

Minutes of 6 March 2006
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 6 MARCH 2006

Present: Combi, Giordani (Chair), Gull, Lehman, Meerkov, Seabury, Smith, Younker, Zorn;
Schneider

Absent: none

Guests: none

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

1. Draft Agenda
2. Draft SACUA minutes of 13 February 2006
3. Draft SACUA minutes of 20 February 2006
4. Draft revised revision to Faculty Grievance Application Form
5. mblog documentation (<http://mblog.lib.umich.edu>)
6. [Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs \(SACUA\) Election Procedures Guidelines](#), dated 16 February 2004
7. Draft Memorandum regarding Executive Committee formation and operation
8. Draft revised charge to University Shared Governance Task Force
9. Draft revision of Faculty Grievance Application Form
10. Voted Actions of SACUA, updated 13 February 2006
11. [Nominating Guidelines for University Librarian Achievement Award](#)
12. Memoranda regarding Faculty Hearing Committee reports
13. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule, updated 3 March 2006

Chair Giordani convened the meeting at 2:05 P.M.; the draft agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 20 February 2006 were approved. The minutes of 13 February were corrected and approved, with one dissenting vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair Giordani announced:

1. Newly elected SACUA members will be invited to attend the Inglis House reception this April.

2. The chair and vice chair met with the president and informed her that model F1 of the Unit Shared Governance report had been approved and would be transmitted to the units.
3. The president informed them that two new buildings would be constructed simultaneously, one for heart care and the other for children's care.
4. Transportation between remote hospital locations is an ongoing problem for some medical units; the president described a potential solution using a van pool, based on a University of North Carolina model.
5. Both interim provost Gramlich and provost-designate Sullivan will attend the 13 March meeting of SACUA. One question for Gramlich will be the role of faculty governance in the recent decision to admit more transfer students. SACUA members recommended that the meeting with Sullivan be introductory in nature, and should be used as an opportunity to get to know each other.

COMMITTEE LIASON REPORTS

CESF-

Professor Smith reported that vice president for financial affairs T. Slottow informed CESF that it had been given incorrect information about retiree benefits and funding liabilities. Slottow said (1) Harvard has not cancelled benefits for retirees; (2) recharge rates to departments will rise to no more than 4.3%; (3) the U-M funds benefits on a "pay as you go" basis and has had no problem keeping up with costs; (4) there are large favorable difference between U-M benefits expenses and those of the business sector. Cost savings have come from outsourcing, laying off employees particularly at the university print shop, and from reducing staff at the university press. Slottow said that he could not guarantee that things will always work so well. The vice president said that he had a plan for future retiree benefits, and CESF chair Askari asked for a copy of the plan. Askari will speak at the AAUP annual chapter meeting about what he learns from the plan. Smith added that Human Resources director Laurita Thomas made remarks at the same meeting that closely paralleled her remarks to the Senate Assembly.

Budget Study-

Professor Smith reported that Professor Lomax is drafting its report about the cost of instruction, and that Lomax has arranged a meeting with vice president Slottow to check all the numbers.

General Counsel Advisory-

Professor Smith reported that the advice to faculty who wish to express opinions on political issues is that they ought to say they are not speaking in the role of an employee of the university. Vice president Krislov referred SACUA's query about a 3 month follow-up on grievance cases to D. Sharphorn and J. Frumkin. Subsequently, Smith, T. Schneider, and B. Giordani met with Frumkin and Sharphorn. Discussion focused on the role of the Faculty Grievance Monitor. Smith called attention to distributed item 9 which he said was an attempt to incorporate follow-up into the grievance process. Members discussed the draft language. Chair Giordani stated that he has contacted past chairs of GRBs to learn if they support the idea of having an ombuds attend the initial meeting of the GRB in addition to J. Frumkin, assistant

provost and senior director for academic human resources, or D. Gamble, associate director for human resources and affirmative action, as is current practice.

Medical Affairs Advisory Committee-

Professor Seabury reported that the committee discussed an NIH initiative to expand centers for promotion of clinical research, and also the growth of a center for proteonomics.

