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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2005

Present: Combi, Giordani (Chair), Gull, Lehman, Seabury, Smith, Younker, Zorn; Leu, Schneider
Absent: Meerkov
Guests: S. Masten, T. Satterfield

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:
1. Draft Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of the SACUA meeting of 26 September 2005
3. Draft Minutes of the SACUA meeting of 19 September 2005
4. Draft Minutes of the SACUA meeting of 12 September 2005
5. Draft Minutes of the SACUA meeting of 29 August 2005
6. Draft Minutes of the SACUA meeting of 27 June 2005
7. Draft charge to Unit Governance task force
8. Draft charge to Faculty Dispute Resolution task force
9. Memorandum from E. M. Gramlich to B. Giordani, dated 20 September 2005, regarding faculty composition data
10. Memorandum from K. Gibbons to B. Giordani, dated 30 September 2005, regarding School/College Executive Committees
11. Agenda for 26 September meeting of the Academic Program Group
12. Reapportionment of Senate Assembly- Issues for discussion, undated, no authors indicated
13. Report of the Rules Committee on the representation of currently unrepresented groups on the University of Michigan Senate Assembly, 14 April 1999
14. Senate Assembly committee membership and volunteer lists
15. Draft charge to the Unit Governance task force
16. Draft charge to the Faculty Dispute Resolution task force
17. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule, updated 30 September 2005

Chair Giordani convened the meeting at 2:04 P.M.; the draft agenda was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of 26 September 2005 were approved. The minutes of 19 September 2005 were corrected and approved. The minutes of 12 September 2005 were approved with corrections offered by the provost to the report of his visit with SACUA. The minutes of 29 August 2005 were corrected and approved. The minutes of 27 June 2005 were corrected and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES
Chair Giordani announced:
1. He has received a message from H. C. Rose, Jr., Assistant Dean for Academic Programs, Rackham Graduate School stating that Noam Chomsky has been nominated for a honorary degree, and that Rose is soliciting comments. Giordani will send a personal response.
2. The Office of the Provost has provided two items in response to requests for information (distributed items 9 and 10). This precipitated discussion about the tremendous growth in non-tenure track faculty, particularly within the medical school. Members remarked that in his cover letter (item 9) the provost defined "faculty leadership" as deans, associate deans, chairs, and program heads. The chair said that the provost would visit with SACUA on 10 October, and there would be opportunity to discuss issues further.
3. The faculty governance section of the Committee for Institutional Cooperation (CIC) is meeting in East Lansing later this month; all SACUA members are welcome to attend.
4. Both the September meeting of Senate Assembly and Committee Day were well attended.
5. The provost has distributed an amended statement about religious observance policy that is consistent with recent practices.
6. Professor Lehman reported that the Michigan Conference of AAUP and the U-M Ann Arbor Chapter of AAUP made a gift of $2500 to the Administration Evaluation Committee (AEC) for purchase of a server to support faculty evaluation of administrators.
7. Professor Smith reported that there is great interest at the national office of AAUP about the on-line evaluation system developed at the U-M. He said that requests for information about ways that faculty can evaluate academic administrators is the third most common request received by the national office.
8. Professor Smith complimented the chair for his introductory remarks about faculty governance at the September meeting of the Senate Assembly. SACUA members expressed concurrence and recommended that a similar statement should become a regular feature of the opening meeting each year.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS
Professor Smith reported that the C-Tools task force is holding regular meetings. The group is currently discussing on-line documentation about students, and specifically what information is to be available to instructors. Some have suggested that photos of the students and even their evaluations in prior courses be included. Smith said that privacy issues were potentially at stake. He cited Professor Abdoo from Nursing as stating that First Amendment issues might be at stake, and that it was perhaps a topic for consideration by the Senate Assembly. Professor Smith noted that there was no student representation on the task force. He said he would monitor events and report further.

Professor Combi reported that the Research Policies Committee (RPC) met the previous Friday. He said that the RPC has developed a report about Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and sent it to the chair of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC). The report makes a series of recommendations. The committee is hopeful that the new vice president for research will be able to attend a meeting of the RPC before his term starts 1 January 2006. Combi said that the RPC also discussed interdisciplinary research, including methods for giving credit for co-PIs on large projects, and the potential relationship to interdisciplinary teaching. This precipitated discussion about new initiatives announced by the president at the September Senate Assembly meeting, and their possible implications for faculty prerogatives in curriculum development and student evaluation.

