

Minutes of 24 February 2014 SACUA
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
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Present: Holland, Larsen, Masten, Staller (chair), Ziff; Lehman; Schneider, Snyder

Absent: Mondro, Oey

Guests: Provost M. Pollack, S. Riegle (office of provost), J. Hilton (office of provost), *Daily* reporter, *Record* reporter, *AnnArbor.com* reporter.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of 13 January 2014 SACUA
3. Draft minutes of 3 February 2014 SACUA
4. Minutes of 21 November 2011 Senate Assembly
5. Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs, last revised November 2011
6. Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs, last revised January 2009
7. Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional & Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan, Second Edition.

Chair Staller convened the meeting at 3:15. The proposed agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The draft minutes of 13 January 2014 were approved with amendments submitted by the provost. The draft minutes of 3 February 2014 were approved.

Announcements-

1. The provost will visit SACUA today and on 24 March 2014.
2. SACUA will not meet on 3 March 2014.
3. No guests are scheduled for 10 March; a Regents Update is due that day.
4. Senate Assembly and the University Senate will meet on 17 March 2014.

NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Nominating committees were constituted for the positions of Senate Secretary and DPS Oversight. The chair named Professors Masten and Mondro to the Secretary nominating

committee; Professors Holland (chair), Koopmann, and Oey were named to the DPS Oversight nominating committee.

AEC

Secretary Lehman reported that the Administration Evaluation Committee has met and formulated a set of General Administration Questions as well as a timetable for the AY2013-14 survey. He said the survey will commence after the mid-semester break and after conclusion of an evaluation of the UM-Dearborn chancellor that was requested by Dearborn faculty governance. Chair Staller recollected that the Committee for an Inclusive University had proposed some questions for inclusion in the AEC survey. Lehman said he would search the minutes from last year for a record of the questions.

VISIT OF PROVOST

The guest and S. Riegle arrived at 3:33 P.M. and the provost addressed a series of topics.

State Budget-

The governor has submitted a budget that requests additional funds for higher education.

Provost Committees-

Three of the initiatives promoted by the provost (being a faculty member in the 21st Century, university climate, and engaged learning) have active and ongoing committees that include individuals nominated by SACUA. Formation of a committee to consider financial models for higher education has been postponed pending reports about the first three initiatives. The Provost's Advisory Committee on Budgetary Affairs (PACBA) will likely be the core of this future committee.

AST-

Implementation has been slowed and feedback is being obtained from the units. Planning is underway for the organization of work that will be retained in the units rather than becoming centralized. Efforts are being made to streamline the demands on faculty for clerical and administrative tasks; even Concur may be subject to revision.

Black Student Union-

Vice-president Harper, Liz Berry, the provost, and the dean of students have been meeting regularly, and have gained an understanding of student concerns. They have agreed to create a new multicultural center on campus. In the meanwhile, current facilities will be repaired. Requested emergency funding is already available to all students, but perhaps should be more widely advertised. The students also requested better access to UM historical records archived in the Bentley, which the provost said she was delighted to facilitate. She added that the students are seeking changes to the race and ethnicity requirements within LSA, and propose extension of the requirements to all units. The provost said that she was arranging meetings between the student group and faculty of various units, because responsibility for curriculum resides with the faculty. Professor Koopmann expressed concern about proliferation of required courses rather than a diverse array of elective course offerings.

Fitness for Duty and Professional Standards for Faculty-

At 3:45 P.M. SACUA members commenced discussion of additional university issues. Professor Masten cited SPGs (Standard Practice Guides) regarding fitness for duty and professional responsibilities for faculty as topics of concern to faculty governance. He said there is a sense that the degree of discretion provided to deans through the language of the documents could be used to circumvent tenure protections. He noted that several previous provosts have said they typically do not overrule deans, thereby permitting them extreme latitude. He asked where such a policy admitting latitude originated. The provost replied that there was not a policy but rather a culture. She suggested that in a diverse university it is wise to center the decision-making as close to the base as possible, and that such a culture serves the university well. She pointed out that there are annual budget meetings with the deans and also provostial review of all tenure and promotion cases. In many cases, though, deans have authority to do what is best for their schools.

