

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
MINUTES OF 21 NOVEMBER 1994

Loup convened the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 17 October 1994
3. Minutes of SACUA, 3 October 1994
4. Minutes of SACUA, 10 October 1994
5. Minutes of SACUA, 24 October 1994
6. Minutes of SACUA, 31 October 1994
7. Faculty Governance Update
8. Announcements
9. Current Compensation Considerations

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF 17 OCTOBER 1994

The minutes were approved as submitted.

ELECTION OF THE SACUA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ballots were circulated to all Senate Assembly members and Loup requested that each member vote to select 4 members of the Nominating Committee that would identify candidates to replace members of both Senate Assembly and SACUA who are completing their terms of office this year. One-third of the membership of each body will end its period of rotation.

Subsequently, Loup announced that the vote had produced a tie for fourth place, and that at Chair's prerogative she would extend composition of the Nominating Committee to a membership of five. The successful candidates were George Brewer, Keki Irani, Milan Maarich, George Shirley, and Robert Smith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loup announced that John Lehman, Professor of Biology, will serve as Senate Secretary Pro Tempore. His formal appointment to the position will be offered for approval at the March University Senate meeting.

Loup announced that Bill Colburn will serve, beginning in January, as Parliamentarian for the Senate Assembly.

Loup then prescribed several minutes of silence to permit members to read a text entitled "SACUA STATEMENT TO NOVEMBER 1994 SENATE ASSEMBLY". She then offered to provide answers to questions of clarification, assisted in that effort by Prof. Tom Moore, Chair of the SACUA Faculty Hearing Committee.

Prof. Levine asked if the statement applied only to the circumstance it described or whether a change of policy was implied. Moore responded that the statement applied only to the one case at hand. Prof. Yahannes asked if a decision would be binding, and Loup replied that it probably would not be. Moore added that under the existing mechanism, the actions of both the Senate Assembly and SACUA are always advisory.

He expressed the hope that the action would be binding, but that no mechanism existed to guarantee such an outcome.

Prof. Maloy asked if there were differences in grievance mechanisms among the schools and colleges and whether they were based on procedural or merit issues. Moore referenced a 1983 policy on grievance procedures that caused similar mechanisms to be produced across University units. He noted that the present issue was procedural because it had already been heard by the Faculty Grievance Committee, which had recommended that the grievance be heard. Maloy inquired whether the two issues of the case would be separated. Moore replied that it depended on how the matter was handled. Prof. Griffin added that there is no prescribed University-wide procedure but that the unit-specific procedures follow a common pattern.

Prof. Zorn asked what would happen if the grievance was taken to the civil courts. Moore replied that in the past, when such actions were taken the grievance was withdrawn and faculty committees were notified. Griffin added that university procedures are explicit in that there are parallel routes for internal resolution, via ombudsmen or grievance routes, but that the procedures contain no language about the courts. Prof. Yahanos asked if the Regents would be involved in the decisions. Loup responded that the Regents were only a final resort within the University.

Prof. Taylor asked whether complaints about harassment should be directed to the Civil Liberties Board. Prof. Smith replied that some type of complaints might properly go there. Moore added that other avenues of complaint existed if matters of gender or race were involved.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES BOARD

The Chair invited and received a motion from the floor to accept the following proposed changes to the membership of the Civil Liberties Board:

SACUA shall appoint a Civil Liberties Board with the following membership:

Six - Senate at large (preferably one from the Law School)

Two - University administration

Four - Students chosen by the Michigan Senate Assembly

One - SACUA liaison with regular membership rights

Griffin offered a friendly amendment in response to concerns that both graduate students and undergraduates be represented on the Board:

"Four - Students chosen by the Michigan Senate Assembly, at least one a graduate student and at least one an undergraduate student."

The amended motion was approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

The Senate Assembly approved the appointments of Sue Woestehoff, Professor of Education, UM-F, for a one-year term on the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty, and of Sallie Churchill, Professor of Social Work, for a one-year term on the Civil Liberties Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Prof. Taylor asked if SACUA had participated in the design of the retreat that would follow the Senate Assembly meeting. Loup responded that she had done so, and that the retreat was modeled on the design of the retreat for Colleges and major administrative units held in September. Taylor inquired whether the Senate Assembly could find a way for open interchange with the President on University matters. Loup said that SACUA would pursue that issue with the President on Monday, 28 November if the desired interchange did not occur at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Lehman
Secretary, pro tempore