

Minutes of April 30, 2012
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF APRIL 30, 2012

Present: Barald (Chair), Koopmann, Rothman, Staller, Ziff (for Goldman); Carr, Mouton, Schneider

Absent: Kearfott, Larsen, Lehman, Lusmann

Guests: Rex Holland (SACUA Member-elect), Scott Masten (SACUA Member-elect), and Janet Weiss (Dean of Rackham and Vice-Provost of Academic Affairs)

Press: University Record (Jamie Iseler)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of the April 23, 2012 meeting
3. Distinguished Faculty Governance Award Nominations list for 2012
4. Library Council Nominees list
5. Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics Nominees list
6. Residency Appeal Committee list
7. Letter from the COIA Steering Committee to the COIA membership dated February 22, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Denise Ilitch, Chair of the Board of Regents, will be the guest at the next meeting of SACUA on May 7, 2012.
2. There will be a dinner hosted by President Coleman on May 14, 2012 at the Inglis House.

ARRIVAL OF GUEST – JANET WEISS

Janet Weiss arrived at 3:20.

The topic of discussion was the reinstatement of the continuous enrollment fee. The discussion began during the last meeting with Provost Hanlon.

The continuous enrollment fee (CEF) applies if a graduate student discontinues and then re-enters the same program after a period of time. If a student applies to a different program, the CEF does not apply. There are four reasons that a student may take a leave of absence without incurring a CEF. They are: 1) medical; 2) child or family care; 3) military service (in U.S. or other country) and 4) personal reasons (limited to one semester). Rackham grants the leave with the program faculty's approval.

The reinstatement of the CEF was decided by the Rackham Executive Board in order to encourage students to come back to graduate school sooner rather than later. The CEF is 1/4 of a candidacy fee and is split 50/50 by the student and the Program. It is meant to deter casual disenrollment. According to Dean Weiss, it needed to be noticeable, but not a detriment to the student's returning to graduate school. There are financial hardship funds available through Rackham to aid the returning student and/or the program.

There were 25-30 students that discontinued at the end of Fall 2011 and who were out of registration. Emails were sent multiple times during the Fall term reminding them to register. After seven weeks' of reminders, the mentor was involved. During the Winter 2012, 15 students discontinued.

Of the 26 applications made to return to the graduate school in the last one and one-half years, 21 decisions were made of which 15 students were reinstated and 6 were not. Five students withdrew their applications. The discontinued students did not come predominately from any one particular school/college or program. The time out of graduate school varied from one semester to five years. Some of the students discontinued school under undesirable conditions – either no financial support or no support from mentor. Others discontinued because they wanted to work to make money or wanted to try something different. Of the students who discontinued, one-third were working. There is no evidence that under-represented students leave more frequently.

Last year all students who discontinued and were willing to be interviewed were interviewed. Rackham wanted to make sure that students were not pushed out by either the program or the mentor. Rackham does have a dispute board which is comprised half and half of students and faculty. No disputes were filed by discontinuing students.

Rackham will continue to monitor the situation relative to the CEF. Dean Weiss is willing to ask the Rackham Board to consider changes in the policy depending on the outcome.

Overall the number of students is growing slightly in Rackham. Nearly all of our PhD students are fully funded; humanities students were just as likely to be fully funded as science and engineering students during the 10-11 academic year. Rackham has been trying to improve the percentage of PhD students who complete their degrees. Over the past five years, the University overall has improved the doctoral completion rate from 65% to 71%, and Dean Weiss anticipates that by next year the rate will increase to 73%. This rate is the percentage of all students who begin doctoral study who end up earning a PhD, no matter how long it takes the student to complete.

COIA

Charlie Koopman gave a report on the recent COIA Steering Committee Policy Recommendations received recently.

Recommendation #1: Although the status of the collegiate model of amateur sports should be maintained, C. Koopman stated that many non-revenue university sports are supported by revenue-producing sports like football and basketball.

Recommendation #2: COIA will hold its position in favor of the collegiate model and call for changes to reverse the growth of commercialism in college sports that has prompted pay-for-play proposals. C. Koopman stated that we should support this recommendation, but that many students are having financial difficulties relative to school expenses. He stated that there should be a stipend for recommended books, not just required books, provided to the athletes.

Recommendation #3: COIA should endorse focused exploration of Congressional approval for an antitrust exemption concerning college sports. Michigan should support this recommendation.

Recommendation #4: COIA should maintain its policy of cooperation with the NCAA and support for the NCAA's regulatory mission, while continuing to analyze and, where appropriate, criticize NCAA policies or implementation that prioritize the interests of sports programs over the academic mission of US higher education. Michigan should support this recommendation.

Recommendation #5: COIA should advocate for policies that will maintain the membership of all current FBS football conferences within the NCAA, consistent with the collegiate model of college sports. C. Koopman stated that motivated by the press, colleges that make money and fans that support those colleges, there is pressure to have playoffs rather than bowl games. To avoid professionalism, colleges should maintain the bowl game system. R. Holland recommended that the top four colleges have playoffs and not be bowl eligible. Michigan should express concern that any playoff should have minimal impact on academics.

SACUA Action 04302012-1

SACUA will support the five COIA recommendations in principle.

Based on the action above, there will be an email sent to COIA supporting these recommendations. There will be comments in the letter, which will suggest that COIA expand #2 to include an academic stipend for books, consider R. Holland's suggestion in #5, that title finalists be excluded from bowl game participation, and that they consider the model in which the athletic director does not chair his/her own advisory committee.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 23, 2012 were approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SACUA entered executive session at 4:41 pm to discuss committee member choices and award recipients.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 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 policies 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.”