

Minutes of 22 August 2005
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 22 AUGUST 2004

PRESENT: B. Giordani (Chair), R. Gull (Vice Chair), S. Meerkov, B. Seabury, C. Smith, J. Zorn; J. Leu, T. Schneider

ABSENT: M. Combi, J. Lehman, B. A. Younker

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of June 27, 2005, July 11, 2005, and draft 2005 Retreat Summary
3. Email between Academic Progress Committee (APC) Chair Charlie Koopmann, SACUA Chair Bruno Giordani, and Associate Provost Phil Hanlon regarding proposed Regents' Bylaw changes regarding APC and the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA) dated August 17 and 18 in 2005
4. Email from College of Pharmacy Dean Frank Ascione to Chair Giordani regarding expanding University Senate membership status to clinical faculty
5. *Report of the Committee to Consider a More Flexible Tenure Probationary Period* dated June 30, 2005
6. Memo from Chair Giordani to SACUA dated August 21, 2005 regarding a review and timeline of changes to the proposed SPG 201.65-1
7. Email from Senate Secretary and SACUA member John Lehman to SACUA dated June 7, 2005 proposing a draft model COI/COC policy for unit adoption
8. Memo from Chair Giordani to SACUA dated August 21, 2005 providing a modified draft model COI/COC policy for unit adoption
9. Letter from the University Freedom of Information Office to Professor Wayne Stark and SACUA member Semyon Meerkov regarding an answer to a FOIA request concerning the most recent College of Engineering executive committee election results
10. July 18, 2005 SACUA Retreat Summary
11. SACUA Retreat agenda dated July 18, 2005
12. 2005-06 Proposed Task Forces and Charges
13. Memo from Glenna Schweitzer to Chair Giordani dated July 28, 2005 conveying the most recent *Report on Salary and Wage Payments for Clinical Instructional Staff*
14. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule updated on August 22, 2005

1. Chair Bruno Giordani called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Consideration of the minutes of June 27, 2005 was postponed. The minutes of July 11, 2005 were approved unanimously and without change.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Giordani reminded SACUA that this year's Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) conference for faculty governance leaders would be held at Michigan State University. Because East Lansing is so close, he said this would probably permit as many SACUA members to attend as desire to go. Chair Giordani also announced that Senior Vice Provost Lester Monts was not available to attend the August 22 SACUA meeting but is scheduled for August 29. SACUA agreed that if the Committee faculty chair is unavailable for that date, then Senior Vice Provost Monts' visit would be postponed, again.

ABIA/APC REGENTS' BYLAW PROPOSED CHANGES

Chair Giordani brought SACUA's attention to distributed item #3 concerning proposed changes to the Regents' Bylaws affecting the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA) and the Academic Performance Committee (APC). He stated that APC Chair Charlie Koopmann's concern relates to the fact that the new Bylaw would make the APC's decision on athletic eligibility merely advisory to the Provost while, currently, the APC members feel that their decisions are determinative on such issues. Chair Giordani also pointed out that Chair Koopmann has noted that the APC should continue to review practice and competition schedules and this needs to be made clear. Chair Giordani said that the administration's viewpoint seems to be that, without reporting to the Provost, the APC's determinative decision is unenforceable. Chair Giordani said that there is apparently less consensus among the parties affected by the Bylaws than SACUA believed in May and, therefore, SACUA may wish to ask the administration to postpone enactment of the Bylaw changes until there is further discussion and resolution between the Provost's Office and the APC. Chair Giordani noted that Associate Provost Hanlon has proposed to Chair Koopmann and the APC that a memo of understanding be developed between the APC and the Provost's office to clarify the role of the APC.

ACTION OF SACUA 082205-1

Professor Smith moved, with multiple seconds, that, "SACUA requests the administration to postpone action by the Regents on the proposed ABIA/APC Bylaw changes until there is an opportunity for full discussion through the APC and Senate Assembly."
The motion passed unanimously.

SENATE MEMBERSHIP (RESEARCH AND CLINICAL FACULTY)

Chair Giordani directed SACUA's attention to distributed item #4 in which College of Pharmacy Dean Frank Ascione's email requests SACUA to 1) approve the University Senate eligibility status of a potential candidate for Senate Assembly and 2) consider expanding University Senate status to clinical faculty. By obvious unanimous consent, SACUA approved the Senate status of the proposed faculty member. SACUA also stated that the issue of expanding University Senate status to clinical faculty would be a priority topic this year.

