

Minutes of 30 November 2009
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
30 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Adlerstein-Gonzales, Aronoff, Barber, Bergin, Bielinska, Borer, Carson, Davis, Denver, Fauman, Ferris, Fraser, Frost, Gest, Giordani, Green, Holland, Horwitz, Jagadish, Johnson, Kearfott, Koopman, Lehman, Lenk, Lim, Maher, Mars, Millunchick, Nassauer, Navvab, Norton, Ottaviani, Ortega, Poe, Prygoski, Queen, Rothman, Sampson, Sharma, Shore, Silverman, Smith, Soellner, Sohn, Staller, Sun, Sweeney, Thouless (Chair), Tzeng, Williams, Wolfe, Yang, Zengulys,

Requested Alternate, None Available: Abdoo (Nursing), Kurashige (LSA), Li (Dearborn), Najita (LSA)

Alternates: Clague (Dorsey-Music), Dynarski (Miller-Education), Mansfield (Thompson-Engineering)

Absent: Andjelkovic-Zochowska, Andre, Brown, Friesen-Lynn, Geary, Hardin, Hirshorn, Jackson, Kabamba, Karni, King, Larsen, Mueggler, Patil, Reddy, Salessa, Senkevitch, Sheets, Stark, Ziff

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 26 October 2009
3. Retaining rights & increasing readership of your scholarly articles: policy considerations. PowerPoint Slides.
4. Faculty Grievance Process Task Force Report, dated 13 May 2009
5. Faculty Grievance Process Response, dated October 2009

Chair Thouless convened the meeting at 3:25 P.M.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 26 October 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair announced that SACUA has nominated Professor Lisa Low for membership on the Student Relations Advisory Committee to occupy a vacant seat.
Senate Assembly members signified unanimous consent by voice vote.

VISIT OF PROVOST

The chair introduced Provost Sullivan at 3:26 P.M. The provost delivered prepared remarks with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix A). She ended her prepared remarks at 3:47 P.M. and invited questions from the Assembly.

Retirement-

There is no specific plan as yet to contain retirement costs, but consultants have advised U-M administration that the U-M is “out of market” with respect to retiree health benefits. A committee will start looking at this next term.

Spring and Summer Courses-

The administration hopes to increase revenue by using existing classroom space during spring and summer. These may not be traditional degree courses, but may be targeted at non-traditional students or alumni. A task force is working on this presently. Many suggestions have been forthcoming.

Tuition-

The provost said that the single greatest area of investment since she became provost has been in the area of financial aid. It has become a major target of donor support. The Regents have pledged to meet the full financial needs of all Michigan residents. She added that she believes that the best learning occurs in a diverse environment. Unfortunately, despite increasing the admissions offers to minority applicants, this year the yield declined. The hypothesis is that financial offers were better from other schools.

Graduate Education-

The provost stated her impression that the U-M made an effort to “right-size” graduate education about eight years ago. She said that she would not favor any reduction in the graduate population, but that she is worried about the prospects for new Ph.D.s entering the job market.

In-state vs. Out-of-state Tuition-

The provost stated that the differential between in-state and out-of-state tuition traces to the long term investment that the State of Michigan has made to the General Fund. A number of donors have expressed interest in contributing funds for financial support of non-resident students.

Class Sizes-

There has been no plan to increase the size of the student population. Freshman class sizes have increased, but that is mainly a yield issue. It would be easy to expand, but for quality metrics that is not desirable at the present. There will be pressure to increase faculty workloads, either by increasing class sizes or increasing course load. Those decisions are made at the department and school level. There is no intention to reduce faculty in the tenure track overall, although some realignments may occur across departments.

North Campus Research Center-

A search for a director is ongoing. The first groups to move in will be announced soon.

On-line Courses-

The U-M does not conduct a lot of distance learning, although many courses make increasing use of on-line material. Some experiments with distance learning are underway, particularly in the School of Public Health with its M.P.H. program. Evidence indicates that on-line courses do not necessarily save money, and accrediting agencies require that distance learners be offered the same services as residential students.

Faculty Diversity-

U-M faculty from minority groups are conspicuous targets for other universities, but efforts are underway within the new African studies initiative to attract and retain scholars, particularly historians. There is also a variety of initiatives to increase the pipeline of talent at the undergraduate and graduate level.

The guest left the meeting at 4:11 P.M.

OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION

Chair Thouless reported that SACUA appointed a subcommittee composed of members Frost and Fraser to engage with the issue of open access. He introduced vice-chair Fraser at 4:13 P.M. to chair the meeting while Professor Thouless presented a report prepared by the subcommittee (Appendix B). Professor Thouless concluded his prepared remarks at 4:25 P.M. and invited comments and guidance from the Assembly.

Assembly members raised the following issues-

1. Should there be a time limit to the transfer of copyright to a publisher? NIH already sets a limit of one-year for exclusive copyright, and federal legislation now in progress suggests six months.
2. Are there hidden or unknown drawbacks associated with proposed policy? There could be repercussions if junior faculty decline to publish in journals that refuse to cooperate with proposed open access policy.
3. An education campaign is needed to inform faculty about the exclusive rights they are giving away. Power and control is increasingly shifting to the publishers. In private industry, companies typically have alternative copyright forms. Individual negotiations are problematic.
4. Are faculty being asked to transfer their copyrights to the U-M? No, proposed policy would have faculty retain their rights on a non-exclusive basis.
5. How can the policy be applied in the world of on-line submission, where there are only radio buttons to signify agreement but no contract to mark up? The web pages do not work for these cases, and separate e-mail communications are necessary.
6. How does this policy apply when there are multiple co-authors from different institutions? All co-authors have their own ownership rights. Individual authors will be able to opt-out of any policy developed at the U-M.

Additional comments should be directed to the Faculty Senate Office, or sacua@umich.edu.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 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.
