

Minutes of 4 October 1999  
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING  
MINUTES OF 4 October 1999**

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ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Alcock, Andrews, Birdsall, Castle, Dick, Dunkle, Erickson, Feldman, Foss, Gobetti, Guthrie, Harrington, Hart, Juster, Karni, Karnopp, Kleinsmith, Konigsberg, Kossoudji, Lawson, MacAdam, Malkawi, Marcelo, Marshall, Masson, Moseley, Navvab, Penner-Hahn, Perfecto, Rahme, Raisler, Rocchini, Rosenberg, Rosenthal, Savage, Schneider, Sears, Sedman, Sheil, Taylor, Trumpey, Uribe, Ward, Whitehouse Jr., Winger, Wright

**Alternates:** None

**Absent:** Anderson, Antonucci, Bartlett, Bernal, Bonner Boyd Brophy, Brusati, Burns, Christiansen, Colletti, Deskins, Jacobsen, Jamerson, Kabamba, Karr, Malamud, Mann, Mateo, Merchant, Murphy, Robertson, Scheiman, Schteingart, Taghaboni, Teasley, Vicinus, Wingrove, Zorn

Chair Kossoudji convened the meeting at 3:08 PM.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. University Governance Organization Charts – Power Point Slides
2. Senate Assembly, SACUA, and Committee Lists – Microsoft Word

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of February, March and April 1999 were approved as submitted.

VISIT BY PRESIDENT BOLLINGER

Chair Kossoudji introduced President Bollinger and invited him to make remarks to the Senate Assembly.

President Bollinger reported that Vice President and CFO Kasdin has appointed a committee to study university divestment from tobacco stocks. He added that Kasdin's office would shortly announce that the

investment performance of the U-M endowment has moved this year to the top quartile of comparable college endowments after more than a decade of performance in the bottom quartile.

The president stated that he was in the process of searching for a Director of the Life Sciences Institute. He said that he identified a slate of 5 candidates and that 3 of them have already visited Ann

Arbor. He explained that he was advised in this effort by a committee chaired by Jack Dixon, chair of Biological Chemistry in the Medical School. Bollinger said that the advisory committee would also help

design the lab facilities of the new buildings planned in association with the Institute.

Bollinger said that he has authorized Provost Cantor to expand undergraduate offerings in the Life Sciences and that he is committing \$1 million per year for 3 years to the effort. He pointed out that core

themes of the Life Sciences Institute would be allied with the health sciences, but that he envisioned important allied efforts in humanism, law, and other fields.

The president said that campus planning efforts continue, and that \$87 million is now committed to renovation of 5 buildings on the Central Campus. He added that capital investment in the Life Sciences would likely total \$500 million over 5 years. He cited an important unrestricted endowment gift received by the College of Architecture and he said he would be looking for similar things for the School of Art.

Bollinger said that the U-M was likely headed for another major fund-raising capital campaign. He explained that he wanted to build up the support for the faculty. He stated that we should strive for a

university environment where no one would leave because they have a better research environment elsewhere.

President Bollinger said that we need to look at the identity of the undergraduate program, particularly the relation of the curriculum to recruitment of top high school seniors. He pointed out that Life

Sciences offers the prospect of special courses and opportunities to work in research laboratories. He said that there might be a need to expand residence hall availability for juniors and seniors. He also said that the ratio of in-state to out-of-state students bore re-

examination. He noted that costs to out-of-state students have been climbing, but that financial aid has not kept pace.

The president concluded his remarks by pointing out that searches were underway for a number of important positions, including Chancellor of U-M Dearborn, several deans, and that a search for Vice President for Housing and Student Affairs would commence soon. He invited questions from the audience.

A member of the Assembly asked whether faculty entrepreneurs had played a role in the growth of the endowment. President Bollinger replied that the role had been only a tiny fraction of the success. He added that he wants the U-M to invest in things that give the highest return. He said that preferential investment in U-M faculty ventures might diverge from hard headed financial decision making because alternative factors could come into play. The Assembly member suggested that such investment could nonetheless engender good will and gratitude that would be recouped by generous donations in the future. Professor Rosenthal asked whether Bollinger's paramount insistence on rate of return for investment amounted to prejudging the question of tobacco divestment. The president replied that he qualified his position with the caveat that investments must be consistent with university values.