Student Affairs-

Professor Seabury said that the committee has not met recently, but that a new cartoon published in the *Michigan Daily* is causing renewed furor.

AAAC-

Professor Zorn said that the committee is deeply engaged with undergraduate admissions and registration brackets. The committee has requested data about admissions over the past 10 years and subsequent performance of the admitted students. Professor Smith commented that the data should prove highly relevant; he remarked that a study some years ago in regard to medical school admissions demonstrated that verbal ability was the single best predictor of academic success.

Flexible Tenure-

Professor Gull reported that the committee met on 21 February. Members received a large notebook of opinions in advance of the meeting. Surprisingly, in light of the specific request from the provost, the package of material provided by SACUA was split up and robbed of its coherence. Moreover, (1) the summary statement requested by the provost from SACUA, (2) the statistical analysis conducted by Smith and Lee, and (3) the written remarks of Robert O'Neil in this address to the Senate Assembly were omitted entirely. The interpretation of responses that was solicited from faculty governance was rendered incoherent. Professor Gull said that it was unexpected that items specifically requested by the provost would be taken apart or omitted. SACUA members insisted that the subject be discussed with the provost next week. Professor Gull said that the next meeting of the committee will be 10 April. He said that according to the materials provided to the committee, the faculty is divided about changing Regents' Bylaw 5.09. He said one possibility suggested was to make needed changes within the existing Bylaw, an approach that has been labeled "workarounds". Others argue that changing RB 5.09 is a matter of principle and that what they call "workarounds" are inherently unfair. The committee was told that the Medical School, LSA, and the School of Information all favor changing the Bylaw and that by doing so "we will lead the way". Gull added that the concept of part time tenure was largely greeted negatively. Chair Giordani raised the issue of faculty who drop to appointment fractions less than 80%.

Computer Committee-

Professor Smith said that selection of a candidate for the position previously occupied by James Hilton is reaching conclusion. The committee has decided that privacy issues are important, and it will soon meet with the university privacy committee.

Pharmacy Benefits Oversight Committee-

Professor Smith reported that committee members had expressed a desperate need for a pharmacologist, and that his addition was greeted with relief. He noted that the committee approves the formulary for prescription drugs.

ELECTION PROCEDURES Possible questions for candidates will be an agenda topic for next week.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FOLLOW-UP Chair G Jordan called attention to distributed item 7, which he said was ready for distribution. Mr. Schneider explained that it had not yet been distributed because of the mid-semester break. Members recommended that it be sent directly to unit executive committees with courtesy copies to all university faculty.

ACTION OF SACUA 030606-1 Professor Smith moved that SACUA establishes a revised charge for the University Shared Governance Task Force (multiple seconds):
The Shared Governance Task Force shall consist of Stanley Berent, Louis D'Alecy (Chair), Tom Weisskopf, Semyon Meerkov (SACUA representative), Keith Riles (AAAC representative), Jon Rush (AAAC representative), and Janine Maddock (past AAAC representative). A delegate from the President or Provost offices will also be requested. The Task Force shall prepare a draft University shared governance document incorporating the Criteria Based Approach to Shared University Governance. The Task Force will meet with the provost to review, modify as necessary, and accept the document. The Task Force will present a report to SACUA by the end of winter semester 2006.

ELECTION OF SACUA CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
Discussion was postponed until next week.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS
Librarian Awards-

SACUA discussed selection of recipients for the Librarian Awards, funds for which were solicited from the office of the provost. Mr. Schneider reported that the AAAC feels that it is not the best body to make the selections for these awards.

ACTION OF SACUA 030606-2 Smith moved that (multiple seconds) SACUA shall establish a selection committee for the Librarian Awards similar to the selection committee it established for the Jackie Lawson award. Membership may include people other than SACUA members.

Professor Meerkov arrived at 4:05 P.M. and Action Items were reviewed. There was no additional business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:12 P.M. to review responses received regarding two Faculty Hearing Committee reports.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John 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.