

Minutes of March 11, 2013
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2013

Present: K. Barald, R. Holland, C. Koopmann, K. Kearfott (Chair), F. Larsen, S. Masten, S. Oey; L. Carr, T. Schneider

Absent: R. Goldman, J. Lehman (Senate Secretary), K. Staller (Vice Chair)

Guests: Michael Welsh, University Faculty Ombuds; Lester Monts, Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs

Press: Ashwini Natarajan- Michigan Daily; Jamie Iseler -University Record

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft SACUA agenda for March 11, 2013
2. Draft of SACUA minutes dated February 25, 2013, along with notations by Provost Hanlon and President Coleman
3. Classification Description of Faculty Ombuds
4. Memo from Phil Hanlon to Kim Kearfott, Chair of SACUA, regarding the Faculty Ombuds Position, dated February 20, 2013
5. Faculty Ombuds Position Selection Procedure/Timeline
6. Letter from Lisa Connolly requesting nominations to the Honorary Degree Committee for the committee beginning June 30, 2013

The meeting was convened by Chair Kearfott.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The agenda and the minutes of February 25, 2013 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There will be a Workshop on Affordability at the March 18, 2013 Senate and Senate Assembly meeting
2. The election for the 2013-2014 academic year new SACUA members will be held at the

March 18, 2013 Senate Assembly meeting

3. The election for the 2013-2014 academic year SACUA Chair and Vice-Chair will be held at the March 25, 2013 SACUA meeting.
4. Regent Diggs and Lisa Rudgers, VP for Global Communications and Strategic Initiatives will be the guests at the April 8, 2013 SACUA meeting. The meeting will start at 4:00 pm because of the Regent Diggs' schedule.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. SACUA Chair's report to the Regents is being prepared. SACUA members were asked to submit committee liaison reports in the near future.
2. Senate and Senate Assembly Workshop on March 18. The general topic will be affordability. The SACUA Chair asked for ideas for the "guiding question" which will produce brainstorming by the group. A number of ideas were given, such as "what are the most important fiscal issues facing parents and students today to achieve a quality education"?

GUEST MIKE WELSH, UNIVERSITY FACULTY OMBUDS arrived at 3:45 pm.

Mike Welsh will be retiring this year. Because SACUA as a group or through the SACUA chair will be involved in the selection of the next university faculty ombuds, a number of different questions were asked of the guests to understand the duties, personality characteristics, etc. needed by the new ombuds.

Question: What are the most important characteristics needed by a ombuds?

Answer: 1) needs to be both optimistic and pragmatic; 2) needs to be neutral (non-judgmental); and 3) needs to be a very good listener.

M. Welsh performed a survey of faculty who used the university ombuds found that only 50% said that their problem had been solved. He believes that 80% of all faculty with complaints come to his office for resolution instead of unit ombuds. Frequently he will refer faculty to other departments in order to solve their problem.

M. Welsh stated that, although there is a student ombuds and multiple faculty ombuds (university or school), there should be a staff ombuds.

When asked if he is involved in the grievance process, M. Welsh stated that once it goes to a grievance, it is out of his hands. The ombuds process is informal, while the grievance process is formal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION entered at 4:06 pm for further discussion with the university faculty ombuds and committee member selection.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ended at 5:07 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.

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.”