are charged with analyzing the costs at the University of Michigan and putting them in a national context, discovering what internal and external forces drive costs, and figuring out ways to manage these costs.

The emphasis will be on the general fund. This is generated by state appropriations, tuition and indirect costs from research. Costs are driven by change. In constant dollars, the general fund did not change much from 1970 to 1985. The last four years has seen some modest real growth, about 23%. Total salaries showed no change from 1970 to 1981, then lost ground. Only in the last two years has there been growth. The major increases have been in non-salary areas, which are 61% higher since 1981, largely as a result of growth in engineering, financial aid, LS&A, information technology and infrastructure items.

Faculty numbers and student enrollment are highly correlated. The student credit hours per FTE has grown, the number of courses has grown, and research has grown greatly.

Financial aid has been a large part of the increased costs. The growth in staff and administrators has been about 20% for people supported from all funds, but only 2% for people supported by general fund money. Excellence and access to it are costly.

3. Graduate Student Financial Aid: There has been a massive retreat by the federal government in this area. The Cross Committee Report recommended an increase in financial aid for graduate students of about \$4.5 million. While all of the recommendations have not been implemented, the University has increased aid by more than \$4 million in tuition and stipend support and aid for minority students. Many problems remain and the situation is continuing to be evaluated. We must strike a balance between quality and quantity.

4. Balance between Diversity and Community: The University has been taking a leadership role in this. There is an on-going debate on the philosophical underpinnings. We must improve racial, ethnic and gender bias, and generally improve the level of comfort for all. We must be a community with shared values. There must be a central core of fundamental values, such as a commitment to community civility and a belief in the central value of academic freedom.

5. Critiques of Higher Education: The public must be made aware of the positive aspects of a research university. This is a uniquely American institution. Research and teaching reside side-by-side and jointly benefit from this relationship. Research universities have strong, creative faculties who emphasize the essence and future of their subjects. This provides a matrix for a truly outstanding undergraduate education. We are not a small liberal arts college. We should be proud of what we are and emphasize the positive values of being part of a major research university.

Professor Eggertsen: What is the purpose of the recent change in public relations?

Provost Vest: The approach has been far from optimal up until now. We are fortunate in having Walt Harrison join us. He will do a better job of telling people what the University is all about.

Professor Bornstein: In student aid, we face the problem of competing for the best students. What percentage of aid is merit based?

Provost Vest: I don't know quantitatively, but the majority of centrally administered aid is need based for resident undergraduates. We need both.

Professor Miller: Would you comment on the problem of retention of minority faculty?

Provost Vest: There is a plus and a minus side. The plus side is that we are recognized as a place to come for first-rate people. The minus side is that the severe competition makes us nervous. Last year we hired 19 and lost 3 black faculty; this year the numbers are 15-20 minority faculty hired and 4-5 lost. To retain faculty we must provide a stimulating working environment.

Professor Jones: What has been happening with the Research Excellence Fund?

Provost Vest: They have largely gone to Engineering, applied Physics and related interdisciplinary areas.

#### TASK FORCE ON CEREMONIAL EVENTS

Dean Paul Boylan, the Chair of the task force, and Professor Beth Reed summarized the activities of the Task Force on Ceremonial Events. The proposals for spring commencement will be addressed at the Senate Assembly meeting next month. Today they raise some questions regarding the Faculty Recognition Award for 25 Years of Service. They handed out a summary and asked for suggestions and feedback. Senate Assembly members can send their comments to the SACUA Office, Dean Boylan or Professor Reed.

Professor McLeod: Will deceased faculty be considered?

Professor Reed: Yes, as potential names for a Society.

Professor Wulff: May we circulate this document?

Professor Reed: Yes, by all means!

Professor Jones: Are Primary Research Faculty included?

Professor Reed: I don't know.

Professor Rosenthal: Have you considered establishing a room for the society?

Professor Reed: No.

Professor Ketefian: My answers would depend on the ideas for the commencement.

Professor Boylan: We plan to have 3-4 plans to present on that at the next meeting.

#### MICHIGAN MANDATE

Copies of the Michigan Mandate were distributed. Assembly members are encouraged to read it over carefully because this will be a continuing agenda item.

OLD BUSINESS

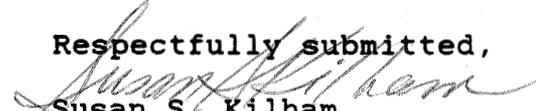
Professor Ketefian: What is the status of the Harassment Policy document?

Professor Ness: This is in the final stages of very delicate negotiation with respect to the unionized staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan S. Kilham

Senate Secretary