

Minutes of January 9, 2012
Circulated: January 27, 2012
Approved: February 6, 2012

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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2012

Present: Barald (Chair), Goldman, Kearfott (Vice Chair), Koopmann, Larsen, Lehman (Senate Secretary), Lusmann, Rothman, Staller; Carr, Mouton, Schneider

Absent: None

Guests: Provost Phil Hanlon, Vice Provost Martha Pollack, Assistant Vice Provost Frances Mueller (classroom scheduling)

Press: University Record (Jamie Iseler), AnnArbor.com (Kellie Woodhouse), Michigan Daily

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of the December 5, 2011 meeting
3. SACUA Nominating Committee Ballot (results)
4. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda for January 23, 2012
5. Ann Arbor.com article: [*Two University of Michigan dean positions see six-figure salary increases*](#)
6. Classroom Scheduling PowerPoint printout

The meeting was convened by Chair Barald at 3:15 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 5, 2011 were approved.

SACUA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

There was a recount of the February votes and it is clear there was only one tie. Professors Lehman and Lusmann will both serve on the now expanded nominating committee with Professor Rothman as SACUA representatives.

ADMINISTRATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AEC) QUESTIONS

Secretary Lehman stated that the AEC committee met on December 9, 2011 and voted to expand the list of AEC questions to include offices that provide services to faculty such as the Rackham Graduate School, the University Library, the Office of the Vice President for Research, Facilities, CTools, and the Department of Public Safety and Security. Members of the AEC had expressed interest in adding a general administration question to obtain faculty opinion about the decision to raise the maximum allowed tenure probationary period to ten years. Some SACUA members stated that too many questions would add a lot of “noise” and actually decrease participation by faculty. The discussion was tabled by Chair Barald due to the arrival of the guests.

GUESTS: Provost Hanlon, Vice Provost Pollack, Assistant Vice Provost Mueller arrived at 3:25 PM.

Vice Provost Pollack provided her distributed Power Point presentation on Classroom Scheduling. She has conducted studies over the past three years, soliciting input from the Space Utilization Team, vice provosts and associate deans, unit curriculum schedulers and the Registrar’s Office. Her findings conclude that the University has ample space, but the only 50% utilization rate is “lumpy” and there are inefficiencies in the scheduling process.

Vice Provost Pollack stated that the University will use the following “three easy steps” process:

1. Align Start Times: classes on the hour or half hour (except in special circumstances)
2. Spread Out Class Times: slightly re-distribute class scheduling to include more “off-peak” times
3. Share More: work with the Registrar’s Office to back-fill classrooms that have time available between 8am-5pm

There was a discussion of the implications of each step for different schools and colleges. Providing for non-class related (but still academic) use of classrooms is critically important to preserve. Increasing the number of Friday classes also affects students who represent the University by traveling on Fridays (athletes, etc.). Vice Provost Pollack explained that classrooms are all now going to be “shared.” Departments will still have priority over the classrooms they had the year before. Upkeep of the classrooms will be provided by the department who has priority. Chair Barald mentioned that usage of podcast technology could help alleviate over-crowding, but usage has dropped. Professor Staller asked about how contact hours and credit hours are equated, and whether there is any flexibility. Vice Provost Pollack replied that that question is outside the scope of this research. Vice Provost Pollack explained that they have been working on this proposal for a year, and it has been presented to the deans. The policy will officially take effect Winter 2013.

Assistant Vice Provost Mueller left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

SACUA asked Provost Hanlon about the increases in deans’ salaries as reported in recent news articles. Provost Hanlon stated that last year there was an average annual merit salary increase of 3%. Traditionally, when a dean is reappointed to an additional 5 year term as dean, there is a 10% increase, much like a promotion, over and above any merit increase. Professor Koopmann stated that he did not view a reappointment as a promotion because the position is the same

without a change in professorial status or major change in work requirements. This year there was a need for negotiating the retention of a dean which was regarded as a special circumstance. Provost Hanlon evaluates the deans at the end of each year. When a new dean is hired, a market survey is conducted of dean positions at peer institutions for salary/benefit comparisons. A dean's salary upon return to faculty status is a matter of negotiation at the unit level when they return to the faculty appointment. The salary for a former dean transitioning back to a faculty appointment is normally at the high end of the faculty salary scale.

SACUA asked Provost Hanlon about the perceived expansion of administrative costs at the University. Provost Hanlon commented that the University has become relatively very efficient. Provost Hanlon said that the University's administrative costs are 6.4% of the University budget while for other national research universities the average costs are 7.1%. Provost Hanlon said the dataset for this information is publicly available.

Provost Hanlon and Vice Provost Pollack left the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY SENATE ASSEMBLY AGENDA

The draft agenda for the January 9, 2012 Senate Assembly meeting was approved unanimously without change. Questions for guests at the upcoming January Senate Assembly meeting were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Professor Staller was assigned to the SACUA Faculty Hearing Committee and Professors Kearfott and Lusmann were reaffirmed as members.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A. Mouton
SACUA Office Staff

Board of Regents of the University of Michigan Bylaws *Sec. 4.01 The University Senate*

"... [t]he 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. Jurisdiction over academic policies shall reside in the faculties of the various schools and colleges, but insofar as actions by the several faculties affect university policy as a whole, or schools and colleges other than the one in which they originate, they shall be brought before the University Senate."