

Minutes of 31 October 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 31 OCTOBER 2005

Present: Combi, Giordani (Chair), Gull, Lehman, Meerkov, Seabury, Smith, Younker, Zorn; Schneider

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

1. Draft Agenda

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

The chair announced that scheduling difficulties are affecting the time of the annual dinner meeting of Regents with SACUA. The secretary of the University proposes a luncheon on Thursday, 17 November from 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. at Inglis House; she said this should also result in a substantial number of Regents able to attend. SACUA members voiced acceptance of the invitation.

PREPARATION FOR SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

Chair Giordani reviewed the announcements planned for the Assembly meeting and members provided additional comments. Members next discussed proposed changes to tenure policy and the way that Assembly debate might evolve. Professor Zorn mentioned that the Physics Department had a faculty meeting to discuss the proposed flexible tenure policy; several informal votes taken during that meeting showed very little support for the proposed changes. Professor Smith remarked that existing policies of both the College of Engineering and of LSA provide for extensions of the tenure clock for specific reasons, and the policies are consistent with AAUP recommendations.

Secretary Lehman reported out that the provost's office rejected a request for copies of the minutes of the provost's "flexible tenure" committee. Professor Smith asked Professor Gull if he retained a copy of the minutes, owing to the fact that Gull served on the committee. Professor Gull replied that he did not think he had the minutes.

SACUA members provided additional perspectives about the report's recommendations. Comments included relation of the proposals to junior faculty involved in interdisciplinary programs, the possibility of tenure ultimately residing in a different department from the one a person originally joined, and the de novo emergence of the concept of part time tenure in the report.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Professor Meerkov reported that one of the people who had originally been recorded as a volunteer for the Unit Shared Governance Task Force informed him that he had not, in fact, volunteered and can not spare time for the activity. Moreover, the member from LSA has experienced scheduling conflicts and has been unable to attend the first two meetings.

ACTION OF SACUA 103105-1

Professor Meerkov moved that SACUA nominates Professor Keith Riles to join the Unit Shared Governance Task Force (Smith seconded).

The action was approved unanimously.

Secretary Lehman reported that he has explored the feasibility of establishing a website where Action Items and supporting documents for Assembly and Senate meetings can be posted, and where faculty can exchange comments in an on-line discussion format.

ACTION OF SACUA 103105-2

Professor Smith moved that SACUA sanctions the establishment of (1) the subdomain <http://senate.umich.edu> that shall be hosted on the new AEC server, where the senate secretary shall post the Action Items and supporting documents for Senate Assembly and the University Senate, and (2) an on-line discussion forum where members of the Senate may post comments and discussion on topics before the Assembly or Senate.

Professor Giordani asked whether the website would replace the communications currently distributed by the secretary to Assembly and Senate members. Lehman said that was not the intent; rather the site would be a repository that members could visit to review documents and to exchange views about the matters under deliberation.

The action was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 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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