An Assembly member from the School of Nursing commented that the Life Sciences Initiative seemed narrowly focused on bench science, and that the activities of her professional school seemed to be marginalized. President Bollinger responded that he thought we needed to build up cellular and molecular biology including areas such as genomics, bioinformatics, and neuroscience, but that other colleges and programs that link to these areas should be built up as much as possible. He said he would love to meet with faculty of the School of Nursing and learn how to help them with fundraising, or in other ways.

Professor Ward asked whether Life Science efforts will impact the continuing absence of Nobelists from the U-M. Bollinger said that the absence was significant and that we should do something about it. He

said, however, that it was something that could not be planned for and which is far in the future. He said we should hope that the U-M gets its share of all major awards.

Professor Gobetti pointed out that many state residents look askance at the Life Science Initiative and instead decry the waiting times for urgent care service and limitations of HMOs. Bollinger responded that

there is no denying that decisions are being made and priorities are being set. He said that the Life Sciences are regarded to be of immense significance, and that progress in the area offers a way to improve health care by treating diseases in new ways. Professor Gobetti expressed agreement with Bollinger, and urged more active education of public and legislature.

A Senate Assembly member from the School of Natural Resources and Environment invited the president to visit the School and discuss concerns that the Life Sciences were taken an unproductive, reductionist approach. Bollinger said he would be delighted to visit the faculty in SNRE. He said he knew there were great questions about where to put emphasis.

Another member asked for additional information about the academic planning that was preceding the next capital campaign. Bollinger said that dialog was just beginning with deans, and that it is too early to

say more.

Several members asked about opportunities to link with Life Science efforts on the U-M campus and elsewhere. Bollinger recommended that interested parties contact Rick Lempert (Professor Law and Sociology), who has been identified as the individual to guide these efforts.

President Bollinger then provided an update on developments in the Affirmative Action lawsuits. He said that trials were set for next September. He expressed his opinion that public opinion was shifting on

the subject in a direction favorable for the U-M position. He said that the opinion letter published by former President Gerald Ford in the New York Times has been very important, and he indicated that a letter by

another major figure would appear soon. He pointed out that unanimous support for the U-M position has been expressed by the American Association of Universities.

The president left the meeting at 4:15 P.M.

Chair Kossoudji welcomed new and returning members to the first meeting of the academic year. She said that she had two goals: (1) to make sure Faculty Governance was communicating well with the full faculty about dynamic changes underway at the U-M, and (2) to make sure faculty are communicating well with Central Faculty Governance. She pointed out that with help of the staff of the Faculty Senate office, she has initiated on-line discussion groups at the SACUA website. She invited members to participate in discussions.

Chair Kossoudji pointed out that minutes and committee reports were available electronically at the same website. She reviewed the organization structure of unit administration and central faculty

governance. She then introduced individual SACUA members and invited them to announce some of the key issues that have been identified.

Kossoudji reminded Senate Assembly members that they had endorsed policy recommendations developed by the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESF) regarding fair and open faculty compensation. She reported that the Provost would be appointing a committee to determine whether there should be such a policy.

Professor Lawson reported that the growth of non-tenure track faculty was being studied by both SACUA and the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC). She said that Provost has been asked to provide precise numbers to facilitate the study.

Professor Karnopp pointed out that more than 300 faculty members presently have joint appointments shared across departments or schools. He said that SACUA was concerned about the lack of attention to this important subject.

Professor Navvab told Senate Assembly members that the privacy of their electronic mail was not at all secure. He referred them to policy statements in the Standard Practice Guide in order to alert and educate

themselves.

Professor Kleinsmith reported that SACUA has made inquiries about the pressure of parking space on campus, and he invited members to inform him if they were experiencing serious delays as a result. He also pointed out that Blue Cross/Blue Shield premiums posted recently by the Staff Benefits office have increased enormously. He said that SACUA was trying to establish concrete committee liaison with the Benefits office to learn more.

Chair Kossoudji pointed out that important ownership issues were at stake regarding Intellectual Property Policy. She said that Regents' Bylaws state that if faculty use any U-M resources to produce anything, ownership is claimed by the institution.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM, with next meeting scheduled for 25 October 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Lehman

Senate Secretary