

Minutes of 29 September 1997
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
MINUTES OF 29 SEPTEMBER 1997

ATTENDANCE

Present: Baker, Bleske, Burdi, Burnstein, Castle, Christiansen, Colletti, Cooney, Croxton, Curley, DeCamp, Deskins, Ensminger, M. Feldman, Gull, Jamerson, Jensen, Julius, Keyserling, Kibbie, Kleinsmith, Kossoudji, Lafortune, D. Lee, V. Lee, MacAdam, MacAlpine, Malamud, Maloy, Marshall, Navvab, Olson, Pastalan, Pintrich, Rahme, Raisler, Schteingart, Shapiro, Sharf, R. Sharp, Shotwell, Steneck, Turcotte, Ward, Wagaw, Wasserman, Yeo, Zorn

Alternates: None

Absent: Bartlett, Bernal, Browder, Bryant, Burnham, DeWoskin, E. Feldman, , Flynn, Francis, Fraser, Freedman, Freese, Hultquist, Kabamba, Karnopp, Lomax, Loveland-Cherry, Martin, Nagel, Nolen-Hoeksema Perakis, Rogers, Rush Schneider, W. Sharp, Siebers, Yeung

Chair D'Alecy convened the meeting at 3:19 P.M.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Senate Assembly Agenda
2. SACUA/Senate Assembly Skeletal Agenda
3. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 19 May 1997
4. Approved minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 21 April 1997
5. The Structure of Faculty Governance at the University of Michigan, dated May 1997
6. Senate Assembly Committee Volunteer sign-up sheet, 1998-1999
7. Item for Consideration, dated 29 September 1997
8. SACUA Tobacco Divestment Report to Senate Assembly
9. Annual Report, Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty 1996-1997, dated September 1997
10. Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional & Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan, and letter of transmittal dated 24 September 1997

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF 19 MAY 1997

The minutes 19 MAY 1997 were approved as submitted.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Chair D'Alecy welcomed new and returning members to the Senate Assembly meeting. He outlined the context of faculty governance at the University of Michigan, and identified the committee structure that is organized around the Senate Assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair D'Alecy called attention to distributed item 10, and reported that the document would be provided to all members of the University Senate.

Chair D'Alecy announced that Professors Nagel and Raisler had been named as faculty representatives to the Martin Luther King Day Planning Committee.

D'Alecy reported that the 1998 Academic Freedom Lecture would be delivered on 16 March 1998 by Eugene L. Roberts, current managing editor of the New York Times.

D'Alecy announced that a revision of the Faculty Handbook would be prepared this year through the office of the Provost. He said that a joint faculty-administration committee had been constructed, comprised of Associate Deans Martin and McDonald, and Professors Thomas Moore and Sheila Feld. He added that Ms. K. Soper, assistant to the Associate Provost, would provide staff support for the project. He said that faculty were invited to provide input and comments to the electronic mail address: handbookfeedback@umich.edu.

D'Alecy said that the SACUA office was in the process of preparing a faculty resource pamphlet, which would provide the names, addresses, e-mail identifications, and functions for helpful organizations and resources. He invited feedback comments from Senate Assembly members about the project.

D'Alecy reported that the joint faculty-administration committee charged with preparing a reconciliation model grievance process document has completed its work, and that the final production steps are being executed by staff in the office of Human Resources. Chair D'Alecy acknowledged the presence of Provost Cantor, and pointed out that the provost had agreed to look into the completed document and to share it with the Academic Program Group (Deans and Directors) in parallel with its distribution to faculty through the Senate Assembly. He said that he hoped the model would be adopted by all units. He asked the provost if his communication was accurate and the provost expressed agreement.

Chair D'Alecy said that the annual report from the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty will be distributed soon.

Chair D'Alecy reported a series of appointments of senior administrators, including Provost Nancy Cantor, Chief Financial Officer Robert Kasden, Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs Gil Omenn, and Athletic Director Thomas Goss.

CHARGES TO SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Chair D'Alecy reviewed the existing charges to the various Senate Assembly and University committees. He pointed out the chairs of the committees would be invited to future meetings in order to provide brief progress reports. Professor Zorn asked if the issue of affirmative action in student admissions was part of the jurisdiction of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee. Professor Malamud pointed out that the matter was listed as part of the charge to the Committee for a Multicultural University. Professor Steneck asked how SACUA will deal with the affirmative action issues that are being discussed prominently in local media. Chair D'Alecy replied that SACUA had not yet advanced the issues for action. Professor Burdi recommended that the Senate Assembly committee structure be used to develop analyses of the issues. Professor Steneck stated that a plan should have been in place already. A guest in the audience pointed out that it had been traditional for SACUA members to function as liaisons to various committees, and thus to serve as conduits for flow of information both to and from the committees.

