

Minutes of 26 October 2009
Circulated 28 October 2009
Approved 30 November 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
26 OCTOBER 2009

Present: Abdo, Andjelkovic-Zochowska, Aronoff, Barber, Bergin, Borer, Brown, Carson, Davis, Denver, Dorsey, Fauman, Ferris, Fraser, Frost, Geary, Gest, Giordani, Hardin, Hirshorn, Holland, Horwitz, Jagadish, Johnson, Karni, Kearfott, Koopman, Larsen, Lehman, Lenk, Maher, Mars, Miller, Mueggler, Navvab, Norton, Ottaviani, Ortega, Poe, Prygoski, Queen, Reddy, Sampson, Senkevitch, Sharma, Sheets, Silverman, Smith, Soellner, Sohn, Stark, Staller, Thouless (Chair), Tzeng, Williams, Wolfe, Zengulys, Ziff

Requested Alternate, None Available: Adlerstein-Gonzales (SNRE), Bielinska (Medicine), Kurashige (LSA), Maher (Medicine), Millunchick (Engineering), Nassauer (SNRE), Sweeney (LSA),

Alternates: Christman (Yang-Medicine)

Absent: Adlerstein-Gonzales, Andre, Friesen-Lynn, C. Green, Jackson, Kabamba, King, Li, Lim, Najita, Patil, Rothman, Salessa, Shore, Sun, Thompson

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 18 May 2009
3. Nominations for Senate Assembly committee membership
4. Faculty Grievance Process Task Force Report, dated 13 May 2009
5. Faculty Grievance Process Response, dated October 2009

Chair Thouless convened the meeting at 3:15 P.M.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 18 May 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Announcements

1. The School of Information has requested amendment of Regents' Bylaw 6.02 to institute a professional master's program.
2. The University Senate's Davis-Markert-Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture will be delivered by Philip Hamburger on Monday, 9 November 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the UM Law School Honigman Auditorium.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Senate Assembly ratified committee nominations offered by SACUA.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY 102609-1

Senate Assembly approves a change in the charge to the Senate Assembly Committee for a Multicultural University. The new charge is:

“to communicate regularly with and provide input from a faculty perspective to the Senate Assembly and SACUA.”

The action received unanimous approval.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY 102609-2

Senate Assembly deliberated an action item proposed by SACUA regarding quorum count approves the action approved by SACUA:

If a member of the Assembly is absent from 3 consecutive Assembly meetings without requesting an alternate, the seat shall be declared vacant and shall not count against quorum.

Discussion of the main motion-

Professor Smith suggested that the motion could have the effect of disenfranchising a unit because of the actions of individuals. Professor Abdoo said that a unit may not know that their representatives are absent from meetings. A motion from the floor, properly seconded, proposed removing the phrase “shall be declared vacant and.”

Vote on the amended motion:

Number approving- 35

Number disapproving- 2

The active motion became: If a member of the Assembly is absent from 3 consecutive Assembly meetings without requesting an alternate, the seat shall not count against quorum.

Vote on the active motion:

Number approving- 47

Number disapproving- 1

Number abstaining- 1

VISIT OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

President Coleman arrived at 3:40 P.M.

Budget-

The president said that she was pleased with how well the U-M was responding to the current economic downturn. Research expenditures surpassed one billion dollars in 2008, including 471 million dollars from the NIH. The U-M leads the nation in competitive research awards from federal stimulus package funding.

The endowment is down more than 20 percent, but it is slowly recovering. Payments are calculated on a 7-year moving average, which has prevented rapid declines in revenue to units. Endowment spending is 5.3%. Private giving was also down 22 percent this year, but optimism is returning. State support continues to erode, and has declined by 10 percent during the last 7 years.

Employees have been forced to pay increasing shares of their health care costs, and their share will continue to rise.

Undergraduate Admissions-

Entering GPAs continue to trend upward. Other criteria indicate that the quality of entering class members continues to improve. Efforts are underway to offer increased academic opportunities during the summer months.

Museums-

Both the Kelsey Museum and the Museum of Art are offering new exhibits of note.

Empower-

Student groups continue for a second year to develop business proposals and pitch them using You Tube.

North Campus Research Complex-

The U-M assumed ownership of the former Pfizer property in June. Six faculty groups are involved in planning uses for the facility. A director will be hired. However, there is no rush to populate the site.

Transportation-

Consideration is being given to a new transportation system that would connect the NCRC with the rest of the campus. The president wishes to involve both faculty and students as well as the City of Ann Arbor in the discussion.

Sustainability-

Energy conservation is an important initiative. A sustainability office will be created. The Graham Institute director will be point person on several related initiatives. Improved space utilization efforts have slowed the rate of growth in physical plant and its footprint.

The president concluded her prepared remarks at 4:10 P.M. and invited questions.

Regional campuses-

Professor Prygoski commented that UM-Flint has become an important part of its community. The president noted that enrollment at UM-Flint has grown to 8000 students, and the campus is vibrant. Similarly, UM-Dearborn is growing and has initiated new programs in partnership with the auto companies.

Healthcare system-

A member of the Assembly pointed out that the state budget proposals would increase the burden on the healthcare system. The president agreed, pointing out that the uninsured population has surpassed 50 million.

Tuition costs-

Professor Stark pointed out that tuition has risen faster than inflation, and expressed concern that a limit to growth in tuition could soon be encountered. The president replied that the growth in tuition is partly caused by declines in state funding. She said that the U-M must look increasingly to donors, and must control costs. She added that the U-M guarantees to Michigan residents that their education will be affordable. Professor Poe suggested a donation campaign targeted at faculty and staff with the goal of fulfilling the Michigan Promise. The president replied that the U-M has increased financial aid to students from families with financial need.

Retention of graduates within the state-

A member of the Assembly remarked that most Business school students tend to leave the state after graduation. The president replied that if there are no jobs, we can't blame students for leaving. She added that the U-M cooperates with Michigan Chamber of Commerce to match students with internship opportunities within the state in the hope that such contacts will lead to employment prospects.

Diversity-

For the second year in a row there was an increase in applications from minority students, and a higher number were offered admission. Unfortunately, the offers did not translate into conversions, and students did not accept the U-M offer.

The president left the meeting at 4:25 P.M.

FACULTY GRIEVANCE POLICY

Chair Thouless invited comments from Dr. Fraser, member of a SACUA subcommittee that was asked to draft a response to the proposed policy. Dr. Fraser reviewed distributed items 4 and 5. Senate Assembly members expressed their various views about the proposals, and offered proposed modifications to the faculty response (distributed item 5). Particular attention was focused on the composition of the Grievance Hearing Board. The provost's taskforce recommended three members, two of whom including the chair would be drawn from outside the grievant's unit. Members of the Assembly suggested that it might be better to have a 5 member GHB, three members of which were drawn from outside the grievant's unit. Chair Thouless asked for a straw poll on the matter, and Assembly members indicated a preference for the 5-member panel.

2009 ADMINISTRATION EVALUATION

Professor Lehman introduced candidate questions developed by the AEC for the 2009 round of administration evaluations. He invited comments from the floor and also asked that additional comments be directed to aec@umich.edu. Professor Giordani suggested a change in language to a question about academic advising for student athletes, and Professor Poe suggested that the AEC establish an electronic forum for discussion of the questions.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

John T. Lehman
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:

Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

In each school, college, or degree granting division of the University, including those at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and at the University of Michigan-Flint, the governing faculty shall be in charge of the affairs of the school, college, or division, except as delegated to the executive committee, if any, and except that in the School of Graduate Studies the governing board shall be the executive board, and in the Medical School shall be the executive faculty.
