

Minutes of 18 May 2009
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
18 MAY 2009

Present: Altschuler, Brown, Ensminger, Fitzgerald, Fossum, Frost, Hesseltine, Hirshorn, Holland, Ketefian, Lehman, Mahalingam, Maher, Navvab, Ottaviani, Poe, Prygoski, Rothman, Saunders, Sheets, Smith, Stark, Staller, Thompson, Thornton, Thouless (Chair),

Requested Alternate, None Available: Fauman (Medicine), Kileny (Medicine), Larsen (LSA), Lim (Business), Yang (Medicine)

Alternates: Jones (R. Green-Retiree), Koopmann (Kileny-Medicine), Lorenzon (Larsen-LSA)

Absent: Abdoo, Adlerstein-Gonzales, Adriaens, Andjelkovic-Zochowska, Andre, Bergin, Boxer, Avi-Yonah, Clague, Culver, Currie, Denver, Dey, Eagle, Fraser, Friesen-Lynn, Geary, C. Green, Hardin, Jackson, Kabamba, Karni, Kearfott, Koopman, Kosch, Lenk, Maybaum, Moore, Mueggler, Najita, Patil, Primus, Queen, Rahme, Reddy, Salesa, Samson, Senkevitch, Shah, Silverman, Sweeney, von Buelow, Wakefield, Ziff

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 13 April 2009
3. Draft minutes of the University of Michigan Senate meeting of 19 March 2007
4. [Report of the Student Relations Advisory Committee dated May 2009](#)
5. [Report of the Secretary of the University Advisory Committee, dated 18 May 2009](#)
6. [Report of the Government Relations Advisory Committee, 2008-09](#)
7. [Report of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, May 2009](#)
8. [Report of the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty Budget Study Committee 2009—Resolutions](#)
9. [Civil Liberties Board, 2008-2009 Committee Report](#)
10. [Committee for a Multicultural University, Report for the academic year 2008-2009](#)
11. [Memorandum from M. B. Orringer, chair Development Advisory Committee regarding Annual Report, dated 15 May 2009](#)

Chair Thouless convened the meeting at 3:15 P.M.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the University Senate meeting of 19 March 2007 were approved as submitted.

The minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 13 April 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Relations-

Committee chair C. Koopman delivered the committee report in the form of a PowerPoint presentation (distributed item 4). Professor Ketefian asked how faculty input becomes incorporated into policies and practices discussed in the report? Professor Koopman replied that most of the items he discussed are simply awaiting implementation.

Financial Affairs-

Committee chair N. Seyhun said that the chair reviewed agenda topics with vice president Slottow at the beginning of the year, and that the committee met once per month. The following topics were addressed:

- Review of financial statements; growth in benefits was noted
- Policies for travel and hosting
- Healthcare and wellness initiative
- Benefits strategy and communication plans
- Infrastructure and security, particularly internet security
- Institutional review board and human subjects research

Professor Poe stated that although the committee recommended reducing the number of receipts required for travel and hosting, in her department the word was that the university will move to a system where every expense needs a receipt no matter how small. Professor Ketefian pointed out that no information has come to her in any way regarding these policies. Professor Rothman pointed out that the committee suggested university-wide rules, but each unit can create their own specific rules. He suggested that the CFO check into how rules are being promulgated at unit level or there may be no cost savings realized.

Secretary of the University-

Committee chair P. Hollingsworth gave the committee report in the form of a PowerPoint presentation (distributed item 5).

Government Relations-

Committee chair B. Garavaglia presented the committee report (distributed item 6). She emphasized the importance of communicating the relevance of the U-M to the State of Michigan for budget reasons. Professor Frost asked whether there is interest at the state level in the U-M reviving its extension program, which he said could increase visibility. Professor Garavaglia replied that the matter has not been discussed, but that she would raise the issue.

Academic Affairs-

Committee chair J. Lehman presented the committee report (distributed item 7). Professor Stark asked whether AAAC could institutionalize periodic updates of the Academic Success Study. Professor Rothman said that any such study should have clear *a priori* goals. Professor Lehman replied that these were excellent ideas but they would require two things: (1) increased

willingness of central administration to provide data needed for study, and (2) a volunteer or volunteers willing to commit sizable amounts of time to analysis.

Economic Status of the Faculty-

Committee chair F. Askari presented the committee report with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (distributed item 8). Professor Ketefian asked if detailed analysis of salary data will be available for faculty to examine. Professor Askari replied that CESF's goal is increased transparency. He said the data should become available over the next few months. He added that CESF must walk a fine line with its reports. He pointed out that the U-M wants to compete for the best faculty in the world, and therefore it may not be desirable to project a negative view of the U-M. But, he said, the truth is that faculty at the U-M are certainly not being excessively compensated in relation to our peers.

Professor Stark asked whether the waiting period for the university match to retirement savings accounts would apply to administrators such as a new president, football coaches, etc. Professor Askari noted that upper administrators routinely have sizable sums of extra money added into their retirement accounts. Professor Koopman expressed the opinion that every committee should tell it like it is. He said that we should be accurately reporting where we stand with respect to our peers. He said that the administration routinely cherry-picks peer groups to suit their needs. He said he thought that vesting of retirement accounts should be re-examined, and that the Senate Assembly should push the issue. Professor Askari replied that a lot of faculty would agree with Professor Koopman.

Professor Garavaglia asked whether CESF looked at issues affecting recruitment of two career couples. Professor Askari replied that the committee discussed it. He pointed out that there used to be opportunity for spousal recruitment to Pfizer, but no longer. He added that the Budget Study Committee has looked into the differential growth of administrator salaries compared to faculty.

Budget Study-

Committee chair Seth Hirshorn presented the committee report (distributed item 9). Professor Peters suggested that a progressive model for shared health benefits costs is fairer than the model adopted by the administration. Professor Wayne suggested that the issue was complex and deserved careful study.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 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.
