

Minutes of 30 October 2006  
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING  
30 OCTOBER 2006**

**Present:** Abdoo, Albers, Aller, Altschuler, Anspach, Avi-Yonah, Bastedo, Becker, Boxer, Brock, Brown, Combi, Currie, Eagle, Ensminger, Fraser, Frier, Frost, Garton, Giordani, Graham-Bermann, Green, Gull, Hasseltine, Hollar, Im, Ketefian, Kim, Koopmann, Lachance, Lange, Lehman, Li, Lomax, MacAdam, Maddock, Mahalingam, Maybaum, Meerkov, Navvab, Peters, Potter, Powell, Primus, Rahme, Riles, Rothman, Samson, Seabury, Severance, Smith, Thornton, Wakefield

**Alternates:** Durfee (Engineering - for Schultz), Kileny (Medicine - for Sabel), Kimball (LSA - for Volling),  
Mengozi (Music - for Hahn), Simpson (Medicine - for Chang)

**Requested Alternate, none available:** Agrawal, Reisch, Sellers, Stark, Thouless

**Absent:** Adriaens, Annich, Benamou, Carson, Fricke, Ismail, Kosch, Ludlow, Luera, Moore, Roe, Seyhun, Stoolman, Streetman

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Senate Assembly agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 18 September 2006
3. Format for Regent Candidates Forum, 30 October 2006

The meeting was convened by Chair Smith at 3:15 P.M. The draft agenda was approved.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of 18 September 2006 were approved as submitted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced:

1. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Davis, Markert, Nickerson lecture on Academic Freedom is now available to be viewed as streaming video from <http://www.umich.edu/~sacua>; it is also being aired on Channel 22.
2. The 2006 faculty evaluation of administration will be conducted from 1 to 15 November 2006 at <http://aec.umich.edu>.

3. The retroactive rescission of Medicare Plan B benefits has been reversed at the request of CESF and SACUA.
4. Two faculty committees have been established to help formulate responses to the Spellings Commission Report.
5. Dates of November and December meetings of Senate Assembly have been moved to 27 November and 18 December.
6. A report from the Taskforce on Grievance Procedure Reform will be presented at the 18 December meeting. It will introduce an Action Item for subsequent vote in January.

### **ANNUAL ADDRESS BY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**

Chair Smith introduced President Mary Sue Coleman at 3:30 P.M. The president delivered her annual report on the state of the university, speaking from prepared remarks: <http://www.umich.edu/pres/speeches/061030senate.html> Her prepared remarks concluded at 4:00 P.M., and Chair Smith invited questions from the audience.

A member from the gallery commented that the university has been growing more corporate and less academic in recent years. He asked the president to comment about the perception that there is now an aggressive attitude toward forcing faculty to retire. The president replied that she disagreed on both counts. She said that unlike corporate businesses the U-M does not try to maximize its number of customers (students), and she stated that "we don't try to force faculty to retire."

Professor Koopmann remarked that he did not hear much in the president's address about teaching undergraduates; rather the emphasis was on research, research funding, biomedical issues, and the like. Second, he asked whether faculty, staff, and retirees will help design the new benefits packages that will emerge from the proposed sale of M-Care to Blue Cross Blue Shield, or whether those decisions will be made within the Benefits Office. The president replied that students admitted to the U-M have the opportunity to work with academic leaders in all fields from the moment they arrive on campus. She said that such research opportunity translates to education, and that she cares deeply about undergraduate education. She also mentioned funding she made available for faculty proposals for new undergraduate interdisciplinary courses. She said that her administration has not decided on the complete process for health benefits in the future, but they want to offer the best they can so that the U-M remains an employer of choice.

A member of the Assembly asked what mechanisms would best help implement the recommendations of the Cherry Commission Report. The president responded that parents have to become convinced that it is essential that their children go to college. She added that retraining is important, as well, and that community colleges need to step up to the challenge. She said that the U-M, MSU, and Wayne State University have been trying to convince the State to invest more in higher education. She noted that 40% of the adult residents of Massachusetts hold Bachelors' Degrees, a predictor of State financial success, whereas the figure for Michigan is only 24 to 26%.

Professor Riles asked the president whether she was planning to read the results of the faculty evaluation of academic administrators this year. President Coleman replied "Yes, I always read them."

Professor Brown asked how the proposed \$226M renovation of Michigan Stadium fits into plans for the academic needs of the university. The president said that when she first came to the U-M she was concerned about the condition of the stadium, and that she has been working with Athletic Director Martin for 4 years to design a renovation. She said that she has received lots of overwhelmingly positive feedback for that plan. She said that it is a fiscally responsible plan and that she is firmly behind the plan. She reported that CFO Slottow says it is the least risky of anything possible. She said that she believes the renovation fits into the U-M academic mission because (1) football has to support all the other non-revenue sports, and (2) intercollegiate athletics is a powerful part of the undergraduate experience.

Professor Kimball asked whether there a university office that takes suggestions pertaining to the City of Ann Arbor. President Coleman directed Professor Kimball to liaisons in the office of vice president Cynthia Wilbanks. She added that there are similarly excellent liaison relations between UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint with their respective cities. Professor Kimball asked if there will be an effort to expand the regional campuses to respond to educational needs. The president confirmed that ample capacity exists to expand both of the regional campuses.

Another member of the Assembly asked what was being done to combat the rising cost of undergraduate education. The president replied that she would love the State to increase its investment in universities, but realistically she fears it will not be able to invest enough to halt tuition increases. She said that her administration has made a promise that it will put together a financial aid package that will make it possible for any student to come to the U-M through a combination of grants, loans, and work study. She added that she wants to expand this program further with new initiatives, especially with more need-based aid. She said that the U-M would continue to try to cut operating expenses such as energy costs, facility costs, and other operating expenses.

Professor Wakefield asked if the president was also concerned about the effects of the rising rates of indirect costs and tuition on grants. President Coleman replied that every time the U-M builds a new building, the maintenance costs become factored into indirect cost rate calculations, so there is something of a bind in the situation. Tuition rates charged on grants must reflect actual tuition charges at the university.

Another member asked whether entrepreneurship among faculty and students is encouraged. The president assured him that it was, and added that her administration has ideas to encourage more entrepreneurial activities.

Chair Smith thanked the president for her visit at 4:26 P.M.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new or old business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully,

John T. Lehman  
Senate Secretary

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**Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.01:** *The University Senate* (in part): The senate is authorized to consider any subject pertaining to the interests of the University, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in regard thereto. Decisions of the University Senate with respect to matters within its jurisdiction shall constitute the binding action of the University faculties.

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