

Minutes of 31 January 2005
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 31 JANUARY 2004

PRESENT: Berent (Chair), Combi, Ensminger, Giordani, Gull, Lehman, Meerkov, Pedraza, Zorn; Leu, Loup

ABSENT:

GUESTS: M. Cochran, D. Gershman, J. Levine, J. Mironov, C. Stroh

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Proposed agenda.
2. Administration Evaluation Committee Membership List
3. Electronic mail messages from Bruno Giordani, Michael Combi, and J. Lehman regarding IRB issue and the electronic mail messages from Mary Haan and Carol Persad dated 28 January 2005 regarding IRB issue
4. 31 January 2005 *University Record* article "Forum to gauge U-M interest in ethics" by Allison Yang
5. Memo to Stanley Berent from John Riebesell dated 21 January 2005 regarding SACUA Chair Consecutive Reelection
6. Memo to Stanley Berent from John Riebesell dated 22 November 2004 regarding SACUA Question to Rules Committee on Possible 4th Year on SACUA for Chair
7. Memo to Stanley Berent from John Riebesell dated 8 December 2004 regarding SACUA Apportionment
8. Chapter IV The University Senate from the Regents Bylaws
9. Selected portions of The University of Michigan Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs, April 1997
10. Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) Election Procedures Guidelines approved by Senate Assembly 16 February 2004
11. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule Updated 31 January 2005

Chair Berent called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of January 10th and 24th are not yet ready.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

1. Chair Berent pointed out that the Administration Evaluation Committee does not have a formal SACUA liaison as other committees and asked Professor Lehman, who chairs the Committee whether one is needed. Professor Lehman responded that committees have usually not had liaisons with SACUA members as sitting members, but he has no strong preference. Professor Gull suggested waiting until the committee appointment process which is coming up in March.
2. Chair Berent introduced the issue of the Institutional Review Boards (IRBs). Professor Combi reported on a discussion of IRBs that occurred at a recent Research Policies Committee (RPC) meeting, and suggested that SACUA might like to hear a similar presentation on e-Research, a new system intended to gather all necessary information for an IRB. Chair Berent indicated there are certainly complaints from both sides regarding the current process. It is a process driven by government regulations, and faculty have little say in setting those regulations. Professor Zorn asked about the appropriate role for SACUA in these discussions. Chair Berent indicated that SACUA's interest is in how an IRB affects faculty. Professor Combi pointed out that, in the RPC discussion, concern was raised regarding IRBs that have reviewed the science, not just the compliance issues. Chair Berent responded that the government requires the IRB to look at the science and views poor science as unethical. Most IRBs do not spend a lot of time on the science, but do examine the methodology. Professor Zorn pointed out that this is an entirely new issue for some SACUA members and suggested that those members for whom it is an issue should meet. Chair Berent indicated he would take it from there.
3. Chair Berent and Professor Pedraza reported on their January 24 meeting with the Provost. They had shared with him a list of criteria for developing an agreement between faculty and the administration about when formal faculty governance should be involved in decision-making on University matters. Chair Berent indicated his interest in moving the two parties toward an agreement to go back to when there is disagreement about involving faculty governance. Chair Berent stated he sees strength in having an agreement, not a formal contract, maybe more of a covenant, to which all have agreed. He also indicated that the history of this institution gives a lot of power to agreements made in the past. Professor Lehman suggested linking such an agreement to the Principles of Faculty Governance document. Professor Pedraza reported that they had used the example of the "modified duties" document during the exchange with the Provost, pointing out that it was an excellent document, but SACUA had not been involved in its development. The Provost had responded that the document had been thoroughly reviewed by the LS&A and Medical School Executive Committees and Professor Pedraza responded by indicating when the impact of an issue is broader than one school or college, central faculty governance should be involved early in the process of addressing it. Professor Meerkov asked if the Provost had commented on the recent administration evaluation results. Professor Pedraza said he had asked if there was any correlation between low response rates and higher ratings. She had responded with examples from her review of the data, demonstrating that the data did not support that premise.

4. Chair Berent reported on a recent meeting of the Athletic Advisory Board during which the primary agenda item was the plan for the stadium. The one main principle is to keep the stadium look traditional.

MEETING WITH MSA PRESIDENT, JASON MIRONOV

Guest, Jason Mironov and Jesse Levine arrived at 2:35 p.m.

Chair Berent introduced the guests and asked the MSA President, Jason Mironov, to talk about the plans for the up-coming Ethic Forum. Mr. Mironov expressed his hopes that the Forum engages students and faculty in discussion of ethics in the broadest sense. The Forum will take place in the League on Monday, February 7th, 6-8 p.m., with dinner served. Questions will be distributed beforehand to stimulate the discussions. There will be short address followed by small focus groups for discussion. He is particularly interested in the idea of an Ethics Center here at the University and the possibility of Michigan taking a leadership role nationally. Professor Zorn asked if MSA was coordinating the Ethics Forum with the Plagiarism Conference. Mr. Mironov responded that MSA is trying to keep the Forum discussions on ethics at the broadest level, not on specific issues within the topic. Chair Berent urged all SACUA members to attend and pointed out that all faculty will be informed of the Forum and encouraged to participate.

