

Minutes of 27 March 2006
Circulated 28 March 2006
Approved 3 April 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
6048 Fleming Administration Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340
Phone: (734) 764-0303
Fax: (734) 764-6564
www.sacua.umich.edu

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

MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 27 MARCH 2006

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

Absent: none

Guests: K. Riles, B. Frier, K. Folger

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

1. Draft Agenda
2. Draft SACUA minutes of 20 March 2006
3. Draft SACUA minutes of 13 March 2006
4. Draft minutes of 13 March 2006 regarding visit of provost, annotated by provost's office
5. Electronic mail message to SACUA from B. Giordani, dated 20 March 2006, regarding proposed revisions to SPG 201.34-1
6. Standard Practice Guide 201.34-1 revised 10/1/92
7. Draft Standard Practice Guide revision 201.34-1
8. Selection Committee: Regents Award for Distinguished Public Service
9. Selection Committee Volunteers for Regents' Award for Distinguished Public Service
10. Memorandum from P. N. Courant to M. Navvab, dated 11 February 2002, regarding Librarian Awards
11. Selection Committee for University Librarian Awards plus supporting materials
12. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule, updated 22 March 2006
13. Proposed Senate Resolution concerning gender expression and gender identity

Chair Giordani convened the meeting at 2:10 P.M.; the draft agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 20 March 2006 were approved. The minutes of 13 March were corrected and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Giordani announced:

1. Newly elected SACUA members have been invited to attend SACUA meetings, and all responded that they will try to attend.
2. The Rules Committee is working on the issues before it and hopes to have a response for SACUA by April.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

[please continue to provide reports that represent what you want to say]

Student Relations-

Professor Seabury reported that the committee has produced "Expect Respect" buttons in a campaign to advocate for a respectful campus culture.

Government Relations-

Professor Younker reported (1) Updates were given about the WUOM audits and the progress of campus building projects. (2) Presentations were given that informed the committee about state and federal rules that affect stem cell research, and the works of the Business and Industrial Assistance Division (BIAD). In terms of the former, it was noted that a new website has been launched that can enhance people's understanding about stem cell research:

lifesciences.umich.edu

Development-

Professor Younker said an informative presentation was given by Tom Herbert (Assistant Vice President for Development and Director of Planned Giving) about current plans for Need Based Financial Aid and the M-Pact Program at UM. In terms of the Need Based Financial Aid plans, the commitment to meet the full financial need of in-state undergraduates was reiterated, concerns were shared, and results generating from the concerns were highlighted. It was made clear that the burden to attend college for poorer families has increased over the past decade, and that this burden would increase. In terms of the M-Pact program, the goal, purpose and challenges were articulated. Strategies were shared, and responses and suggestions were elicited from the members of the committee in response to the presentation.

Research Policies-

Professor Combi said that the committee report about interdisciplinary research is almost ready for dissemination; it includes recommendations. He added that the human subjects research report is also almost ready to distribute. He said that the committee met for about 20 minutes with the new vice president for research; the VP expressed his interest in facilitating conflict of interest and IRB issues, technology transfer and industrial research, as well as interdisciplinary research. Combi said that the RPC agenda is being cleared of issues and that the committee is ready for new charges.

Civil Liberties Board-

Professor Gull reported that the scheduled meeting had been postponed.

Weiss-McDonald Flexible Tenure-

Professor Gull reported that the committee would meet next on 10 April 2006. The packet of information assembled by SACUA has now been distributed.

AAAC-

Professor Zorn reported that the committee held a discussion about registration brackets, and that cost estimates for implementing changes have been promised within a month. The committee is continuing to seek data about student performance data relative to admissions. The administration is displaying reticence about supplying requested information. Professor Seabury asked who benefits from a stalemate over faculty requests for information. He suggested that if current policies are not working, the solution will come only through increased transparency.

Shared Governance Task Force-

Professor Meerkov reported that the task force held a productive meeting. He said a number of proposals were presented, and that Professor D'Alecy has aggregated the proposals and distributed them. He said the task force may be close to finalizing its work. Its plan is to pass the document to ventral administration for comment.

Budget Study and CESF-

Professor Smith said that the first draft of the Budget Study report is completed. The plan is to deliver the report to SACUA by mid-April. He added that both Budget Study and CESF continue to be concerned about benefits and the candor with which the administration is operating. He noted that vice-president Slottow had promised to share the administration's plan for dealing with benefits. Mr. Schneider responded that it had been received in the Senate Office and was transmitted to committee members.

Professor Smith reported that CESF had specifically asked whether any benefit changes were being contemplated and had been told explicitly there were no changes contemplated at the time. Nevertheless, within a week the administration announced suspension of Medicare B reimbursements for new retirees and a freeze on reimbursement levels for existing retirees. He noted that the executive officers did not divulge these plans despite statements made about protecting benefits of retirees.

ROLE AND TERMS OF SACUA CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Professor Younker asked whether terms of Assembly officers were optimal under current rules. Chair Giordani responded that it is a lot of work to be chair, and the job entails a steep learning curve. Professor Smith provided an account of the historical roles of chair and vice chair. Professor Gull pointed out that a previous proposal that vice-chair be also chair-elect had been considered previously by SACUA and had been voted down.

