

Minutes of 22 May 2006
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 22 MAY 2006

Present: Combi, Frier, Giordani, MacAdam, Meerkov, Riles, Seabury, Smith (chair), Younker; Lehman, Schneider

Absent: none

Guests: S. Masten, J. Lee

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

1. Draft Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 15 May 2006
3. Electronic mail message from K. Riles to T. Schneider, dated 16 May 2006, regarding syllabus language
4. Memorandum to C. B. Smith from M. S. Coleman, dated 12 May 2006, regarding Chief Health Officer Position
5. Draft Announcement regarding position opening in Faculty Senate Office
6. Electronic mail message from P. R. Fossum to C. B. Smith, dated 22 May 2006, regarding UM-D Benefits Committee resolution endorsements
7. University of Michigan-Dearborn Resolution as Modified by the UM-D Faculty Senate, undated
8. [Memorandum to S. Forrest, T. Sullivan and C.B. Smith from M. N. Haan, dated 6 May 2006, regarding recommendations for interdisciplinary research enhancement](#)
9. [Memorandum to S. Forrest and C.B. Smith from M. N. Haan, dated 6 May 2006, regarding review and recommendations on burden of human subjects research regulation](#)
10. Report of the Task Force to review proposed revisions to rules governing the Senate Assembly, dated 30 April 2006
11. Report of the Rules Committee on Extension of Membership in the University Senate to Clinical Faculty and Assistant Librarians, dated 7 May 2006
12. [Assessing the Necessity of Extending the Maximum Probationary Period, by J. Lee and C. B. Smith](#), draft dated 22 May 2006
13. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule, updated 19 May 2006

Chair Smith convened the meeting at 2:30 P.M.; the draft agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 15 May 2006 were corrected and approved pending comments from the provost regarding the account of his visit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Chair Smith announced:

1. Distributed item 4 is a new job posting from the office of the president seeking a Chief Health Officer.
2. Distributed item 5 is a proposed Administrator Coordinator/Project Coordinator position description for the Faculty Senate Office.

ACTION OF SACUA 052206-1

Professor Frier moved the SACUA approves the proposed position description for Administrator Coordinator/Project Coordinator for the Faculty Senate Office and commends it to the chair for immediate posting (MacAdam seconded).

The action was approved by unanimous vote.

3. The UM-Dearborn Joint Benefits Committee (distributed item 6) has drafted a resolution asking the Regents to rescind a decision to free or suspend Medicare Part B reimbursement for retirees. Both staff and faculty governance groups at UM-Dearborn have endorsed the resolution (distributed item 7).
4. The Regents approved renovation of Michigan Stadium last Friday. Their action has been greeted with widespread disapproval of the process that was followed. Specifically there has been complaint that the item went to the Regents for action without prior public notice. Professor Riles remarked that it was disturbing that elected faculty governance was not consulted before the action was taken.
5. The "Chron File" log of correspondence received in Faculty Senate Office is available for review at this meeting.
6. Two reports from Professor Haan, chair of the Research Policies Committee, have been distributed (items 8 and 9). No action items were proposed. Professor Haan will be invited to a future meeting to formulate a plan for next steps.
7. The committee charged with librarian awards received no nominations for the senior librarian award but did receive several for the junior librarian award. The committee met, selected a recipient, and passed its recommendation to the provost.
8. The Pharmacy Benefits Oversight Committee met last week and reclassified some drug categories. The committee also discussed finances. CareMark still owes considerable rebate payments to the U-M. The new prescription drug system seems to be working well.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

This item was postponed.

VISIT OF RULES COMMITTEE CHAIR S. MASTEN

The guest joined the meeting at 3:00 P.M. He called attention to distributed items 10 and 11 citing them as reports that considered reconciliation of rules, and potential representation of clinical faculty in the University Senate.

Task Force Report- Professor Masten pointed out that proposals were divided into three parts (1) changes that were "housekeeping" in nature and that were unlikely to be controversial; (2) changes that involve policy and which fall entirely within the purview of the Assembly or Senate; and (3) changes that would require amendments to Regents' Bylaws. He said that pages 1 to 6 of the proposals were category 1, pages 7 to 9 were category 2 and pages 10 to 14 were category 3.

Several members requested that the recommendations of the report be reformulated to separate and consolidate policy issues in a way more conducive to consideration and debate.

Rules Committee Report- Professor Masten reviewed the arguments considered by the Rules Committee in formulating its report. SACUA members discussed the different models for clinical faculty adopted by various units within the university. Members engaged in philosophical considerations of extending Senate membership to people whose academic freedom rights are not protected, and resulting implications to the nature of faculty governance.

ACTION OF SACUA 052206-2 Professor G iordan i m oved that SA C U A accepts the report of the Rules Committee and transmits it to the Tenure Committee for their consideration and comment (Riles seconded).

Vote on the Active Motion:

Number approving- 6	Number disapproving- 0	Number abstaining- 1
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The guest left the meeting at 4:10 P.M.

VISIT OF J. LEE

Mr. Lee joined the meeting at 4:11 P.M. Mr. Lee called attention to distributed item 12, which he identified as a revised draft of an item reviewed by SACUA the previous week. Members discussed statistical summaries of actual time in probation in comparison to arguments advanced by representatives of the administration. Mr. Lee emphasized that the data had been supplied by University Human Resources. Chair Smith noted that the administration has declared the data to be the best quality possible.

SACUA members made recommendations for clarification and presentation format. Members discussed potential guests who might be invited to future meetings to discuss their opinions about possible changes to the tenure probationary period, and in response to SACUA's investigation and report.

ACTION OF SACUA 052206-3 Professor M eerkov i m oved that SA C U A endo rses the report "Assessing the Necessity of Extending the Maximum Probationary Period" and directs that it be

transmitted to the provost, to the Flexible Tenure Committee, and to the Senate Assembly Tenure Committee (Frier seconded).

The action was approved by unanimous vote

SACUA members discussed further steps, including Action Items for the Senate Assembly in September and October, and potential communications to the Board of Regents.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chair Smith reported that the Faculty Senate Office has been receiving numerous complaints about the Benefits Office decision to suspend Blue Cross Blue Shield health benefits for retirees, and that the item warrants a place on a future meeting agenda.

Chair Smith reported that a professor from Aerospace Engineering who had been a complainant in a Faculty Hearing Committee action now reports being assigned a punitive teaching assignment, and is threatened with dismissal if he does not accept the assignment.

SACUA member Younker announced that this would be her final meeting as a member of SACUA, because she was resigning to accept an administrative appointment within the School of Music.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 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.