

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SENATE ASSEMBLY

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 15 June 1987

ATTENDANCE

Present: Barlow, Daub, Berent, Birdsall, Borcherts, Brewer, Chudacoff, Comninou, Glorioso, Debler, DeCamp, Diana, Dobbins, Dressman, Durrance, Eggertsen, Gage, Hollingsworth, Hudson, Hutchinson, Kelsey, Lenaghan, Lomax, Lougee, McClamroch, McDonald, Meyerhoff, Miller, Mosher, Oleinick, Olson, Pierce, Reed, Scodel, Strang, Warner, Whitehouse, Wiseman, Wrobleski, Wulff, Browne

Absent: Alpern, Baird, Bissell, Blane, Borer, Burdi, Vorus, Checkoway, Craig, Pastalan, Edwards, Floyd, Goldberg, Gray, Haefner, Han, Hinton, Hook, Inglehart, Ketefian, Kirking, Lavoie, Margolis, Manis, McCarus, McLaughlin, Meyer, Moerman, Moore, Moran, Muirhead, Ness, Olsen, Owens, Rosenthal, Ross, Sargous, Seligman, Turner, Weiler, Winn

The meeting was called to order by SACUA Chair Professor Harris McClamroch at 3:15 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of 18 May 1987 were approved with one emendation. The minutes of April have been delayed by technical factors; they will be brought before the Assembly at its next meeting in September. Professor McClamroch then thanked Professor Richmond Browne, of the School of Music, for serving as Secretary pro tem of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

Under matters arising, Professor McClamroch:

a) Noted SACUA discussion of problems with the Rackham Amphitheatre as the site of Senate Assembly meetings and asked for suggestions for alternative locations.

b) Responded to a request from Professor Burdi that fuller descriptions of SACUA meetings with executive officers be provided. SACUA has discussed the request and will continue its practice of listing only the topics of those meetings, which are often confidential and premonitory in nature. SACUA will respond to individual requests for more information in a manner consistent with its assessment of the confidential nature of some topics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair asked Assembly members to check the printed record of 1) their attendance at each meeting as indicated in the minutes, and 2) Senate Assembly membership data as printed in the distributed list.

The Provost has sent a letter to SACUA with regard to the forming of an advisory committee for the Vice Provost for Minority Affairs. SACUA will make three nominations to that committee, and asks for nominations and suggestions.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A list of committees to which SACUA appoints members was distributed, with SACUA nominees noted. A few additional nominations were announced by the Chair. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved by Lenaghan, seconded by Olson, to approve the list of SACUA nominations to committees. Motion passed.

UPDATE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

A Presidential Search Committee has been selected by SACUA to work with the Regents (who will act as the Selection Committee) in choosing the next President of the University. Members are: Thomas Kauper, Chair; James Chaffers, James Crowfoot, Elizabeth Douvan, Peggie Hollingsworth, William Kelly, John Knott, Janice Lindberg, Mark Meyerhoff, Harold Oberman, Stephen Pollock, Alfred Raphelson, Richard Roehl, Arlene Saxonhouse, Glenn Watkins. Chair Kauper reported that the Committee has met, and that it will be working on a statement of University needs, and gathering names over the Summer to be evaluated in the Fall. Ideas for the statement and nomination of candidates are equally welcomed by the committee.

REPORT FROM THE TENURE COMMITTEE - JAMES GINDIN

A written report from the Tenure Committee was presented by Professor Gindin.

Professor Berent noted that proficiency in clinical care is a sine qua non in the evaluation of research in the Medical

School, and suggested a discussion of that issue by the Committee.

REPORT FROM THE BUDGET PRIORITIES COMMITTEE, WILLIAM BIRDSALL,
CHAIR

The work of the Budget Priorities Committee was described by its chair, Professor Birdsall. With a legacy from now defunct committees on budget and long-range planning, the BPC became involved in confidential reviews of units under then Vice President Frye. It is now trying to advise the Provost (and, through him, the Budget Committee) and to act as a two-way channel between the faculty and the administration. The BPC has participated extensively in retreats and budget conferences this year, and holds frank discussions before giving the Provost written advice on matters of policy and strategy in budget allocation, flexibility, and long-range planning.

Professor Eggertsen asked if the BPC had discussed the current question regarding the ratio of out-of-state students. Professor Birdsall replied that the question had been anticipated by the BPC, and that the presence of Vice President Kennedy on the BPC had been an asset in that ongoing dialogue.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION

An additional agenda item was brought forth by the Chair, in the form of a draft document, "Elaboration of University Policy on Discrimination." The statement is in response to recent events and an amplification of the Regents Bylaws, Sec. 14.06.

Professor Pierce suggested that the reference, in the statement, to "termination of employment" as a possible outcome of adjudged discriminatory activity might be of interest to the Tenure Committee.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

There were no reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Professor Debler moved, with Professor Eggertsen seconding, to bring a previously tabled motion to the floor. The motion passed without objection.

As read from the May minutes of the Assembly, the motion had been to the effect that "the Senate Assembly finds the withholding [by the Regents] of Professor emeritus status [from Professor Daniel Fusfeld] to be lamentable."

Professor Dobbins suggested waiting, in the interest of collegiality, to see what the Regents finally do in this case. Professor Miller asked if SACUA had an update on the situation.

The Chair indicated the situation had changed since the May Assembly meeting.

Professor Debler said that apparently the Regents had technically only tabled the action granting Professor Fusfeld's emeritus stature, and that subsequent negotiations have apparently resulted in agreement to act upon it at their next meeting.

Professor McDonald urged the Senate Assembly to go on record as opposing the Regents' action as a threat to academic freedom. Professor Lenaghan noted that, even if the matter were to be resolved soon, any statement by the Senate Assembly not taken now would have to wait until its September meeting. Professor Comninou expressed doubt that the Regents would be seriously offended by a faculty defense of free speech.

A friendly technical amendment was accepted, changing the wording of the motion from "the Assembly finds the withholding of emeritus status lamentable" to "finds the tabling of emeritus status, etc."

As moved by Debler, seconded by Eggertsen, and passed unanimously with one recorded abstention, the motion was understood to be that the Senate Assembly finds the action of the Regents in tabling the motion for emeritus status in the case of Professor Daniel Fusfeld lamentable.

Professor Berent asked SACUA to consider clarification of the role of faculty and the Regents in matters of this sort.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richmond Browne
Senate Secretary pro tem