

Minutes of 21 December 2015 SACUA

Circulated 5 January 2016

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
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Present: Lehman, Mondro, Schultz, Smith, Szymanski, Weineck (chair), Wright, Ziff

Absent:

Guests: Provost Martha Pollack; President Mark Schlissel

December 21, 2015

Monday, 3:15 pm

Regents Room

Fleming Building

3:15 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes/Announcements

The minutes and Agenda were approved

3:16 Announcements

SACUA had a speaking role at Commencement. President Schlissel's speech was noteworthy because it concentrated on Davis, Markert and Nickerson. He unequivocally stated that University of Michigan made a horrible mistake. He also tied that Red Scare of 1954 to contemporary Islamophobia (see <https://record.umich.edu/articles/schlissel-calls-graduates-heed-lesson-u-ms-mistake>). There have been a number of e-mails to Chair Weineck about this gesture. SACUA will draft a resolution of thanks.

3:22 Preparation for Guests

1. Should there be a third edition of the Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional & Academic Unit Governance? (<http://facultysenate.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2015/03/Principles.pdf>).
2. It was noted that faculty involvement in admissions has been removed from the Bylaws. Professor Potter discussed the role of faculty in graduate student admissions, noting that faculty retained control in this areas, but he noted that the Rackham rule requiring the "publication" of dissertations on the internet had

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- erased important disciplinary divisions in career development. Professors Smith and Schultz asked for clarity in publication differences between the humanities and the natural sciences. Professor Potter and Chair Weineck discussed the problem of finding publishers for a book first “published” on the web, and that libraries depressed the market for first books claiming that an unrevised dissertation usurped the revised dissertation. Professor Potter added that a further effect of the Rackham policy is that is deprived students of the ability to control the material that a search committee could see. He said that students should be able to give their latest work to prospective hires, without having to worry that committees will be accessing their earlier, unrevised work.
3. Discussion turned from graduate admissions to the faculty role in admission of undergraduates. Faculty roles vary from school to school. Professor Mondo pointed out that portfolio reviews by faculty members are a feature of undergraduate admissions in the School of Art and Design. Professor Smith said that faculty are involved in admissions to the School of Pharmacy which are largely of professional students, Professor Wright said that this is also the case in the Ross School.
 4. A separate question is how has the situation changed. Professors Potter and Schultz pointed out that there are faculty readers in LSA and Engineering (two each, a 25% appointment). Professor Lehman said that there always should be an element of academic judgment.
 5. A further question is whether there should be a faculty role in the search for the admissions director, and whether SACUA should have a role with committees that formulate admissions policy.
 6. Professors Smith, Potter and Chair Weineck noted that insufficient student preparation is a common issue. Professor Potter stressed that the current University policy stigmatizes students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have preparation issues that are common to the student body as a whole.
 7. Medical School reorganization.
 8. Fossil Fuel Divestment.
 9. Chair Weineck called attention to the Open Letter from Educators Against Intolerance
(<https://docs.google.com/a/umich.edu/forms/d/1EZ9ngXJYYlm9mREiw-saDjOBla0-VWEzny39IOPorws/viewform>)

4:00 Guests: President Mark Schlissel and Provost Martha Pollack

Chair Weineck thanked President Schlissel for his comments on academic freedom at Commencement. President Schlissel replied that this was stimulated by communication from SACUA. President Schlissel said that Islamic students are feeling vulnerable; students should be free from the threat of internal and external threat. President Schlissel

