

Minutes of 4 October 2010
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**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS
(SACUA)**

MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 4 OCTOBER 2010

Present: Professors Frost, Lehman, Lusmann, Navvab, Poe (vice chair),
Rothman (chair); Fraser (secretary); Carr, Schneider.

Absent: Professors Barald, Goldman, Kearfott.

Guests: Vice President for Research Stephen Forrest,
Associate Vice President for Research Toni Antonucci,
Vice Provost John King.
Iseler from *The Record* and *The Record Update*;
Swanson, Wordell, from *The Michigan Daily*;
Katie Merx from Public Affairs.

Materials distributed:

Draft minutes of the SACUA meeting of 27 September 2010
Draft Faculty Grievance Procedure with cover letter by Chris
Whitman
Letter-sized copy of Michael A. Olivas' poster
Proposed agenda for the 25 October 2010 Senate Assembly
Draft format for Regent Candidates' Forum Agenda Topic
The report of the Advisory Committee on Culturally Unidentified
Human Remains with a cover letter by committee chair Toni C. Antonucci.

3:15 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes/Matters Arising
The agenda was approved.
Professor Poe moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed.
There were no matters arising.

3:20 Announcements

- Grievance Procedures Revision Update
- Meeting with General Counsel Suellen Scarnecchia – October 4
- Meeting with Academic Program Group (APG) – October 4.
- Meeting with Provost Phil Hanlon – October 7 (10:30)
- Academic Freedom Lecture/Michael Olivas – October 11 (Ross School at 4:00)
- Fall Study Break /SACUA Meeting – October 18. It was agreed that we not meet.
- Senate Assembly and Regent Candidates’ Forum – October 25 (Forum Hall, Palmer Commons)
- Regents’ Faculty Governance Update Due – November 5. Professor Poe volunteered and Professor Frost volunteered for the December update.

3:33 GUEST PRESENTATION – Vice President for Research Stephen Forrest

Associate Vice President for Research Toni Antonucci,
chair of CUHR.

Regarding the developments since the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

VP Forrest provided some history about the University and the American Indian remains and tribal objects. The University has a large collection. VP Forrest established a committee two years ago, the Advisory Committee on Culturally Unidentified Human Remains (CUHR), to assess the matter. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was passed in the U.S. Congress after the committee was started. The committee developed a report, established rules for the repatriation of artifacts and recommended the formation of a standing committee to handle the thousands of issues that remain outstanding.

Since the passage of NAGPRA, even unaffiliated remains must be returned if requested. There are 55 recognized tribes in Michigan and they often dwelt in overlapping areas, making ownership claims more complex. The university is required by law to provide any relevant information; we have inventoried our collection and posted a list of about 1,600 items on a NAGPRA web site the University maintains. A more global and in depth inventory is ongoing. Difficulties of identification abound. Bone fragments are the most problematic. The provenance is complex and diverse; some

artifacts come from formal digs and some from very informal sources. Culturally-unidentifiable remains form the majority of the collection.

A standing committee, if formed, would handle issues of future research to ensure compliance with the law. VP Forrest is considering a moratorium in research until the committee is in place. Only two research projects with Native American remains and artifacts are currently in place, one with ceramics by a graduate student and one under the auspices of a faculty member working in New Mexico. The issue is charged with mistrust and emotion. Funerary objects and human remains are the primary focus.

A specialist in archeological history of Native American studies in Michigan has been hired by the OVPR and is the liaison with the Native American community. The focus of our ongoing work has moved from the museum to the Office for Research. The museum has hired a specialist in collections to provide a more exact inventory, by opening each box and verifying the finding aid.

4:02 ACTION ITEM: MSA President Chris Armstrong support statement

An assistant attorney general in Michigan has made animadversions on his blog about the MSA president and his sexual orientation; allegedly he has also taken pictures of the student's apartment after midnight. The allegation is made that the MSA president has attempted to coerce incoming students to adopt his own sexual preference.

Professor Frost moved that the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA), on behalf of the University Senate and Senate Assembly, join with the University community in condemnation of Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell's unprovoked attacks of Michigan Student Assembly (MSA) president Christopher Armstrong over matters of only personal concern.

We are impressed by President Armstrong's strength as an individual and as the student government leader for this year. We hope President Armstrong will continue to enjoy even more support in this matter and we call upon Assistant Attorney General Shirvell to stop his unjustifiable actions.

In particular, we find the notion that sexual orientation is a matter of choice not supported by science.

The faculty of the University of Michigan condemns all forms of bullying or mobbing in public or private both within the University community and from external entities. It calls on victims of such practices to report instances to their peer communities and to appropriate law enforcement authorities. Further the faculty calls on authorities who are apprised of these condemned behaviors to provide the complainant with a report of findings and appropriate remedies.

We will publish this statement pending the approval of Vice President Royster Harper and MSA President Christopher Armstrong.

Approved.

4:21 New Business

Professor Lehman moved that a digital audio recording be maintained of the SACUA sessions and archived to verify the minutes.

The motion failed 1-5.

Professor Lehman moved that whereas SACUA serves as an instrument for effecting the actions of the Senate and the Assembly, is elected by the Assembly, and owes its duty to the Assembly,

THEREFORE members of SACUA shall disclose to the Assembly all financial arrangements or financial considerations, past, present, or planned, that are provided to them by reason of their service on SACUA, and shall request permission by vote of the Assembly to accept any such payments or considerations.

Professor Poe moved to amend the motion to delete the last clause from “and shall request permission” on and to remove information about past financial arrangements.

Professor Frost moved a friendly amendment to the amended motion, if passed, that a brief summary of the SACUA budget be provided to the Senate Assembly on an annual basis at the end of the year.

Professor Lehman proposed a friendly amendment to make the disclosure at the beginning of the year. Failed.

Professor Frost moved to postpone consideration of the motion to the SACUA meeting of November 1. Passed unanimously.

4:48 SACUA moved into Executive Session

5:05 SACUA left Executive Session

5:05 Adjournment

The University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.08

The Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs, on behalf of the assembly, shall advise and consult with the president of the university on matters of university policy and shall serve as an instrument for effecting the actions of the senate and the assembly.