

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SENATE ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 1991

ATTENDANCE

Present: Billi, Birge, Bord, Borgsdorf, A. Brown, M. Brown, Burdi, Cameron, Chiego, Cole, Cowan, D'Alecy, Didier, Douthit, Duell, Eggertsen, Fellin, Gazda, Gidley, Goepfinger, Green, Griffin, Hayashi, Hollingsworth, Jenkins, A. Jensen, E. Jensen, Kabamba, Katehi, Koopmann, Kunkel, Larson, MacAlpine, Marcelo, Montalvo, Mosberg, Mosher, Olson, Papalambros, Penchansky, Porter, Razzoog, Russell, Schwank, Senkevitch, Silverstein, C. Smith, Tentler, Teske, Tinkle, Veroff, Vinokur, Warner, Watkins, Whitehouse, Woods; Thorson, Schessler, Heskett.

Absent: Angus, Cox, Crandall, Debler, Gross, Kimeldorf, Kramer, Loveland-Cherry, Morley, Organski, Schwartz, G. Smith, Stein, Tosney, Wheeler, Woo, Yang.

MINUTES

The minutes of June 17 were approved as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diana announced that Dr. Laina Savory, Executive Assistant to SACUA for the past five years, had resigned to accept a position at Saginaw Valley State University. He introduced to the members of Senate Assembly Dr. Jayne Thorson, Dr. Savory's successor, welcomed her, and expressed appreciation for Dr. Savory's strong and helpful service.

Diana reported that copies of the Library Council report were available in the SACUA office for those members of Assembly interested in obtaining that document.

Two responses to the Assembly's action on the question of ROTC policy toward gays and lesbians have been received over the summer. The first of these is from Congressman William Ford, the second from a spokesperson for the Department of Defense. Diana noted that President Duderstadt, along with a number of other University presidents, has signed a letter criticizing the current policy that prohibits full participation in the ROTC programs by gays and lesbians.

Diana reported on the status of the University's policies on harassment. The policy on sexual harassment, endorsed by Assembly last year with suggestions for its further modification, had been criticized by the Regents for some of the same reasons stated in Assembly. A revised version will go to the Regents in October, at which time SACUA will signal its support. A draft of the policy on discriminatory harassment will be coming to SACUA later this academic year, likely in January.

Diana announced a change in today's agenda. He had asked Dr. Walter Harrison, Executive Director of University Relations, to speak about the recent controversy over the issue of the University's use of research funds. He stressed that Harrison would speak exclusively to the issue of the premature release of the draft audit report and matters that followed in its wake. Later in the term, Vice-Presidents Kelly and Womack will speak to the Assembly on the subject of indirect costs and University policy in that area.

Diana reminded Assembly members of the reception to follow the meeting, hosted by Provost and Mrs. Whitaker. The agenda for the October meeting is relatively open, and Diana asked Assembly members to suggest topics that they would like to have brought before us at that time.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A list of proposed committee appointments circulated with the call to the meeting was proposed for approval: Budget Priorities Committee, Jane Burbank, LSA (History), for a 3-year term; Committee for a Multicultural University, Mignonette Cheng, Art, for a 3-year term and Robert Hayashi, Medicine, for a 1-year term to replace Michael McLeod; Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty, Bonnie Metzger, Nursing, for a 3-year term and Dean Smith, Public Health, for a 2-year term to replace Jack Wheeler who has resigned; Government Relations Advisory Committee, Aline Soules, Business Administration/Libraries, for a 2-year term to replace Frederick More who has resigned; and Medical Affairs Advisory Committee, John Langmore, LSA (Biology), for a 1-year term to replace Renee Anspach who has resigned. Approval was moved and seconded and the motion carried by consensus.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK

Three students representing the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA): Colleen Crossey (graduate student, School of Social Work), Priti Marwah (junior, Business School), and Scott Gast (sophomore, Economics) spoke to the Assembly about Alcohol Awareness Week, scheduled for October 13-18. In the discussion following their report, members of the Assembly spoke of ways in which the faculty could support the students' work in this area. Diana described the work and future plans of the Task Force on Alcohol and Other Drugs. In response to the students' request for support, Professor Tentler proposed a resolution. She assented to the chair's formulation: Senate Assembly endorses the observance of Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week and commends the students and representatives of MSA for initiating and carrying out the planning of the events designed to increase the University community's awareness of problems in this area. The resolution passed by a unanimous voice vote.