FLEXIBLE TENURE REPORT

Chair Giordani stated that current plans are to discuss distributed item #5, *Report of the Committee to Consider a More Flexible Tenure Probationary Period*, at the November Senate Assembly meeting. He said SACUA might also decide to include Senate Assembly's Tenure Committee and, possibly, AAAC in the discussion as well. Chair Giordani invited SACUA members to suggest ways for faculty governance to consider the report. Professor Zorn said that, although he supports the idea of flexibility generally, he is concerned that too much accommodation with the tenure clock might, in the long term, dilute the strength of the faculty. Professor Smith said that he shares some of Professor Zorn's concerns and, in addition as a general rule, increasing the time of the tenure clock is a disservice to junior faculty rather than a service. He said, because tenure is the cornerstone of academic freedom, delaying the tenure decision hurts both the University and the faculty member. Other issues were also discussed, including the potential difficulties of granting tenure to part-time faculty based on an extended clock adjusted for their part-time status and concerns that should be raised about having potentially divergent tenure rules in different University schools and units. Chair Giordani asked if the report should be sent to the AAUP for comment. Professor Smith agreed that the report should be sent to the national office of the AAUP. Chair Giordani agreed to do so.

As an addendum to the announcements section, Chair Giordani stated that the issue raised this summer by email concerning the School of Art and Design would be addressed at a later meeting after he is able to talk to a faculty member from the Art School.

SUMMER RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

Chair Giordani brought SACUA's attention to distributed items #6, SACUA's requested review and timeline of changes made to SPG 201.65-1. He also brought SACUA's attention to distributed items # 7 and #8. He said #7 is the model unit COI/COC policy drafted by Professor Lehman earlier and #8 is a modified version of #7. Chair Giordani asked SACUA to review the documents and said this would be a major topic for the next SACUA meeting.

Chair Giordani reviewed distributed item #12, the 2005-06 Proposed Task Forces and Charges, and asked SACUA to begin the process of creating task forces as well as charging the committees concerning the priority issues for this year.

1. Faculty Dispute Resolution – Chair Giordani said that there had been several discussions with Provost Paul Courant about this topic and that the Provost supported the idea of SACUA undertaking this important issue. Chair Giordani felt that the Provost favored the creation of a joint faculty/administration task force for this purpose. Chair Giordani felt that a Provost appointed administration member from the Provost's Office, from Academic Human Resources, and from the General Counsel's Office along with three SACUA appointed faculty members would constitute an appropriate task force membership, along with Ombuds Metzger.
2. Shared Governance – Chair Giordani said that President Coleman had indicated that updating the current "blue book" *Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional & Academic Unit Governance* by incorporating the *Criteria Based Approach to Shared University Governance* document might be more productive than redrafting an entirely new principles document. SACUA agreed to charge AAAC with the tasks to review

the criteria based proposal and the current principles document and to report to SACUA by December with its findings and recommendations.

3. Student Course Evaluations – Professor Gull said there are two separate issues pertaining to the student course evaluation issue so the two issues could be split between AAAC and the Student Relations Advisory Committee. The first issue is the mechanics of the evaluation and the other issue is the use of the evaluations. Professor Zorn stated that a second issue is the intellectual content of the evaluation questions. Professor Smith said that a working group might be formed from volunteers from those two committees and elsewhere. SACUA agreed that the working group would be asked to provide its report by December.
4. Unit Governance – Professor Meerkov provided SACUA with distributed item #9 portraying the results of the most recent College of Engineering executive committee election results. Professor Meerkov said this document shows the highest vote getter in the election was not selected by the Provost to serve on the College’s executive committee. Professor Meerkov said that President Coleman had explained to SACUA at an earlier meeting that this is a rare occurrence and generally done for diversity purposes. Professor Meerkov stated that, in this case, there is no diversity issue between the highest vote getter and the second highest vote getter. It was agreed to create and charge a task force at the next SACUA meeting to address this issue and to request the task force to report to SACUA by December. SACUA also agreed there could be an open invitation to Senate Assembly members to join this group.
5. Clinical Faculty as Members of the University Senate – It was agreed to send the issue of expanding the University Senate membership to include clinical faculty to the Tenure Committee, AAAC and the Rules Committee for a recommendation by December on how to proceed. Other important issues were recognized, such as 1) the expanding role of clinical track faculty in the medical school who now have a clear role in teaching, research, and administration, 2) the significant change in faculty distribution that inclusion of clinical track faculty might cause in the Senate Assembly and SACUA, and 3) the fact that this large group of individuals feels quite disfranchised and without a voice in governance. Although unionized under the Lecturer Employee Organization (LEO), inclusion of lecturers as well was deemed a discussion point.
6. Merit Based Scholarship – It was agreed to ask the Financial Affairs Committee to consider the topic of academic standards to maintain scholarships.
7. Faculty Quality of Life – It was confirmed that CESF and the Budget Study Committee would continue addressing certain aspects of the faculty quality of life topic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SACUA entered into Executive Session a 3:50 to discuss memberships on various committees and the creation of a task force to review the recent Rules Committee proposed changes to the Regents’ Bylaws and the Senate Rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Schneider
SACUA Staff

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.