

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SENATE ASSEMBLY

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 16 November 1987

ATTENDANCE

Present: Barlow, Berent, Birdsall,
Borcherts, Borer, Burdi,
Chudacoff, Comninou, Craig,
Dandekar, Davis, Debler, DeCamp,
Dressman, Edwards, Floyd, Gage,
Allen, Gray, Brooks,
Hollingsworth, Hook, Hudson,
Hutchinson, Inglehart, Kelsey,
Ketefian, Kirking, Lavoie,
Lenaghan, Lomax, Lougee,
Margolis, Manis, McClamroch,
McLaughlin, Meyer, Meyerhoff,
Miller, Moerman, Moore, Moran,
Mosher, Muirhead, Ness, Olsen,
Olson, Pierce, Reed, Rosenthal,
Sargous, Scodel, Strang, Tentler,
Turner, Warner, Whitehouse, Winn,
Wiseman, Wroblewski, Wulff,
Crichton

Absent: Baird, Bartholomew, Alpern,
Bissell, Blane, Brewer, Carnahan,
Checkoway, Diana, Dobbins,
Durrance, Eggertsen, Haefner,
Hinton, McCarus, Oleinick, Owens,
Ross, Seligman, Weiler

Professor N. Harris McClamroch convened the meeting at 3:18
p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of 12 October were approved as written.

MATTERS ARISING

Professor McClamroch invited questions about the SACUA
minutes distributed with the agenda. There were none. He then
called attention to the memo "Implementation of the Regents' New
Policy on Research Grants, Contracts and Agreements" and the
attached Supplementary Form 7679 R for review of non-standard
restrictions and classified research restrictions. The policy
was published in the November Reporter.

Professor McClamroch requested approval of the nomination of Professor Donald Deskins to the Budget Priorities Committee for a one-year term to replace Professor Irving Fox. Approval was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a reception for President and Mrs. Shapiro in the Michigan League Ballroom following the President's State of the University Address at the University Senate meeting, scheduled for 3:45 p.m. today.

SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES' DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

1. Jerry Miller, Chair, Financial Affairs Committee

Professor Miller reported that, although initially his committee might seem unrelated to the diversity issue, two direct ties were found: (1) employment of a significant number of non-academic staff people by the Chief Financial Officer, and (2) selection of vendors for purchase of equipment and supplies and solicitation of bills. The committee was informed that in both areas there are special provisions for affirmative action.

2. Charles Olson, for Josef Miller, Chair, Research Policies Committee

Professor Olson outlined several general questions that should be considered: What are the characteristics of diversity at the University now? What are the implications of the current situation for programs and staffing, for future hiring, for University involvement at the pre-University level? What mechanisms are there for educating ourselves and others about diversity? What general strategies are being implemented by the University as a whole? To which aspects of the problem might the committee directly contribute?

3. In the absence of Ruth Strang, Chair, Government Relations Committee, that committee's report was postponed.

CIVIL LIBERTIES BOARD STATEMENT ON THE RIGHTS AND LIMITS OF PROTEST, PETER RAILTON, CHAIR

Professor Railton said that there had been a open forum on Friday, 13 November. He sketched the history of the statement. In its original form, written in 1977, it represented a reaction to events on other campuses where speakers were prevented from finishing their presentations. In October 1985, in response to protests on this campus, steps were taken that the CLB felt did not adequately respect civil liberties. The revised statement addresses the need for balance between the rights of speakers and the right to dissent. It relates to specific sorts of expression, namely presentations to assembled audiences, and not all forms of speech or expression on campus. It has been

submitted to SACUA, MSA, and the Executive Officers. There has been negative reaction from one committee of MSA. Professor Tentler raised a question about Guideline 5, more specifically about the reference to "purposeful shunning of a controversial speaker of some merit." Professor Railton conceded that this could be misconstrued (the mere fact that someone is not invited does not imply shunning.) Professor Scodel suggested substituting "significance" for "merit." Revision or omission of this passage will be considered. Professor Wulff asked about the objection of the MSA committee. Professor Railton said that some think the statement is a Trojan horse for a non-academic code. MSA has not yet met as a whole, but some members have talked with Professor Railton. They want the document, which in general is regarded by MSA as an improvement over the 1977 version, to be a normative statement not referring to sanctions. The document does suggest criteria for sanctions but does not prescribe any. Professor Moerman said he had heard concern about differentiation between explicitly political and explicitly artistic events. Professor Railton said that there are many good reasons for not disrupting a play; this document is not a complete statement about appropriate behavior, but is concerned with freedom of expression. Interruption does not necessarily curtail the author's freedom to express ideas. Professor DeCamp asked about Guideline 16, referring to "uninvited speech and expression." Professor Railton said that this was a suggestion as to how one might generalize. Professor Moore then asked if the guidelines applied to classes. Professor Railton replied that they do not specifically apply, but could serve as guidelines when a professor feels his speech is being disrupted. They are not meant to address the question whether, for instance, displaying placards in the classroom is appropriate behavior.

Professor Pierce offered two editorial comments: (1) if the preamble is part of the document, references to "recent events" should be deleted, since such references become obsolete with time; (2) the cover letter, but not the preamble, clearly states that the guidelines apply to assembled audiences; this should be clarified.

Professor McClamroch thanked the Civil Liberties Board for its work on these important issues, and suggested that persons wishing to comment on the guidelines communicate with one of its members.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Old Business or New Business, the meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary C. Crichton
Senate Secretary, pro tem