

Minutes of January 14, 2013
Circulated: January 28, 2013
Approved: February 4, 2013

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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2013

Present: K. Barald, K. Kearfott (Chair), R. Goldman, F. Larsen, J. Lehman (Senate Secretary), S. Masten, S. Oey, K. Staller (Vice Chair); L. Carr, T. Schneider

Absent: R. Holland, C. Koopmann

Guests: Michael Benson, President-Graduate Student Body; Janet Weiss, Dean-Rackham Graduate School; Mark Tessler, Vice Provost-International Affairs

Press: Ashwini Natarajan- Michigan Daily; Jamie Iseler -University Record; Kellie Woodhouse-Ann Arbor.com

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft SACUA agenda for January 14, 2013
2. Draft of SACUA minutes dated December 10, 2012
3. Draft of Senate Assembly agenda for January 28, 2013
4. Printout of a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Rackham's Registration Policies for Ph.D. Students" produced by the Rackham Executive Board on Sept. 5, 2012.

The meeting was convened by Chair Kearfott at 3:16 pm.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda and minutes of December 10, 2012 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. January 21st is Martin Luther King Day. There will be no SACUA meeting on that date.
2. Please submit nominations for the Central University Ombuds replacement to Chair Kearfott.

SENATE ASSEMBLY AGENDA

The SACUA Nominating Committee is being put together. T. Schneider explained the process. In addition to nominations put together by Nominating Committee, Senate Assembly members can nominate other members at the Senate Assembly meeting.

The CESF report was delayed until January because of data retrieval delays. An update is now scheduled for the January 28 Senate Assembly meeting.

TUITION AFFORDABILITY

According to the Provost, Michigan appears to be more affordable than Michigan State. AAAC is looking at this, according to K. Barald. She stated that Stanford, U of Chicago and Harvard now give any student whose family income is below \$40,000 a free ride. It includes room and board, fees and tuition. AAAC is looking at ways to reach underrepresented students.

Since PACBA is also looking at this problem, maybe AAAC and PACBA should meet together, according to Chair Kearfott. It could be that the perception of affordability is blocking applications by diverse students.

GUESTS ARRIVE – Janet Weiss and Michael Benson arrived. Introductions were made. Dean Weiss handed out a copy of a PowerPoint presentation entitled, “Rackham’s Registration Policies for Ph.D. Students.” She proceeded to go through all of the slides one by one.

There was a joint administration and student government board to handle all disputes. There were no disputes in 2010 or 2011, so the board was dissolved. Problems will be handled individually. Rackham created tuition fellowships for students who would register under the new policies. The fellowships were improved for fiscal year 2012 to grad care insurance shortages.

The new policy allows leaves of absences for military service, family/dependent care, medical reasons and personal reasons. Only leaves obtained for personal reasons are limited to one term.

If a student leaves without an approved leave of absence, their reinstatement is approved by the faculty in the department. A student being reinstated must pay one-quarter of candidacy tuition for each absent fall and winter term up to eight terms. One half of the fee is to be paid by the student; one half by the department. There are grants available to student who would suffer financial hardship to pay the reinstatement fee.

The main reason for the new policy is that concerned faculty were losing track of students. There has been a noticeable difference in the completion rate once the non-registered students were removed from the rolls. The completion rate has gone from 65% to 72%.

K. Staller expressed a concern that there is no “clinical practice” leave of absence available to social work and psychology students.

According to Michael Benson, the policy has been more difficult for students who have been here the longest. Students dislike the reinstatement fee because it is split between them and the department. The engineering department funds all students.

He also wanted SACUA to know that the Student Body Government (formerly Rackham Student Government) is developing a "Bill of Rights and Responsibilities" and will be submitting it to SACUA and other involved groups.

According to K. Barald, there are no tuition scholarships available to medical students. Dean Weiss asked that K. Barald email her regarding the problem.

Guests departed at 4:09 pm.

The discussion returned to Tuition Affordability. Chair Kearfott asked what SACUA should do regarding affordability. C. Koopmann asked if there is a computer program available on the Michigan website that helps potential students determine the real cost of education at Michigan.

OTHER BUSINESS

SACUA will contribute input regarding the choice of interim provost.

EXECUTIVE SESSION entered at 4:23 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION ended at 4:28 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Carr
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 polices 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."