

Minutes of 7 March 2005
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs

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Approved Minutes: www.sacua.umich.edu/sacua/sacua-minutes.html

MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 7 MARCH 2004

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

ABSENT: Ensminger

GUESTS:

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Proposed agenda
2. Electronic mail message from M. Combi dated 3 March 2005 regarding draft minutes of 14 February 2005 meeting
3. Draft minutes of 14 February 2005 SACUA meeting
4. Draft minutes of 7 February 2005 SACUA meeting
5. Child Care Taskforce Report "Changing American Life: Responding to the Needs of Faculty with Children at the University of Michigan" accepted by Senate Assembly on October 25, 2004
6. Drafts of possible communications regarding administration evaluations
7. Electronic mail messages from S. Pedraza, M. Combi, and J. Zorn regarding a draft of a SACUA letter to President Coleman regarding administration evaluations
8. Draft of a letter to President Coleman regarding administration evaluations
9. Draft for discussion from Paul N. Courant to Deans and Directors regarding Policy Statement on the Use of Faculty Research and Discretionary Accounts
10. Draft of Faculty Governance document revised by S. Berent on 6 March 2005-03-25
11. Draft of Standard Practice Guide 201.93 Modified Duties: Relief from Teaching Assignments Based on Effects of Pregnancy, Childbirth, Related Medical Conditions or Adoption
12. Information regarding open position on the Senate Assembly Research Policies Committee resulting from resignation of one of the members
13. Information regarding the Honorary Degree Committee
14. "College Administrators' Pay Outpaces Inflation Again, Survey Finds" by Erin Strout from THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION *Today's News*, February 25, 2005
15. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule updated 2 March 2005

Chair Berent called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The approval of the minutes of the 7 February 2005 meeting was postponed until President Coleman's review. The minutes of the 14 February meeting, as amended, were approved with one abstention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

1. Chair Berent thanked the members of SACUA who participated in the Ethics Forum sponsored jointly by MSA and SACUA. There were lively and interesting discussions, the summaries of which are to be shared with the Ethics Task Force. He went on to say it was important to have worked with the students. Professor Pedraza expressed disappointment in the questions and was not sure the summaries were as related to the discussions as they should have been. Professor Giordani indicated he had seen a wild swing in what ethics could mean, which showed there is a lot of work to be done. He thought the Forum had raised the ethics issue for the students.
2. Professor Meerkov asked about the half-time release time for those who serve as chair of SACUA. He did not know of other paid committee assignments and proposed that SACUA ask the administration to eliminate this perk. Perhaps the funding could be added to that of the SACUA Office. SACUA members are here to serve the faculty, not for personal benefit.

ACTION OF SACUA 030705-1

Professor Meerkov moved that SACUA ask the administration to relinquish the 50% release time for the Chair. Professor Lehman seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion:

Approve: 2

Disapprove: 6

The motion failed.

ELECTION OF SACUA CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Chair Berent described the process to be used in electing the next SACUA chair and vice-chair. Six members are eligible and each is to indicate whether or not he is willing to run; those running will have a short time to offer remarks on why he or she wishes the office. Written ballots will be distributed and counted by Mr. Schneider and Ms. Loup. The new officers will assume their roles on May 1, 2005.

Professors Giordani and Lehman were candidates for chair; Professor Giordani received 6 votes, Professor Lehman 2. Professor Giordani was elected chair for 2005/2006.

Professors Gull and Meerkov were candidates for vice-chair; Professor Gull received 5 votes, Professor Meerkov 3. Professor Gull was elected vice-chair for 2005/2006. Congratulations were offered to the newly elected officers.

CHILDCARE TASKFORCE NEXT STEP

Professor Seonae Yeo joined the meeting to ask SACUA to take the initiative to appoint an implementation committee to address the recommendations in the Taskforce report. She indicated that the report has received nice publicity from the *University Record*. She has visited several departments to talk about the report and each visit has offered support for the Taskforce's work. Young faculty are struggling with the search for good child care.

Chair Berent suggested maintaining the Taskforce and turning it into an implementation group. Professor Yeo indicated the work will require more administrative input. Professor Giordani agreed and stated that the vice-presidents to whom the existing child care centers report must be convinced of the importance of the effort and the need for coordination. Professor Yeo reported that she had spoken to the Executive Officers and it was her impression that they see this as a coming issue, they see the need, and they need an excuse to mobilize the resources. Professor Pedraza pointed out that when the issue had been taken to the President, she had stressed that the cost per square foot for child care space is very high. The Provost has set up a group to look at the problem of space.

