

Minutes of 16 September 2013 SACUA
Circulated 17 September 2013
Approved 30 September 2013

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
6048 Fleming Administration Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340
Phone: (734) 764-0303
Fax: (734) 764-6564
www.sacua.umich.edu

Present: Holland, Koopmann, Larsen, Masten, Mondro, Olsen, Staller (chair); Lehman; Schneider

Absent: Oey, Ziff

Guests: none

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft agenda.
2. Draft minutes of the 9 September 2013 SACUA meeting.
3. Draft Senate Assembly agenda.
4. Senate Assembly Meeting: Identifying and Prioritizing, dated 12 September 2013.
5. Draft Biannual Faculty Governance Update to the Faculty Assembly, dated 12 September 2013.
6. Committee liaison affiliations for members of SACUA, undated.

Chair Staller convened the meeting at 3:15. The proposed agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 9 September 2013 were corrected and approved.

Announcements-

1. The Academic Freedom Lecture will be presented Wednesday, 23 October 2013 at 4 P.M. in the Honigman Auditorium of the Law School.
2. The Senate Assembly will meet on 23 September.
3. The chair and vice-chair met with the president on 11 September. Discussion topics included the Ross gift, which the president said was a personal decision by the donor to continue his gifts to the Business School and to the athletics program. Much of the athletics gift will be directed to Olympics sports that otherwise are underfunded. The top priority of the Capital Campaign is financial aid, followed by individual program support, and then large funding issues. Regarding changes in policy at sporting events, the president said that the Department of Homeland Security dictated water bottle and carrying bags policy. She also discussed a need for additional discussion about academic freedom issues, and she expressed concern about student alcohol abuse.

4. The provost will visit with SACUA on 30 September.
5. The president will visit with SACUA on 7 October.
6. Committee Day is scheduled for 3 October at noon.

FORMAT FOR SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Chair called attention to distributed item 3. She said that at SACUA's request she will provide a brief introduction about the state of central faculty governance at the start of the meeting, after consideration of minutes and approval of committee memberships. SACUA members would then introduce themselves and discuss emerging issues. She sought advice from SACUA about discussing the presidential search and possibly developing questions for candidates.

SACUA reviewed a list of possible agenda topics for presentation to Senate Assembly (distributed item 4) and considered selecting a subset for the Assembly meeting. Chair Staller offered to prepare brief written introductions for each topic, and to include a paper ballot for priority setting. Professors Koopmann and Masten expressed concern about time constraints becoming a limitation to the ability to convey enough information needed for deliberate decision-making. Professor Masten suggested that the issues be aggregated under heading such as 'due process,' etc.

Professor Koopmann urged that all formal resolutions be moved near the beginning of the agenda to allow ample time for debate. Several members suggested combining resolutions about benefits and transparency into a single resolution. As a committee of the whole SACUA worked to craft such a resolution. Professor Masten offered the following language for consideration:

Attracting and retaining the best faculty [and staff], essential to maintaining the University of Michigan's reputation and status as a top public university, requires that the University remain competitive in salary and benefits. In its review and modification of faculty and staff benefits, the University has, in recent years, tended to examine components of total benefits in isolation and often under conditions of secrecy. In the interests of comprehensiveness and greater transparency, SACUA urges that the University and the relevant HR committees consider benefit packages in their entirety and involve faculty in a more open and meaningful process.

Professor Larsen commented that several new rankings suggest that the reputation and status of the UM is, in fact, slipping. He said he would favor collecting suggestions from Assembly members about the values they would seek in a new president as well as questions for president candidates. Professor Koopmann suggested that SACUA solicit top criteria for a new president from Assembly members by email.

Chair Staller agreed to change sequence of the draft agenda and to place a resolution about benefits and transparency as the first action item after committee approval. SACUA unanimously approved the draft Senate Assembly agenda with a change in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting entered executive session at 4:45 P.M. to select SACUA liaisons for Senate Assembly committees. The meeting resumed open session at 4:50 P.M.

SEMI-ANNUAL UPDATE TO FACULTY

Chair Staller called attention to distributed item 5. She asked SACUA members to express their opinions about the proposed format. Multiple members expressed approval. Majority opinion favored September and January as target dates for the updates, but end-of-semester was the second choice.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Lehman
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:

Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

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."

Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs:

Senate: "In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed."

Assembly: "The Assembly may adopt rules for the transaction of its business. In appropriate cases not covered by rules of the Assembly, the rules of the University Senate shall apply."

SACUA: "The committee may adopt rules for the transaction of its business."

###