

Minutes of 10 November 2008
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
10 NOVEMBER 2008

Present: Adlerstein-Gonzales, Altschuler, Andjelkovic-Zochowska, Boxer, Brown, Clague, Ensminger, Fitzgerald, Fossum, Fraser, Friesen-Lynn, Kearfott, Koopman, Larsen, Lehman, Lenk, Lim, Mahalingam, Moore, Navvab, Ottaviani, Patil, Poe, Potter (Chair), Queen, Reddy, Riles, Rothman, Saunders, Senkevitch, Sheets, Silverman, Smith, Staller, Sweeney, Thompson, Thornton, Thouless, von Buelow, Ziff

Requested Alternate, none available: Maybaum (Medicine) **Alternates:** Roberts (Abdo – Nursing), Jones (Green – Retiree)

Absent: Adriaens, Andre, Avi-Yonah, Bergin, Culver, Currie, Denver (on sabbatical), Dey, Eagle, Frier, Frost, Geary, C. Green, Hardin, Hirshorn, Jackson, Kabamba, Karni, Ketefian, Kosch, Lomax, Maher, Mueggler, Najita, Primus, Prygoski, Rahme, Salesa, Samson, Shah, Stark, Wakefield, Yang

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 27 October 2008
3. Academic Freedom Lecture Fund lecture announcement
4. Bylaws of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, dated November 2008
5. Changes in the Research Faculty Tracks, dated 23 September 2008
6. Draft revision to Standard Practice Guide 201.89: Sexual Harrassment
7. Procedural guidelines for handling discrimination and harassment complaints
8. Benefits Changes. Report to Senate Assembly by M. R. Fraser, dated 10 November 2008
9. Table of benefits at U-M compared to peer institutions

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 27 October 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tim Slottow, Chief Financial Officer will attend the 8 December Senate Assembly meeting. Members of the Assembly are invited to submit written questions in advance. Questions should be directed to the Senate Office staff (tomsch@umich.edu or harbison@umich.edu).
2. The annual AFLF lecture will be held on 4 December (distributed item 3).

3. Proposed bylaws for the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics have been distributed for information (item 4). Vote on the bylaws is scheduled for December.
4. The text of a revised SPG on sexual harassment has been distributed for information (item 6). A vote of endorsement will be invited.

VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

VPR Forrest joined the meeting at 3:25 P.M. The vice president made prepared remarks illustrated with a PowerPoint presentation and distributed item 5. The presentation focused on recent modifications of research faculty tracks. He concluded his remarks about research faculty at 3:40 P.M. In response to questions, the vice president pointed out that adjunct professors were distinct from research faculty. He explained that research professors were expected to function similarly to regular professors with the exception of didactic teaching. He said that the policy changes apply to about 350 individuals and that all of them are dependent on extramural funding. He said that transfer across research tracks (research scientist versus research professor) requires initial discussions at the unit level.

Vice president Forrest resumed his formal presentation at 3:45 P.M. He turned his presentation to the current state of research and research initiatives at the U-M. He concluded his additional remarks at 4:00 P.M. and invited questions. Chair Potter asked the vice president to comment on the impact of recent voter approval of stem cell research. The vice president replied that he regarded the development as very positive, and he expected significant growth in the area.

The vice president pointed out that the Great Lakes region is in a major transition within the industrial sector, and that he views that fact as an opportunity for humanists and social scientists to seize opportunities for research. He added that federal priorities at present and in the foreseeable future are directed in STEM fields: science, technology, engineering, and math.

The vice president left the meeting at 4:10 P.M.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The chair invited Anthony Walesby from the provost's office to describe proposed changes to the Standard Practice Guide regarding sexual harassment. He reviewed distributed items 6 and 7 and outlined the steps that are taken in cases of alleged harassment. He said that his office does not keep detailed statistics, but that the office receives about 100 inquiries per year. A member of the Assembly pointed out that the specific offices listed in the distributed items are associated with the Ann Arbor campus, but not Flint or Dearborn. Walesby responded that some modification to flowcharts and instructions seem in order to clarify reporting relations. He concluded his remarks at 4:37 P.M.

BENEFITS CHANGES OVERVIEW

Dr. Fraser addressed the Assembly at 4:37 P.M. regarding proposed changes to faculty and staff benefits with reference to distributed items 8 and 9. He said that a committee is exploring the possibility of imposing a vesting or waiting period before the university contribution to the University Retirement Savings Plan accrues to employees. Chair Potter remarked that SACUA nominated a member of the committee from faculty governance: Professor Smut from Social Work.

Dr. Fraser noted that the U-M has about 41,000 employees and that the cost transfer being sought by the central administration is in the range of 31 to 33 million dollars. He said that the magnitude of the cost transfer and the timetable for it have already been decreed by the executive officers. He said that the advisory committee on which he serves has no ability to alter the a priori goals. On average, the cost transfer will be an additional \$780 per employee. He urged members of the Assembly to send their comments to the committees directly.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 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.