Professor Zorn reported that the AAAC is working on several issues, but that new proposals about tenure consumed most of the time at the last meeting.

VISIT OF RULES COMMITTEE CHAIR SCOTT MASTEN
Rules Committee chair Masten joined the discussion at 2:55 P.M. Chair Giordani called attention to distributed items 12 and 13. He suggested that the Rules Committee review the materials and give consideration to the possibility of enlarging the Assembly to include presently unrepresented groups. He made reference to a policy within the College of Engineering that makes provision on an annual basis for some involvement of non-Senate members in faculty governance, with certain limitations. Professor Masten said that he has read a lot of the background material about topics still remaining on the Rules Committee agenda. He said that his impression was that the topics range widely in both significance and impact. He added that, in general, rules represent a balance between desire for flexibility versus a protective function. He explained that rules which are relatively hard to change, such as the Regents' Bylaws, guard long term interests against short term majority opinion. He said that some of the issues in front of the Rules Committee are housekeeping details, and that they could be separated rather than be packaged together with items of greater significance.

SACUA members asked Professor Masten for guidance from the Rules Committee regarding Assembly representation of clinical faculty, librarians, and also of research scientists depending on their fractional appointments. Professor Lehman asked that the Rules Committee examine the rules about timing of communications to members in light of current electronic methods; Professor Giordani asked that the committee consider whether current provisions for votes by mail could be revised to permit electronic voting. Discussions about Rules concluded at 3:12 P.M.

UNIT GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE
Professor Lehman suggested that the operation of the task force would be greatly facilitated if SACUA assigned a student assistant to gather a standard matrix of information items from the different units before faculty started investing their time. He and other SACUA members provided a list of suggested items:

- How each executive committees is elected or selected
- How votes are tallied, and by what accounting method
- Whether the result of any voting is transparent

- What the authorities are of executive committees in each unit in actual practice
- Other than executive committees, how are the other unit level committees constituted

Professor Smith pointed out that the AAUP reports about unit executive committees were developed by a doctoral student in the School of Education.

ACTION OF SACUA 100305-1   Professor Seabury moved that SACUA establishes a Unit Governance Task Force with Professor Meerkov as chair pending his agreement, that it accepts the draft charge

> The Unit Governance Task Force shall assess the transparency and status of faculty governance at the unit level, including, in particular, (1) the authority and selection of the unit or school executive committees and (2) procedures for changing unit bylaws and, if appropriate and without usurping unit governance authority, make recommendations for improvement. The Task Force shall report to SACUA in December of 2005.

(distributed item 15), and invites the task force chair to produce a list of informational needs that can begin to be assembled with staff support in advance of task force activities (Smith seconded). The action was approved with unanimous support.

FACULTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION TASKFORCE
Discussion of this item was postponed to the next meeting.

VISIT OF STUDENT RELATIONS CHAIR TERESA SATTERFIELD
The guest joined discussion at 3:40 P.M. After a round of introductions, Professor Satterfield reported that the first meeting of her committee will be the coming Friday, but that she has had initial discussions already with the SACUA chair and with the vice president for student relations. She said that there was a wide range of potential issues that her committee could consider. Discussion focused quickly on uses and potential misuses of student course evaluations. SACUA members expressed concern about ambiguities in ownership of the data, data management practices, and privacy issues. They cited examples of how evaluations are being used now in ways for which they were not originally designed or intended (e.g., merit pay, promotion, etc.), and that some of the uses might even be called malicious. At the same time, there was general agreement that well designed evaluation can provide invaluable feedback.   Chair Giordani asked that the Student Relations committee interact with the AAAC to learn more about how student evaluations are being used by deans and chairs.

The guest left the meeting at 4:06 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Giordani said that he wanted to set up an e-mail address to which people could send their comments regarding the flexible tenure document, and he asked SACUA who should be invited to respond. The consensus was to send the invitation to all members of the University Senate. He said that he has received 15 responses so far, and they are quite disparate.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The meeting entered executive session at 4:28 P.M. Additional volunteers were nominated for membership on Budget Study, CESF, Faculty Perspectives, Government Relations, Research Policies, and Rules committees.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 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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