

Minutes of 24 November 2008  
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs**  
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**MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 24 NOVEMBER 2008**

**Present:** Fraser, Frier, Navvab, Poe, Potter (Chair), Riles, Stark, Thouless; Lehman; Carr, Schneider

**Absent:** Frost

**Guests:** Provost T. Sullivan, K. Gibbons (provost office), L. Monts (provost office), G. Schweitzer (provost office), M. J. Frank (U-M News and Information), K. Brown (University Record), D. Gershman (Ann Arbor News)

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of 17 November 2008
3. SACUA/Senate Assembly Planning Schedule, updated 24 November 2008
4. Rules of the University Senate
5. Bylaws of the University of Michigan Board of Regents, Chapter IV: The University Senate
6. Electronic mail message to T. Schneider and L. Carr from R. Fraser, dated 24 November 2008, regarding a rule change
7. US News & World Report 2009 Undergraduate Rankings

Chair Potter convened the meeting at 3:15 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of 17 November were approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The annual Davis, Markert, Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture will take place on 4 December at 4 P.M. in the Law School Honigman Auditorium.
2. A list of candidates for the provost's committees on interdisciplinary professorships and grievance procedures are largely finalized.
3. Regent White and President Coleman will visit SACUA on 1 December.

4. The chair and vice chair will attend a regularly scheduled private meeting with the president on 2 December.

#### VISIT OF PROVOST

The provost and K. Gibbons arrived at 3:15 P.M.

#### **Financial Situation-**

The provost and the CFO will be circulating another e-mail message about current conditions. There has been a softening of hospital financials owing to a decline in elective procedures and an increased proportion of patients without insurance. The State of Michigan is faced with a decline of 3.5 percent of its revenues, and may require a mid-year rescission. The provost's office is attempting to model the situation and to study its potential effects. Nonetheless, the U-M operating budget is far more secure than that of many peer universities. Although endowment earnings are depressed, the General Fund does not rely on them.

#### **Prospects for Students-**

The job market for new Ph.D.s is likely to be weak, and so the provost is exploring possibilities for postdoctoral employment locally. She also sent a message to parents of undergraduates underscoring the U-M's commitment to student financial aid.

#### **On-line Course Evaluations-**

The provost said that she believed the on-line evaluations would be completely anonymous at the time of submission. She added that she did not know the fate of the narrative comments provided by the students, but that she would review the recommendations from advisory groups.

#### **Capital Campaign-**

The Michigan Difference capital campaign concluded successfully. About 60 percent of the donations came from out of state. Eighty five percent of the funds have already been received.

The guests left the meeting at 3:40 P.M.

#### SENATE MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Fraser introduced a proposed change to the Rules of the University Senate regarding Senate membership by librarians (distributed item 6).

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#### ACTION OF SACUA 112408-1

Several members moved that Section 1 of Article 1 of the University Senate be amended to read: "Librarians of any rank who have full-time appointments at the U-M as regular staff members shall be designated as members of the University Senate."

The Action was approved by unanimous vote

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#### VISIT OF GLENNA SCHWEITZER, ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST

The guest arrived at 3:55 P.M. She reviewed distributed item 7 regarding US News & World Report 2009 Undergraduate Rankings. She noted that methodology has been relatively stable for a decade so that trends could be examined. She pointed out nuances in the way that rankings are calculated, and areas where the U-M could make changes that would enhance its ranking. The guest left the meeting at 4:45 P.M.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

##### **Recreational Sports-**

Professor Stark said that the task force will recommend changing the reporting line for the unit into the provost's office. The report should be finalized within a month.

##### **AEC-**

Evaluations are proceeding, and UM-Dearborn is now participating, as well.

##### **Financial Affairs-**

Professor Poe said that the committee will meet again on 11 December. She said she would ask if benefits changes will be considered. The committee considered a campus-wide policy on alcohol use, but did not propose one.

##### **ABIA-**

Professor Poe said that she attended a meeting of the advisory board and was pleased with the level of attention given to academic performance of student athletes.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Bowl game participation by the Academic Performance Committee will be on the agenda for the December Senate Assembly meeting.

Members recommended that the AAAC contact other Big-10 universities to learn whether coaches are included on University Senates elsewhere.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 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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