SACUA members then engaged in a discussion about the advisability of renewing the past practice of holding luncheon meetings with individual members of the Board of Regents at intervals. The idea was greeted with enthusiastic support.

VISIT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CHAIR

Professor K. Folger arrived at 3:23 P.M. She said she was in the fourth year of her service on the committee. She reported that the meetings have evolved as a series of presentations by members of the vice presidents office rather than as conversations with an

advisory function. Professor Lehman asked whether the faculty chair has a strong role in agenda setting, and whether there is, in fact, a welcomed advisory role for the faculty. Professor Folger replied that she sets the agenda with the vice president's assistant, and that she will work with her committee to further the faculty's advisory role in governance.

Professor Smith pointed out that the U-M has no faculty representative at meetings of the budget appropriations committee in Lansing. Professor Folger said there had been no discussion of the subject. Professor Giordani asked if there has been any discussion of the Michigan Roads Scholars Program; she replied that the committee had heard a presentation about it. Professor Combi asked if the committee had met with any members of the state legislature; she replied that the committee did meet with both Chris Kolb and Liz Brater. Professor Seabury asked if there had been any discussion about long term trends, for example, in spending for prisons versus higher education. Professor Folger replied that there had been some discussion, particularly about the fact that both were competing for the same pot of money.

Chair Giordani asked about emerging issues. Professor Folger replied that the MCRI referendum proposals may have an effect on admissions practices. She expressed interest in communicating information from committee meeting to the general faculty. Giordani suggested the use of regular electronic mail messages.

Professor Meerkov asked whether the Government Relations Advisory Committee could make it a goal to facilitate testimony from U-M faculty to the Higher Education Appropriations Committee. Professor Smith suggested that the committee might find it helpful to meet first with Joe Schwarz and Alma Wheeler Smith, former members of the Appropriations Committee in order to help formulate a strategy. Professor Folger replied that she would explore the issue.

The guest left the meeting at 3:45 P.M.

SACUA CHAIR/VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS

Professor Seabury inquired about the role of chair and vice-chair, and also the mechanics of elections. Responsibilities and perquisites of the offices were explained. SACUA members also expressed interest in starting a program of rotating non-officer SACUA members through private meetings with executive officers. They agreed to develop the idea as an Action Item for a future meeting.

Chair Election- Blank paper ballots for election of SACUA chair were distributed to the nine active members. Secretary Lehman and Mr. Schneider collected the secret ballots and served as tellers. The tellers reported that Professor Smith had been elected SACUA chair for 2006-2007 unanimously.

Vice-Chair Election- Blank paper ballots for election of SACUA vice-chair were distributed to the nine active members. Secretary Lehman and Mr. Schneider collected the secret ballots and served as tellers. The tellers reported that Professor Giordani had been elected SACUA vice-chair for 2006-2007 by majority vote.

PROPOSED REVISION OF STANDARD PRACTICE GUIDE 201.34-1

Chair Giordani called attention to distributed items documents 5, 6, and 7. He said the topic will be on next week's agenda. Members recommended a number of guests that could be invited to illuminate the discussion.

IT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Professor Smith reported that he has received a faculty-inspired proposal to construct a special issues Senate Assembly committee to deal with problems in instructional technology. Current practice by associate provost Hilton has been to use three committees: IT security, privacy oversight, and instructional plus lab research IT. He noted that SACUA needs to appoint a member to the Privacy Oversight Committee as well as a replacement member to instructional IT. He asked that the topic be placed on a future agenda.

GENDER IDENTITY

Professor Seabury distributed item 13 and asked that it be considered at the next meeting.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Grievance Review Boards-

Chair Giordani reported that he has contacted past chairs of Grievance Review Boards (GRBs), and that all expressed support for a proposal that there be an additional representative of faculty governance in the room when initial discussions are held with administration representatives to determine whether a faculty claim is grievable or not. He suggested that the central ombuds might be a proper individual to fit that role. Professor Smith asked whether doing so would place the ombuds in a compromised position. Professor Frier stated that from his perspective as LSA ombuds, the ombuds role is in conflict with that of the GRB. Professor Giordani suggested that SACUA consider whether the faculty grievance monitor would be appropriate instead.

University Seal-

Professor Meerkov reported that the College of Engineering faculty have received a memorandum from their acting dean informing them that the University seal has been abandoned and that the Block M is replacing it. He asked if faculty was involved in the decision. Discussion revolved around the motivations for marketing and branding, and about general dissatisfaction with the step.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:50 P.M. for committee nominations for Distinguished Public Service and Librarian Awards selection committees. The meeting re-entered open session at 5:00 P.M.

ACTION OF SACUA 032706-1 Professor Smith moved that SACUA authorize a Librarian Awards Committee comprised of the current chairs of AAAC, SACUA, and the associate provost to whom Librarians report, as well as the immediately previous recipients of each award (Giordani seconded).

The action was approved by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION The meeting entered executive session at 5:02 P.M. to discuss staffing issues in the Faculty Senate Office.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 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.