Professor Giordani expressed concern that the people working on the implementation have some clout and ability to do something. Professor Yeo agreed and indicated that, although cost is an issue, there is need for someone who has power. Everybody has a little bit of interest and a little bit of commitment. There is need for someone who can move money. Professor Giordani asked if it would help if SACUA called for the naming of an implementation group. Professor Zorn pointed out the importance of having the President and Provost jointly naming the committee. Professor Giordani stated that quality of life issues have always been important to him. Why is the University not retaining some people? There is a strong need for an implementation committee or the recommendations of the Taskforce will not go anywhere. He then asked if a SACUA committee is wanted, or does SACUA ask the President and Provost to appoint it? Professor Yeo indicated a SACUA committee would give the faculty a venue to continue to work on implementation. Professor Berent suggested that SACUA draft a charge for an implementation group. Professor Lehman suggested including a sunset clause, so that members know the length of their commitment. Professor Zorn asked if people from the ADVANCE project are included, since this is an important issue for them. Mr. Schneider offered to draft a charge for next week's meeting.

DRAFT LETTER REGARDING THE AEC RESULTS

Professor Ensminger had shared a draft of a letter to President Coleman regarding the evaluations of administrators conducted in the Fall Term, but was unable to be present for the discussion. Professor Meerkov indicated he thought the letter was a good one, but he had prepared an alternative letter addressed to the President and the Provost. SACUA should provide information in the interests of continuous improvement. Professor Zorn, speaking to the original letter, pointed out that there was no opportunity created for the President to change her mind. SACUA needs to provide a way for saving face.

Professor Lehman reported that the most striking result of the evaluations was that faculty members across campus say that the administration, at all levels, fails to consult with faculty in decision-making. Chair Berent asked if a report was being prepared giving an analysis of the

data, and Professor Lehman responded that the original motion called for a report to be made during Winter Term 2005. People will be referred to the website for detail. Chair Berent suggested that providing this report, with its comments about what was good and where there were problems, would be a powerful tool for administrators. They should be asked for feedback on improving the process.

Chair Berent suggested the discussion be continued at the next meeting. Comments regarding the two alternative letters should be sent to Mr. Schneider for compilation.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Chair Berent reported he had received some responses to his draft document on faculty governance and had rewritten parts of it. His goal is to develop a relationship with the Provost's Office for a cooperative approach to involving faculty in decision-making. He has incorporated some text from the Principles of Faculty Governance. Professor Meerkov commented that the letter was too long and suggested that the history be left out. Professor Combi suggested putting the Principles into an appendix. Chair Berent pointed out that there is confusion between the formally elected faculty governance and faculty involvement. Professor Pedraza suggested the document needs examples provided to make the criteria clear. Chair Berent asked for additional comments. He will rework the document and redistribute.

FACULTY RESEARCH ACCOUNTS POLICY

Chair Berent reminded SACUA that the Provost wants comments on the draft policy on faculty research accounts. Professor Combi asked if this policy is new or was there an earlier policy. Chair Berent asked Mr. Schneider to check on this question, and asked SACUA to provide feedback to him which he will share with the Provost.

MODIFICATION OF DUTIES SPG

Chair Berent asked for comments on the revised SPG section on modification of duties. Professor Pedraza pointed out that the revision is quite good, as it adds adoption; applies to both men and women; and it allows the leave to take place anytime in the first year. In addition, if both parents are on the faculty, both are eligible. Chair Berent asked that any comments be provided by Wednesday.

At 4:45 p.m. SACUA went into EXECUTIVE SESSION until 5:04 p.m. regarding nominations for the Honorary Degree Committee and to make appointments to the Research Policies Committee.

QUESTIONS FOR MARCH 14 VISIT OF THE PROVOST

Chair Berent asked for suggestions of topics for discussion with the Provost at the next meeting. Additional topics should be sent to Mr. Schneider.

NEW BUSINESS

Professor Meerkov asked about the process for selecting the Faculty Governance Award. The Chair indicated that nominations are currently being sought and that if he wished to nominate someone, he should do so. SACUA will select the awardee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 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.