

Minutes of 31 March 2008  
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs**  
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**MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 31 MARCH 2008**

**Present:** Fraser, Friedman, Potter, Riles, Smith (chair), Stark, Thouless; Lehman; Carr, Schneider

**Absent:** Frier

**Guests:** M.S. Coleman (University President), E. Hrabec (president's office), K. Brown (*University Record*), D. Gershman (*Ann Arbor News*), J. Lee (AAUP), *Michigan Daily* reporter

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 24 March 2008
3. Draft Regents Communication for April 2008
4. Electronic mail message to T. Sullivan from J. Lehman, dated 26 March 2008, regarding advisory action of AAAC
5. Electronic mail message to AAAC from J. Lehman, dated 26 March 2008, regarding AAAC actions
6. Bylaws of the University of Michigan Board of Regents, updated September 2007

Chair Smith convened the meeting at 3:00 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of 24 March 2008 were approved.

**VISIT OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**

The president and E. Hrabec arrived at 3:02. The president reported that she would be traveling to Washington, D.C. later in the week as part of a national group that is seeking to convince Congress and business leaders to expand federal research funding for climate change and other initiatives. The meeting will be followed by a forum at the National Press Club. She invited SACUA members to transmit to her any news they could share documenting the adverse effects that declining funding was having in their units.

**Africa-**

The president reviewed her recent trip to Africa. She pointed out that over 120 faculty members at the U-M are presently working in Africa. She cited work specifically in Ghana and South Africa. She introduced the prospect of collaborations with African universities involving “sandwich” programs, whereby African graduate students enroll at U.S. universities for periods of time in the middle of their degree programs, and then return to their home countries to complete their degrees and, hopefully, to enter careers there.

**United Arab Emirates-**

The president encouraged faculty to visit the region if the opportunity arises, because the development activity is staggering. She cited buildings, transportation, and even creation of artificial islands. She said that substantial effort was being devoted to solar energy development.

**State Funding-**

The president said that both the State House and the State Senate have passed budgets that include three percent increases for the University of Michigan. The same increase would apply to all public universities.

**Graduation-**

The president said that graduation will be held on the Central Campus diag, and that preparations will begin two weeks before graduation. Trees will be trimmed, stands will be erected, and artificial flooring will be installed. The stadium will be completed in time for graduation ceremonies next year.

**Inglis House Dinner-**

The president said that she will be hosting SACUA members and their guests for dinner on 5 May 2008.

The guests left the meeting at 3:33 P.M.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Smith announced:

1. The annual meeting of the State Conference of the AAUP will occur on 12 April 2008 at the Eagle Crest Conference Center, Ypsilanti. The topic is corporatization of the university.
2. Christine Gerdes from Human Resources will replace D. Sharphorn in the Office of General Counsel as of 1 May. She will be invited to visit with SACUA next week.
3. Professors Smith and Potter met with President Coleman last week. The topic of the meeting was faculty oversight and regulation of athletics at the U-M.
4. The chair met this morning with Gary Krenz to discuss a modification to the MOU regarding the Academic Freedom Visiting Professor. Under the revised MOU, the visiting professor would be selected by the AFL selection committee with consultation with a representative nominated by the provost's office.
5. The Grievance Taskforce named by the provost has been meeting, and expects to complete its report articulating principles by the end of April.

6. SACUA representatives met with Phil Hanlon regarding acquisition of total compensation data, and the data may be forthcoming soon.
7. All SACUA minutes from 1965 to present have been digitized and archived as part of the Deep Blue project.
8. The chair has drafted the April communication to the Board of Regents (distributed item 3) and invites comments from SACUA members.
9. On Friday there will likely be a press release announcing the search committee for Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs.

## LIAISON REPORTS

### **General Counsel Advisory-**

The Michigan Supreme Court is hearing a pleading from the American Federation of Teachers to have the U-M release addresses and phone numbers of faculty and staff to the AFT. The committee also discussed the Stadium consent decree, specifically the list of agreements reached by the parties. The cost of the additional renovations is estimated to be \$2 million. Pledges have been received for approximately 31 of the 82 planned skyboxes. Finally, the Office of General Counsel is planning to conduct a review of its activities.

### **Student Relations Advisory-**

Professor Potter said that he has circulated minutes from a recent meeting of the committee. The committee has produced a report based on exit surveys of graduating students, and the report will likely be circulated soon. He said that data are available over a period of 10 years.

**CESF-** Dr. Fraser reported that bids are being received from dental service providers and that he has asked Laurita Thomas to view them for CESF.

## SACUA OFFICER ELECTIONS

Chair Smith described the duties of the chair and vice-chair, including release time or salary differential as well as time commitment.

### **Election of chair-**

Blank paper ballots were distributed to all members present. Professor Lehman and Mr. Schneider acted as tellers. The tellers reported that Professor Potter had been elected chair by a 4 to 3 majority vote.

### **Election of vice-chair-**

Blank paper ballots were distributed to all members present. Professor Lehman and Mr. Schneider acted as tellers. The tellers reported that Professor Thouless had been elected vice-chair by a 6 to 1 majority vote.

## **AAAC REQUEST TO SACUA-**

Professor Riles reported that the AAAC met on 26 March 2008, and passed by unanimous vote a request for SACUA action. AAAC requests that SACUA conduct a survey seeking to learn (1) from deans how their units presently use anonymous comments submitted by students as part of teaching evaluations, and (2) what faculty regard to be the appropriate use of these comments.

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**ACTION OF SACUA 033108-1**

Professor Riles moved that SACUA endorses Advisory Action of AAAC 032608-1 (multiple seconds):

Vote on the Active Motion

The action was approved by unanimous vote.

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**ACTION OF SACUA 033108-2**

Professor Stark moved that SACUA accepts AAAC's request in its Action Item 032608-2, and charges AAAC and the AEC with conferring to develop appropriate survey instruments for incorporation in the Fall 2008 Administration Evaluation survey.

The action was approved by unanimous vote.

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**SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

SACUA members postponed consideration of this topic until the new year-class of SACUA is constituted on 1 May 2008.

**REVIEW OF RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL**

This item was postponed.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was no additional business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting entered executive session at 5:00 P.M. to discuss developments in the president's initiative to hire 100 interdisciplinary faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 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.

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