

Minutes 25 October 2010
Approved 15 November 2010

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY
25 OCTOBER 2010**

Present: Adlerstein-Gonzalez, Andre, Armitage, Aronoff, Barald, Beck, Bergin, Bielinska, Booth, Borer, Crane, Dorsey, Folger, Fraser, Friese, Frost, Giordani, Gumucio, Hirshorn, Holland, Jagadish, Johnson, Jones, Kearfott, Koopmann, Larsen, Lehman, Lenk, Mars, McCullagh, Miller, Norton, Ortega, Pipe, Poe, Prygoski, Reynolds Keefer, Rothman (chair), Sheets, Silverman, Smith, Soellner, Staller, Westlake, Williams, Wolfe, Yang, Zemgulys

Requested Alternate, None Available: Atkins (Engineering), Barber (Engineering), Boxer (Medicine), Davis (Law), Ferris (Kinesiology), Goldman (Engineering), Jenckes (LSA), Millunchick (Engineering), Nassauer (SNRE), Shore (Medicine)

Alternates: Shedden (Carson-LSA)

Absent: Ahbel-Rappe, Brown, Green, Hardin, Kurashige, Lusmann, Najita, Navvab, Nunoo-Quarcoo, Panda Zayas, Salesa, Sharma, Sohn, Sun, Trandafirescu

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of May 17 2010
3. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of September 20 2010
4. [Table of Ann Arbor Campus Faculty Composition from 1999 to 2009](#)
5. Parliamentarian definition from Robert's Rules of Order, 10 edition
6. HPS parliamentary procedure summary
7. [UM Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs, revised January 2009](#)
8. Draft template of SACUA charge to Senate Assembly committees
9. Format for Regent Candidates' Forum, October 25 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Michigan Faculty Senate Assembly was held on 25 October 2010 at 3:18 pm in the Forum Hall of Palmer Commons, the Chair being at the podium and the Secretary being present.

3:18 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda, May and September Minutes
Professor Frost moved to approve the May Senate Assembly minutes.
Seconded and approved unanimously.

Professor Kearfott moved to approve the September Senate Assembly minutes. Seconded and approved unanimously.

3:19 Announcements

The chair has appointed Tom Schneider as parliamentarian.

Committee Charge Template.

Discussion of the Regent Candidates' Forum.

CAPS issues were raised and recommended for later consideration.

3:33 GUEST – TIM SLOTTOW, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CFO

He spoke from his annual report to the Board of Regents given in June 2010, leading with core financial principles. With \$135 million in spend reduction over the previous five years, the University is trying to reduce at least \$100 million more over the next three years. The “low hanging fruit” includes changes in facilities maintenance, custodial services, energy savings, back office operations, shared services, IT rationalization and cross training. There are complex challenges to do this and simultaneously enhance opportunities for research and teaching. A question was raised about the implementation of the travel policy last year. The response was that faculty and staff members were consulted, but it could always be better. The policy was implemented before some Senate Assembly members thought had been agreed. The system change was understood. Slottow said that there is always some confusion and misunderstanding whenever there is a major rollout.

Financial assets are about \$9 billion; liabilities are under \$2 billion. New is the requirement for a \$1.9 billion charge for retiree health care. The campus has deferred maintenance costing \$200 million. In the 1980's the University received \$250 million from the state for maintenance; this was reduced to \$200 million in the 1990's, and \$30 million in the first decade of this century. There is concern about the increasing future net liability. There are other major threats, including volatility of capital markets, State of Michigan economy, rising health care costs, continued energy cost pressure, faculty recruitment & retention, financial aid, and external research funding.

The last five years witnessed a growing emphasis on endowing the general fund and working on other revenue streams. There is an ongoing commitment to the renewal of the physical plant.

4:04 REGENTS' CANDIDATES' FORUM

Each candidate made a brief statement and then each was given a brief time to respond.

Andrew C. Richner, Republican. Incumbent and for past year was chairman of the board. He talked about what the University has done while he has served on the board.

Leslie Lazzerin, Libertarian. First time to run for the office. She has been a long term volunteer with the University including mentoring a student. She is

running to focus attention on student needs and retention of UM graduates in Michigan.

Andrea Fischer Newman, Republican (by phone). Incumbent, two terms. Senior VP of Delta Airlines and formerly NWA. She read the mission statement of the University and said that we must be responsible, lower costs and generate new revenue sources. UM has done better than other Universities for the past eight years.

Paul Brown, Democrat. Northern Michigan. Attorney. When he graduated he had \$100,000 in student debt. Unprecedented fiscal challenges for the University are coming faster.

Greg Stephens, Democrat. Ran 8 years ago. Lost to the two Republicans running again. Business manager /financial secretary for electricians of University. He was focused on reducing or eliminating tuition increases. He claimed to be the voice of working class men and women.

Question: What do you see as the greatest challenge to the University in the next few years. What is the role of the Board of Regents? What is the role of shared governance?

