

Minutes of 14 April 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 14 APRIL 2008**

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

**Absent:** Riles, Stark

**Guests:** S. Forrest (vice president research), S. Ceccio (associate VP for research), J. Lee (AAUP), K. Brown (*University Record*), R. Frost (SACUA member-elect), C. Gerdes (OGC)

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 7 April 2008
3. Copy of [The Distinguished Faculty Governance Award](#) website
4. Electronic mail from Phil Hanlon to Rich Friedman, dated 10 April 2008, re: SACUA inquiry
5. Press Release from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) dated 8 April 2008
6. Resolution of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee dated 9 April 2008 regarding priority class registration
7. Draft agenda for Senate Assembly 21 April 2008
8. Electronic mail from Rich Friedman to SACUA dated 13 April 2008 re: Draft statement on Principles document
9. [The Bylaws of the University of Michigan Board of Regents, updated September 2007](#)
10. Presentation of "Proposed Changes to the Research Track" by the OVPR
11. Electronic mail from Bob Fraser to SACUA regarding the draft statement on the Principles document
12. Electronic mail from Tad Smith to Bruce Frier and Keith Riles dated 14 April 2008 re: resolution

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of 7 April 2008 were approved.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 3:01 P.M. at the request of the vice president for research. Discussion topics included perceived ambiguities or inconsistencies with the Research Scientist and Research Professor tracks across units, and potential resolutions for the situation. Differentiation criteria involved scholarly reputation, independence, non-didactic teaching, and institutional service. Incompletely resolved issues included time in rank limits, criteria for movement between tracks, and institutional commitment to professional development of research faculty. The meeting resumed open session at 3:47 P.M.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. The *Principles* document is at the printer, and will be ready for distribution on Monday.
2. Nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Governance Award will occur at the SACUA meeting of 28 April 2008.
3. Professors Potter and Smith met with the provost last Thursday. Discussion topics included (1) liaison between offices of provost and president and faculty governance, (2) the proposal for continuing registration from the Rackham Graduate School, and (3) recreational sports.

## VISIT OF ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

C. Gerdes, who will assume the position of assistant general counsel on 1 May, joined the meeting at 4 P.M. She explained that she had joined Academic Human Resources at the U-M in 2006. She had previously worked as a labor-relations attorney, management side, at a local law firm, and before that, she had worked at EMU. Professor Friedman asked Gerdes to define her job as she understood it. GC Gerdes replied that she works for the president and the Regents, and that she works closely with the provost. She said that faculty members sometimes approach her office for advice regarding external charges or threats. Professor Friedman suggested that there should perhaps be an office that provides legal advice to faculty. Chair Smith pointed out that Gerdes' predecessor had publicly declared that in any dispute between the administration and a faculty member, the General Counsel would always represent the administration. The guest left the meeting at 4:18 P.M.

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE STUDY

Chair Smith reported that the APC of the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA) has convened to discuss academic advising for student athletes. The APC has decided to conduct a detailed study of the matter. It is anticipated that the APC will have full and unfettered access to all data regarding course selection and grades. The student athlete study group will be compared with a reference or control non-student athlete population that is yet to be constructed.

## PRIORITY REGISTRATION

Professor Lehman presented AAAC action item 040908-2 regarding priority registration for student athletes. Professor Frier and Friedman suggested that even though the MSA has endorsed priority registration, the action might be viewed as arbitrary and might open the door for additional petitions. Professor Lehman replied that the AAAC had considered those

arguments, but opted to endorse the more restrictive definitions offered by MSA, partly because there was a faculty committee, the APC, that could act as a logical oversight body.

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**ACTION OF SACUA 041408-1**

Professor Potter moved that SACUA endorses AAAC Action Item 040908-2 (Fraser seconded).

Vote on the active motion:

Number Approving- 3

Number Opposing- 0

Number Abstaining- 2

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**ACTION OF SACUA 041408-2**

Professor Friedman moved that irrespective of the on-going controversy about the counseling of athletes, SACUA strongly affirms Prof. John W. Hagen's academic freedom to teach his courses and to pursue his own research (Frier seconded).

Vote on the active motion:

Number Approving- 5

Number Opposing- 0

Number Abstaining- 0

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**LIAISON REPORTS**

**Research Policies-**

Professor Frost reported that the RPC has been conducting an on-line survey of research faculty. He said the results are indicating that research faculty do not generally favor an "up or out" time in rank policy. In addition, there are recurring problems expressed about bridge funding. The associate VPR pointed out that "up or out" is not necessarily an intended policy; he said that research faculty would have the option of entering staff ranks. The VPR pointed out that bridge funding from the OVPR has exceeded \$600K so far this year, and that it is straining the resources of the office owing to funding difficulties at the NIH in particular. Involvement in unit governance is also idiosyncratic across the campus. Professor Frost said that the RPC is developing a report that will be transmitted to SACUA.

**SENATE ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

SACUA reviewed and approved a draft agenda for the April Senate Assembly meeting.

**ADMINISTRATION-FACULTY CONSULTATION ON NON-ACADEMIC ISSUES**

Chair Smith appointed SACUA members Friedman and Fraser to a subcommittee charged with drafting a suitable resolution for the Senate Assembly.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was no additional business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 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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