DRAFT AUDIT LEAK AND SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Before Dr. Harrison spoke about the issues surrounding and growing out of this topic, Diana announced that the relevant documents--the draft audit, the press release, and the University's response--were all available to interested Assembly members in the SACUA office. He went on to summarize his reading of the situation.

Olson, citing his experience on an earlier committee on indirect costs, noted that often there were differences between separate offices of the same agency over what constituted legitimate costs. In his experience, eighty to ninety percent of disputed costs were resolved and remained as charges against the accounts in which they appeared.

M. Brown asked if the explanation that appeared in the University Record today was given at Friday's press conference. The effort at the press conference, Diana said, was to defend the University's actions but not to offer a full accounting of the money involved.

Penchansky suggested that it would be appropriate to look at the behavior of local politicians in this matter. Were they open to information or did they seem eager simply to indict the University? We might be well advised to remember the behavior of our elected officials in this matter.

FUTURE SENATE ASSEMBLY ITEMS

Diana said that two matters certain to be in the agenda for the year included a discussion of the consequences of removing the retirement cap and a consideration of the legal services available to faculty for matters that arise within the context of their employment. Other suggestions for agenda items followed: admissions policies (Burdi), copyright laws and policies (Penchansky), and the issue of quality in the context of academic matters (Didier).

WALTER HARRISON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

The Chair introduced Dr. Harrison, who said that he was present chiefly to answer questions.

Silverstein asked about the cars mentioned in the draft audit report. Harrison stated that while they were a legitimate expense they should have been amortized rather than capitalized and that in this respect the University had been in error. The federal government recognizes in its accounting a certain percentage of the total cost of running the University, and it is possible to include all items that are not specifically excluded.

Razzoog asked if Health and Human Services plans to audit travel. Dr. Harrison said that there were plans for an audit of the University's charges for international travel. Preparation for a response to that audit was not yet under way.

Burdi asked Harrison to describe the differences between the case at Michigan and the well-publicized situation at Stanford. Harrison said there were three main areas of difference: the amounts involved (\$200 million at Stanford, \$8 million--at most--at Michigan), aggressiveness (a wholly different relation to the government agencies involved, Stanford negotiates with the Department of Naval Research, the UM with the Department of Health and Human Services), and the nature of the claims.

Schwank asked Harrison to speculate about the motives for the leak and discuss plans for damage control. Harrison had no information on the first item. On the second, he stressed the need to get reporters to look at the facts and the further need to be positive and emphatic in talking about the importance and value of the research partnership between the universities and the government.

C. Smith wondered if the response at the Friday press conference had been too strong and too long. Dr. Harrison thought that the decision to give such a response was determined in part by the failure of an earlier and quieter response the prior Tuesday. He characterized the leak as a breach of trust, but he did not wish to characterize it as illegal.

Fellin said that he believed that many people, both inside and outside the University, objected to the uses of money as reported in the draft audit. The question, in his view, came down to what is proper. Dr. Harrison replied that in a budget

the size of the University's some errors were bound to occur. But he concurred with Professor Fellin: if you spend, be prepared to defend those expenditures.

C. Smith suggested that the University administration might foster a dialogue to educate the whole community about indirect costs.

Cole asked why the University had not made the effort to educate the education reporters in Washington about the issue of indirect costs. Harrison replied that the effort to do so seemed daunting and a decision had been made not to make that effort: there are some forty reporters who focus on education news in D.C. Now, however, he has assigned a person from his staff to be in Washington full time. Dr. Harrison indicated that during the summer he had contacted the education reporters of area newspapers and had provided background information about indirect costs. Dr. Harrison welcomed questions and advice on MTS from the Assembly.