Professor Larsen commented that when inappropriate actions by deans have been brought to previous provosts' attention in the past by SACUA, no corrective measures have resulted. For that reason, he said, granting any additional discretion through the new SPGs is problematic and alarming. Professor Masten agreed and asked who would make the decision about a faculty member's fitness for duty. He said there is serious concern that there are no protections for faculty from administrative abuses. Professor Larsen suggested that the language offered by the administration could be used to force faculty into early retirement. The provost said that she would revisit SACUA in March with Chris Whitman, who had responsibility for developing the policy. She said it was her understanding that the policy was designed to protect faculty. She affirmed that the SPG will be only in draft form when it is discussed with SACUA and the Senate Assembly. She added that the SPG on professional responsibilities could be revisited, as well.

Chair Staller remarked that the current mechanism of faculty grievance oversight seems to work well, but it is not clear that similar oversight will exist with regard to fitness for duty determinations.

Athletics-

Professor Koopmann asked how much influence the provost exerts over the scheduling of athletic events. The provost replied that she could advise about those matters. Professor Koopmann cited a recent article from the *Chicago Tribune* that reported how television programming is dictating the schedules of student athletes. He described detrimental effects on academics that were already evident at the UM. The provost replied that she would convey those concerns to the other executive officers at their meeting the next day. Professor Larsen stated that faculty oversight of athletic program at the UM is weak compared to the rest of the Big 10. The provost expressed praise for efforts by the current Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), Anne Curzan.

President-Elect

Provost Pollack said that she had already met twice with president-elect Schlissel, for a total of about 1.25 hours, and that she would soon be flying to Brown University for additional meetings. She expressed enthusiasm and characterized Schlissel as smart, engaged, and caring about all the issues SACUA and she had been discussing.

Cost of Higher Education-

Professor Masten remarked that CESF (Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty) has given attention to the Delta cost project, a database that tracks expenditures for faculty and administration. He asked the provost to comment on the quality of the data that is represented there. The provost replied that often data for the UM make it look out of line on administrative costs, but that is a consequence of the fact that certain reimbursed costs are not represented correctly. However, she said, it is not clear what data Delta is using.

Professor Larsen said that a federal website comparing costs and rewards of different universities looks good for the UM. He added, however, that the UM financial aid website is disappointingly opaque. The provost responded that she would look into the financial aid website. She said that the UM wants to be accountable, and that many applicants don't understand how generous its financial aid is. She added that it is a mistake to think that dollars are the only return on investment in a university education. Professor Holland pointed out that other metrics than the future salaries of graduates have been documented in the past. Provost Pollack replied that Purdue has undertaken a large study of the value of college education using measures other than debt and salary. She cited statistics that suggest dramatic effects of a college degree on socioeconomic mobility.

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

TERM LIMITS

Chair Staller called attention to distributed items 4, 5, 6, and 7. SACUA members reviewed Regents' Bylaws pertaining to central faculty governance, the Rules of the Senate, Senate Assembly and SACUA, and the minutes of the Senate Assembly from November 2011 at which an 'advisory' vote about term limits for the SACUA chair, vice-chair and Senate Secretary had been enacted. SACUA concluded unanimously that the vote did not constitute a legitimate revision of the Rules under the provisions of the Rules themselves, and that the Rules remain those enacted in 2009. The chair suggested that the next SACUA (AY2014-15) might review the status quo if it wished and either make recommendations or charge the Rules committee with reviewing the Rules. Professor Masten recollected that the Rules committee in the past had reviewed the status of clinical faculty and had offered several alternatives for revising the Rules, but that the Senate Assembly could not reach any consensus and retained the existing rules.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:45 P.M. Topics included (1) nominations for the university honorary degree nomination committee, (2) benefits, (3) executive compensation, and (4) model grievance policy and implementation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 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

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."

Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs:

Senate: "In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed."

Assembly: "The Assembly may adopt rules for the transaction of its business. In appropriate cases not covered by rules of the Assembly, the rules of the University Senate shall apply."

SACUA: "The committee may adopt rules for the transaction of its business."

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