Minutes of 28 Nov 2011
Circulated 28 Nov 2011
Approved 5 Dec 2011

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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 28 NOVEMBER 2011

Present: Barald (chair), Goldman, Kearfott, Koopmann, Larsen, Lehman, Lusmann, Rothman, Staller; Schneider

Absent: none

Guests: Provost P. Hanlon, K. Gibbons (office of provost), University Librarian P. Courant, *Daily* reporter, *University Record* reporter

Materials Distributed
1.   Draft agenda
2.   Draft minutes of the 14 November 2011 meeting of SACUA
3.   Draft Senate Assembly Agenda for 12 December 2011
4.   Electronic mail message from K. Barald to SACUA regarding a potential resolution about UC Berkeley and UC Davis, dated 28 November 2011

The meeting was convened by Chair Barald at 3:18 P.M. The proposed agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
Consideration of the minutes of 14 Nov 2011 were postponed pending additional communication with Professor Hirshorn about the content of his visit with SACUA.

DECEMBER SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
SACUA members approved addition of resolutions regarding Penn State, UC Berkeley, and UC Davis during the December Assembly meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
There were no announcements.

VISIT OF UNIVERSITY PROVOST AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN
The guests joined the meeting at 3:30 P.M. The provost asked the university librarian to talk about electronic textbooks.

Electronic Textbooks-
1.   Librarian Courant said that he believed there were great opportunities for electronic textbooks if faculty agreed to participate, but that the effort would require some central initiative. He noted that textbooks typically cost students in excess of $1000 during their undergraduate years. He illustrated his remarks with a PowerPoint presentation.

2.   Professor Goldman pointed out that Springer permits textbooks to be bundled with journal subscriptions for nominal costs to students. The librarian replied that it was an attractive arrangement, and should be followed up with additional inquiries. Courant added that there is an enormous amount of free public works now available for download on Kindles and other e-readers. He pointed out that the large profits at present reside with introductory textbooks and that he would like to pursue those profits on behalf of students.

Three models were under consideration, based on pioneering work at the University of Indiana:
1. Open Courseware (Free)
2. Business to Consumer Model (Retail)
3. Business to Business Model (Wholesale)

3.   He said that he was promoting option 3, in which big businesses negotiate with big universities for texts, but that most students would tend to favor option 1. He said that his office was pursuing possibilities and was hoping for some pilot efforts in Fall 2012. Professor Larsen asked if the effort would make money for the university. Librarian Courant replied that it was intended to be revenue neutral. The provost pointed out that the university might save some money on financial aid.

4.   Professor Staller asked if unintended secondary consequences would apply to smaller, more esoteric advanced textbooks. The librarian replied that it seemed unlikely because different sets of publishers were involved. Professor Goldman asked if the market for used textbooks would disappear. The librarian said that it was likely that would happen. He said that books would go out of date more quickly with this model. He said that the UM will work out a licensing agreement with the publisher and that the book copies will belong to the university, though students would have enduring access to the text based on having paid their course fees.

5.   Librarian Courant said that he was hopeful that publishers would become more facile at issuing permissions for incorporation of copyrighted material through hyperlinks. Professor Larsen remarked that his impression was that the open access model has not been encouraged at the UM. Librarian Courant pointed out that MIT spends a lot of effort making sure that copyrighted material does not get into their open access sites. He said that CTools sites contain a lot of such material. He said that additional consultation with CTools might be desirable to define default options for access so that course syllabi, for example, were more open. Courant said that he would be coming to faculty who teach large introductory textbooks to see if they would be willing to participate. He said he would also like to identify faculty who would be willing to supply open access material, but that he did not know how to pay them as yet. Various members of SACUA pointed out that they were already supplying textbook-style material of their own creation to students through CTools for no additional expense to them.

The guests left the meeting at 4:30 P.M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
6.   Professor Larsen said the Research Policies Committee conducts no business and that the members are uncertain of their charge. He said that the vice president for research never meets with the committee. He pointed out that OVPR is restructuring itself and DRDA without consultation with their faculty advisory committees. Professor Rothman suggested that either faculty members be released from service responsibilities mandated by Regents' Bylaw if they are not being consulted, or that the president be apprised of the problem. Professor Kearfott suggested that the RPC could pursue initiatives on its own. Professor Rothman suggested that independent initiatives by the committee would prove feckless or adversarial if the VP was not engaged. Professor Koopmann suggested that the topic be discussed between the chair and the president. Chair Barald replied that she has made comments to the president. Professor Lehman pointed out that SACUA and Senate Assembly have authority under the Rules to invite any member of the university community to meet with them to answer questions.

7.   Chair Barald reported that the UM email system would switch to gmail, but that the University Hospital would maintain autonomy owing to patient privacy laws.

8.   Professor Rothman reported that the Medical Affairs Advisory Committee met and reviewed admissions policy and success rates. Current acceptance rate is about one percent of applications, and the yield on acceptance is about 50%.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The meeting entered executive session at 4:52 P.M. to discuss SACUA minutes. The meeting resumed open session at 4:53 P.M.

The chair announced that SACUA has voted henceforth to assign the administrative task of keeping and distributing SACUA meeting minutes to the staff of the Senate office.
        Number approving- 6
        Number opposing- 1
        Number abstaining- 2

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 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
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 polices 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."

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