Professor Raisler asked if the charge to the Medical Affairs Advisory Committee was limited to physician matters. Professor Ward, chair of the committee, replied that the committee has a broad representation and will deal with a wide range of medical issues.

Professor House reported that the Research Policies Committee will be formulating advice about the future structure of the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Professor Lehman referred members to the 17 September 1997 issue of the University Record for information about the Faculty Perspectives Page, including submission instructions.

Professor DeCamp asked for explanation about the Task Force on Tenure Guidelines. Chair D'Alecy replied that he and Professor Kleinsmith were attempting to assemble the list of procedures used in the

various units for tenure evaluation. He said the next step would be to assemble a group of faculty drawn from the Tenure and Rules committees and to prepare a discussion for the December meeting of the Senate Assembly. D'Alecy explained further that the pressure of developing events had delayed progress on the task force efforts.

Professor Burdi asked if the fringe benefits issues that would go before the CESF were specifically the effort to steer all UM employees to M-Care. Chair D'Alecy replied that the steering effort had been withdrawn by action of the president this year. He added that CESF had not been involved in the fringe benefit decisions that were advanced this year. He pointed out that fringe benefit issues included far more than medical plans alone. Professor Deskins pointed out that new budget deliberations begin in January, and that the M-Care steering plan will likely rear its head again. Provost Cantor responded that with the arrival of EVPMA Omenn, a range of budget issues will need to be considered. Professor Ward reported that VP Omenn had commented to the faculty of the medical school that if M-Care and Care Choices were going to exist as competing health care systems, there would have to be reciprocity of subscription and operating principles.

Professor Lee said that there were two issues before the CESF: (1) the future of plans to steer UM faculty and staff into M-Care, and (2) the practice of changing fringe benefits without consulting the faculty. Chair D'Alecy noted that CESF met repeatedly with financial officers last year, but that the plan to alter fringe benefits was revealed only in the spring.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

Chair D'Alecy called attention to item 6, and he invited Senate Assembly members to volunteer their service on various committees. Professor Baker commented that the committees ought to receive their charges in the spring and begin work over the summer. He noted further that many committee chairs are not current members of the Senate Assembly, which may lead to reporting lapses. Chair D'Alecy replied that although SACUA met during the summer, most other committees do not. He noted that the AAAC, for example, set a potential agenda for the next year as one of its last actions the previous year. He pointed out that SACUA had already hosted a "committee day" in which the chairs and members of the various committees assembled for orientation and discussion of issues. D'Alecy noted further that committee chairs will appear at Senate Assembly meetings this year in order to make brief reports about committee activities.

Professor DeCamp expressed the opinion that additional effort was being sought from faculty whose time was already severely overcommitted. D'Alecy reacted in the affirmative. He said that unless faculty took care of the problems of the university, someone else would take on the job, more often than not with results not to the liking of the faculty. He observed that faculty governance did lead to overwork and often proceeded in the face of extreme administrative disincentives, but that the labor was essential to protect the character and integrity of the university.

TOBACCO STOCKS MOTION

Chair D'Alecy called attention to items 7 and 8. He reminded the Senate Assembly that it had charged SACUA with conducting a study of the feasibility of divesting tobacco stocks from the UM investment portfolio. He asked the members to read the report and to prepare for possible action at the next meeting. He invited members who wished to develop a motion for that meeting to contact Professor Bryant or other members of SACUA.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair D'Alecy reminded the Assembly that a pair of motions introduced by Professor Steneck remained without action when the previous meeting adjourned. Professor Steneck said that he would prefer to postpone discussion of the motions pending further communication outside the Assembly meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair D'Alecy commented that SACUA discussions about communications with the Regents had been somewhat misquoted in newspaper accounts. Professor Deskins referred Senate Assembly members to the minutes of SACUA meetings for accurate accounts. D'Alecy said that SACUA planned to hold a conference telephone call with counterparts in the University of California system to discuss mechanisms of communication. Professor Ward suggested that it might be useful to develop a point-counterpoint discussion of the issues for a future Senate Assembly meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Lehman
Senate Secretary