Stephens: Faculty should be more engaged than they are.

Brown: Regents and faculty can advocate for greater support for the University. The University must address the access issues for minorities and improve the environment for all students.

Newman: The Board of Regents has greatly appreciated faculty & SACUA input. Faculty involvement and buy-in is important. The increase in financial aid has helped tremendously.

Lazzerin: The greatest challenges are to encourage free speech on campus; tolerance for the ideas of others by guaranteeing student rights in the student academic bill of rights. She advocated working more with Michigan public schools to establish academies that reflect the excellence of the University.

Richner: The University needs to handle the issues caused by the decline in state support. Regents have done a good job increasing communication with faculty, but need to cut costs.

Question: With the emphasis on MHealthy, what about needed improvements in the recreational facilities for faculty?

Richner noted that recreational facilities for students are way behind.

Lazzerin said to encourage students to take gym classes.

Newman: Projects are in the pipeline to add new student recreational facilities.

Brown: When it comes to attracting great faculty, we are in competition with the world. We need to do anything to attract and retain faculty.

Stephens: Wellness is important for the health of our faculty. Washtenaw Community College has a model facility.

Question: What stand would you take on the University's trespass policy?

Stephens was appalled that the appeals process is hobbled and that the oversight committee can only advise.

Brown: Campus police force was set up with a good intent.

Newman: The University should have the policy in place.

Lazzerin: If the policy is based on one person, it should be watched carefully.

Richner: We need to have trespass policies and to review them regularly.

Question: Graduate tuition is highest among all public universities. How can we lower it?

Richner: This is a different issue than undergraduate tuition. We don't provide much for in-state graduate students. We want to make sure the value of the programs is maintained.

Lazzerin: We could reduce graduate tuition if we commercialized intellectual property.

Newman questioned the premise that UM costs more. The University is at ways to raise more money, to patent more intellectual property, and to grow the money for general fund from other sources than the state.

Brown advocated looking more to the Federal government and the public. We do an amazing job of research and tech transfer office needs to be better. UM-Dearborn partners with industry better than the Ann Arbor campus does.

Stephens: Dearborn is leading the way in partnering with industry. Be aware: charging more for a degree does not make it worth more. No one deserves to graduate with a \$100k debt from grad school at UM.

Question: What are your views for promoting racial diversity?

Brown: The University has a sacred obligation to give students from all neighborhoods the ability to matriculate here. We should design another admissions policy that achieves our goals. In attracting faculty, we need to reach out and find diverse faculty and grow them to greatness.

Newman supports a diverse campus from top to bottom. The University has worked hard to achieve diversity. We are constrained by the law and we have done a very good job of continuing to build on our record of diversity.

Lazzerin advocates that the University build a UM academy in every high school in the state of Michigan and maybe beyond.

Richner recalls that vital to his University education was benefitting from diversity for the first time in his life. He supports anything we can do to support diversity within the law.

Stephens asserts that this University is good at the enrollment but not the retention of minority students. We need to improve the handling of culture shock for minority students. Our place in the world in number of kids who graduate is dropping, although we matriculate more than anyone. Many students find can't afford the cost of education here.

Opportunity to summarize to each candidate:

Lazzerin wants to focus attention on the financial needs of students by reducing with the fixed costs of the University. Questioned whether the building audits included usage? The University needs to use space better, to share space between departments and be more efficient in using space. Since maintenance and utilities need to be paid anyway, rent space. It takes a long time for students to pay back loans, if ever. Incredible payments for students just starting their careers; try to reduce the cost by providing internships and reducing their time spent on campus. Every student needs to develop critical thinking skills and academic freedom.

Richner expressed the need to leave University as a board member as good as it was when he came in eight years ago. The University is doing well in picking up faculty from other Universities. We are one of three public universities in the country to have a AAA rating.

Stephens: Disturbed to learn that only three buildings on campus are LED certified; every new project should build this in. With a \$1.5 billion construction bill for past 8 years, should have emphasis on this. He would also bring a working class perspective to the board.

Brown: We have an amazing institution here with a good board now. The University needs to lead, to provide a world class and affordable education to people from every background and perspective. UM leads as an example for athletics. We need to put caps on costs and expenses and have the athletic program provide more for the general fund.

Newman: The University does athletics very well; it is one of only six universities that pays money into the general fund. She is aligned with Richner. The most pressing issue is rising costs and we need to stop that. Increasing tuition needs to be the last resort. We need to replace the money from decreased state support. The University is giving far greater attention to state and federal needs. NCRC is splendid example of this compared with public and private universities. We are headed in the right direction.

5:04 The chair wished all candidates the best in the coming election.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY 102510-1

Professor Lehman moved that the Senate assembly express their appreciation to the candidates for their contributions. Seconded and passed unanimously.

5:05 Unfinished Business: None.

5:05 New Business. None.

5:06 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

M. Robert Fraser
Interim Secretary, Faculty Senate