Mr. Mironov expressed appreciation for the time to meet with SACUA. He indicated that MSA has established a group to examine student organizations and their relationship to the University. There will be an open discussion on Tuesday, February 1st, at 6:30 p.m. and SACUA members are invited to attend. He also indicated his interest in improving MSA's working relationship with SACUA. Chair Berent pointed out that in the past there have been student liaisons to SACUA and encouraged MSA to appoint one.

CHAIR-ELECT/VICE-CHAIR PROPOSAL

The motion tabled at the January 24th meeting was raised.

ACTION OF SACUA 13105-1

Professor Pedraza moved that the election of SACUA officers be organized to elect a vice-chair/chair-elect. Professor Giordani seconded the motion.

Discussion of the motion included the value of the skills developed while serving as vice-chair, practices at other Big Ten institutions, and members serving two years without having elected the chair under whom they serve.

Approve: 1

Disapprove: 7

Abstain: 0

The motion failed.

Chair Berent announced that the election of the new SACUA officers will occur at the meeting on March 7th.

REMAINING RULES COMMITTEE PROPOSALS

Chair Consecutive Terms

The Rules Committee in its report dated January 21, 2005 stated that “the reelection of the Chair of Senate Assembly and SACUA in 2003 conflicted with the provision in Senate Rule II.4.(4) that ‘A Chair who serves a full year shall not be eligible for immediate reelection’ ...” The Committee reported that it had considered this issue and offered an analysis of three alternatives. Chair Berent asked if there were interest in a motion to change the current rule and none was presented.

Chair Fourth Year

The Rules Committee was asked to address the question: “May SACUA elect as its Chair (and the Senate Assembly Chair) a SACUA member whose term is ending the year elected so it would require serving an additional year beyond the three-year term? Or, in effect, giving that person a 4th year on SACUA.” The Rules Committee’s report, dated November 22, 2004, presented an analysis and a conclusion. Chair Berent asked if there were interest in a motion to change the current rule and none was presented.

SACUA Member Apportionment The Rules Committee was asked to report “to Senate Assembly through SACUA whether or not there are an reapportionment changes for unit representation on SACUA (e.g., maximum of 3 for LSA, 2 for Medicine, 2 for Engineering) necessary for consideration to reflect current faculty composition.” In a report dated December 8, 2004, the Committee presented five alternatives for SACUA’s consideration. Chair Berent asked if there were interest in a motion to change the current rule.

ACTION OF SACUA 13105-2

Professor Zorn moved to retain the current apportionment. Professor Pedraza seconded the motion.

Discussion of the motion included the probability that altering the current process would create new issues and the possibility of pressure from the Medical School for change, .

Approve: 6

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 1

The motion passed.

Chair Berent indicated background information will be provided to the Senate Assembly.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Faculty representation on the Athletic Advisory Board was discussed.

ACTION OF SACUA 13105-3

Professor Giordani moved that a second SACUA member be appointed to a regular three-year term on the Athletic Advisory Board (possibly coinciding with the member’s SACUA term). Professor Gull seconded the motion.

Approve: 8

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 0
The motion passed.

Professor Giordani reported that, based on prior discussion and comments he made related to students with disabilities, the Provost asked Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Senior Counselor to the President for the Arts, Diversity, and Undergraduate Affairs Lester Monts to meet with him to discuss his concerns. At the Provost's suggestion, Professor Giordani had looked further into the matter and shared what he had found with Senior Vice Provost Monts. He found the Senior Vice Provost receptive to re-establishing a cross-unit organization. Senior Vice Provost Monts indicated he would take the issue to the Undergraduate Council and encourage a joint effort with SACUA. There is some sense that the issue is harder to deal with from the disability standpoint, but better from the standpoint of retention of students. Professor Giordani is optimistic about re-establishing a central unit for this. Professor Giordani reported that AAAC is discussing the issue of registration brackets and moving toward a resolution

Professor Lehman asked if any SACUA members know whether there are units where Deans appoint people to tenured or tenure-track positions without any faculty consultation or over the vote of faculty.

QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 7 VISIT OF PRESIDENT COLEMAN

Chair Berent requested questions for the morning meeting on February 7th with the President, Professor Pedraza and himself as well as questions for the President's visit during the SACUA meeting that afternoon. Professor Meerkov suggested asking about the recent administration evaluations. Chair Berent suggested the Administration Evaluation Committee prepare a report on the evaluations for SACUA. Professor Giordani agreed, expressing a need for a discussion in SACUA before talking with the President. Professor Pedraza suggested that SACUA do more consulting and less asking, and Professor Giordani responded by suggesting the question, what are the most important current issues facing the University? Chair Berent encouraged members to provide additional questions to him.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Loup
SACUA Staff

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.