GILBERT WHITAKER, PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Diana introduced Provost Whitaker, who said that he wished to engage in a dialogue rather than deliver a speech. He wished to begin, however, by pointing out some reasons for taking an optimistic view of the University's condition and then underscoring some areas that seem in need of special attention.

Whitaker noted that research dollars and volume were up, book and journal publishing is also up, the diversity agenda is progressing, and renovations are coming along. Some of the challenges are that the '91-'92 state budget is not yet resolved, revenue estimates keep deteriorating, and there is some possibility of "negative supplemental appropriations" in the future. Whitaker stated that he still feels optimistic although the next few years do not look good. In the 80's, revenue grew about 9% per year, but the best forecasts predict about 6% per year during the next five years.

Another challenge is the uncertainty over indirect cost recovery, an important though not major part of our budget, as the biggest pieces of the budget are tuition and state appropriations. Enrollment is solid, although the number of college age students is declining as is the percent of out-of-state students accepting admission. Whitaker observed that if out-of-state students would be paying tuition equivalent to the private schools, they would expect an equivalent sort of experience in the first two years. UM needs to work on this.

Concerns over scientific integrity made visible by the David Baltimore case create another challenge. The UM has several policies which need to be shaped into one, and Vice President Kelly will assume leadership in this area.

Whitaker commented that there is some reality behind the concerns about "political correctness". However, "academic freedom" must mean just that: listening to opinions counter to prevailing views.

Whitaker stated that GEO and the University are still in mediation, but the parties have been embargoed not to comment publicly.

Whitaker described a social concern that universities are wasteful of resources, but that the UM is ahead of that concern. The University still needs to be cognizant of the problem and needs thoughtful attention to the use of resources.

According to Whitaker, attention to program improvement is underway for LSA (especially the first two years) Business, Art, and Medicine. However, this has been done episodically rather than continuously, and Whitaker feels that continuous improvement is easier than massive change. He commended the faculty for taking leadership on curriculum issues.

In June the President appointed a search committee for a Vice President for Student Services chaired by John Jonides. The candidate field has been narrowed, and it is hoped to have the position filled by January.

The Campaign for Michigan, which formally begins next Fall on the 175th anniversary of the founding of the University in Detroit, will have a "pre-campaign" kickoff this weekend. The campaign will be the largest ever in higher education, and faculty will be called on to meet volunteers and students.

QUESTIONS

Birge asked where the inefficient uses of resources are. Whitaker gave as an example that time can be taken out of the graduate application process. Comparing a control focus and a trust focus, controls use up resources, yet we don't want to give up control values.

C. Smith inquired as to whether anyone would be dealing with the broad issues of intellectual property and ethical conduct and further, what plans are there to enhance collegiality and mutual respect? Whitaker responded that there are perceptions of disparity between junior and senior faculty and between faculty and students, but developing policy won't solve all problems. The issue involves how we deal with new colleagues and new students.

A. Brown asked in what areas are the first two years not as good as they could be? Whitaker replied that the students do not see senior faculty; that total choice in courses results in lack of cohesion; that there is not enough intellectual excitement, partially due to the emphasis on "tools" preparations; and that out-of-class activities could be more related to in-class activity.

Burdi questioned whether faculty, Chairs, and Deans are in agreement regarding expectations of the faculty on teaching, research, and service and the accounting of their time? Whitaker noted that the Syracuse study on faculty and administrative expectations found that expectations coincide but that faculty and administrators differ in their perceptions of each other. Whitaker stated that we are a research university, but that we shouldn't get unbalanced.

Russell asked if there would be innovative ideas out of the fund drive? Whitaker said he hoped so and that our wishes and that of the donor need to come together.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ejner Jensen
Senate Secretary, Pro tempore