

Minutes of 27 October 2008
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
27 OCTOBER 2008

Present: Abdoo, Adlerstein-Gonzales, Altschuler, Andjelkovic-Zochowska, Boxer, Brown, Clague, Culver, Currie, Eagle, Ensminger, Fitzgerald, Fossum, Fraser, Frier, C. Green, R. Green, Hirshorn, Kabamba, Karni, Kearfott, Ketefian, Koopman, Larsen, Lehman, Lenk, Lomax, Maybaum, Najita, Navvab, Ottaviani, Poe, Potter (Chair), Prygoski, Queen, Reddy, Riles, Rothman, Salesa, Samson, Sheets, Silverman, Smith, Staller, Stark, Sweeney, Thornton, Thouless, Ziff

Requested Alternate, none available: Patil-Medicine, Senkevitch-Arch & Urban Planning, Wakefield-Engineering

Alternates: Kim (von Buelow-Arch & Urb Plan)

Absent: Adriaens, Andre, Avi-Yonah, Bergin, Denver, Dey, Friesen-Lynn, Frost, Geary, Hardin, Jackson, Lim, Mahalingam, Maher, Moore, Mueggler, Primus, Rahme, Saunders, Shah, Thompson, Yang

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 22 September 2008
3. Report of the Grievance Principles Task Force
4. Format for Regents Candidates Forum

Chair Potter convened the meeting at 3:20 P.M. The draft agenda was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 22 September 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The CIC meeting on faculty governance will be held in Ann Arbor on 31 October.
2. The Regents Candidate Forum will immediately follow the Senate Assembly meeting. The theme of the meeting will be financing for higher education, and potential influences by outside organizations.
3. At the conclusion of the 27 October Assembly meeting, the Assembly will host a Regents Candidates Forum.
4. SACUA had an extended discussion with L. Thomas about benefits on 13 October. SACUA will be preparing a report for the Senate Assembly within the next two weeks.

VISIT OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

The Chair introduced President Coleman at 3:30 P.M. The president read from prepared remarks, the text of which is posted at <http://www.umich.edu/pres/speeches/081027senateassy.html>.

Key elements of the presentation included:

- High rankings of the U-M in three recent surveys
- Entrepreneurial initiatives
- Financial security of the U-M
- Interdisciplinary initiatives
- Research funding, particularly from private industry
- Awards and recognition for distinguished faculty

She concluded her prepared remarks at 3:50 P.M.

Professor Riles pointed out that the Audits Committee has recommended that perks received by the Academic Performance Committee be reviewed for potential conflict of interest. The president said that the question should be posed to the provost, but she pointed out that the practice was widespread throughout the Big-10. She said that she noted Professor Riles' concerns.

Professor Ziff suggested that the U-M offer to pay the taxes on any prizes won by members of the faculty. He added that space in Chemical Engineering is so limiting that some faculty cannot accommodate additional students.

The president said that the State of Michigan is looking to the U-M for help with diversifying the economy and for help with K-12 education. She said she was gratified by faculty involvement in related activities.

Dr. Fraser asked the president to comment about the relationships among the three campuses (Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint). The president described recent progress building a new residence hall in Flint, and she explained that there is capacity for further growth at both Dearborn and Flint.

Professor Poe asked what the greatest challenges are for the U-M at the present time. The president replied that it was essential to stay ahead of resource limitations. She said it was challenging to keep finding the space and financial resources for attracting and retaining the best faculty and students.

The president said that the U-M was evaluating whether it was interested in acquiring the building space formerly used by Pfizer.

A member of the Assembly asked why it was important to spend millions of dollars to hire a football coach. The president replied that salaries are market-based. She said the decision was ultimately made by the Athletic Director alone. She pointed out that the Athletic Department was self-funding.

President Coleman said that the U-M did not suffer catastrophic drops in the diversity of the incoming undergraduate population or the faculty in light of recent court decisions and state referenda.

Chair Potter inquired about the internationalization of the university. The president replied that the U-M has a vibrant program in engineering with China, and that a report has been posted to her website. She added that a variety of programs are developing with both Ghana and South Africa.

Professor Omenn pointed out that there is erosion of the cyber-infrastructure at the U-M. President Coleman replied that she has been seeking advice from local and outside experts on the subject, and that corrective measures are being sought.

The president left the meeting at 4:20 P.M.

GRIEVANCE PRINCIPLES

Chair Potter reviewed distributed item 3. The Assembly discussed the report as a Committee of the Whole. Several suggestions included:

- Members of the Grievance Review Board (GRB) could receive special training in employment practices.
- The GRB could be drawn from outside the university in a form of binding arbitration.
- The GRB could call for assistance from the Faculty Hearing Committee of SACUA.

Professor Ketefian pointed out that she had circulated additional comments to the Assembly and SACUA by e-mail.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Office of General Counsel has developed new policy recommendations regarding sexual harassment. It will be brought to the Assembly for consideration at the next meeting.

Professor Riles moved (several seconds):

Whereas members of the Academic Performance Committee (APC) are offered reimbursement for bowl game attendance and travel expenses, including game tickets, airfare, hotel accommodations, and meal per diem, and

Whereas the University Audits Office has found this reimbursement to pose an apparent conflict of interest for APC members in carrying out their advisory responsibilities on academic performance,

The Senate Assembly urges the President to end the practice of reimbursing APC members for any expenses associated with attending bowl games.

At the request of Professor Riles, further discussion and action on the motion were postponed to the November Assembly meeting by unanimous voice.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 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.