applauded SACUA's proposal to issue a statement against Islamophobia. President Schlissel said he would be meeting with Islamic student groups in the next semester. President Schlissel raised the issue of the search of an Athletic Director, saying that the person chosen will speak to the values of the community and how it sees the role of athletics within the University. Professor Potter raised the issue of hiring an Athletic Director who was not from the business community. Chair Weineck raised the issue of an Athletic Director who would engage with the campus as a whole. President Schlissel said he hoped the new Athletic Director would want to engage with the campus community as a whole. Professor Ziff said the new Athletic Director should make sure that the students get a regular education. President Schlissel said that the position should be responsible for student success and health and welfare, adding that student athletes get outstanding medical care. Professor Wright was curious about the outside consultants, who had a great deal of experience in athletic management. The search firm was selected from a group of firms. President Schlissel met with representatives of different firms and the firm that was selected has not previously worked for Michigan. Provost Pollack said that she had stressed that the Athletic Director would be a partner and felt that the consultants were supportive of that goal. Professor Schultz suggested that the Athletic Director be more involved in intramural sports, which would allow the department to interact with the community as a whole. It was noted its switch to Student Life was recent. Professor Schlissel felt that it might be time to have an Athletic Director who came from the world of college athletics, but worried about stretching the person too thin by Intramural Sports to his/her responsibilities. He is concerned that student athletes are stereotyped as not having the same academic goals as other students. Provost Pollack noted that this could be achieved if the Athletic Director was closely engaged with Student Life. Professor Szymanski raised the question if where surpluses would go, and wondered if it could not go to intramural sport. President Schlissel responded that the issue of surplus was not as clear as it might seem; the success of the football program this past fall was connected to the hiring a high profile coach with a well compensated staff. Provost Pollack observed that if there was a surplus it could help academic affairs generally. President Schlissel said that it is difficult to find partners in athletic reform, but hoped that Michigan could work with like-minded institutions to work for change. Professor Smith pointed out Desmond Howard's statement that students pick schools with an eye to turning pro. President Schlissel said that at his first meeting with the football team, Coach Harbaugh told the players that most of them would not be pros and that the most important thing they would get was their degree. The percentage of athletes who leave early to go pro is very small.

Chair Weineck introduced the prospect of revising the *Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance*. In 2009 the Regents' Bylaws changed to remove faculty from oversight of admissions. President Schlissel asked for examples of what a faculty driven admissions policy might look like. Professor Schultz said that when he was chair of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC), the faculty was not involved in discussions of admissions policies, and that although Senior Vice

Provost Monts was a faculty member AAAC felt that this meet the spirit of the Bylaws. He observed that the introduction of faculty readers was a good, though small, statement as to the importance of faculty involvement. Provost Pollack said that we do use many readers and that for fairness the process of reading had to be regularized. President Schlissel said that he felt that the admissions group should offer a presentation of the goals and process of admissions to faculty governance, and that he would check with Vice President Churchill about how the Bylaws change was made. Provost Pollack said that the training of readers was sophisticated and that there was faculty involvement in setting criteria, though not reading, which is extremely time consumptive, a point with which there was substantial SACUA agreement. Kedra Ishop, Associate Provost Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, will come to visit SACUA sometime after April when the current admissions cycle is complete.

President Schlissel asked that SACUA identify the sections of the *Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance* that require revision. President Schlissel noted that neither the Fossil Fuel issue nor medical school reorganization would be going away.

4:30 Statement of support for UM Muslim community

Chair Weineck expressed pleasure that President Schlissel had taken a strong stand against Islamophobia. Chair Weineck proposed that SACUA publicize the following motion:

In light of the recent wave of anti-Islamic rhetoric in public discourse, the University of Michigan's Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs hereby affirms its support for the Muslim members of the University community. Our collective commitment to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect extends to members of religious communities. We call on all members of the University of Michigan to unequivocally oppose and condemn all attempts to discriminate against, marginalize, or denigrate students, faculty, and staff on the basis of religious faith, national origin or ethnic belonging.

Professor Lehman moved the adoption of the statement

Professor Smith seconded the motion

The motion carried unanimously.

Professor Wright moved that the following motion be put before the Senate Assembly:

In light of the recent wave of anti-Islamic rhetoric in public discourse, the University of Michigan's Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs hereby affirms its support for the Muslim members of our community. Our collective commitment to equity, inclusion and mutual respect extends to members of religious minorities. We call on all members of the University of Michigan to unequivocally oppose and condemn all attempts to discriminate against, marginalize, or denigrate students, faculty or staff on the basis of religious faith, national origin or ethnic belonging.

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The motion carried unanimously.

4:45 Professor Lehman asked that SACUA review the *Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance* as President Schlissel suggested by the next meeting.

4:50 SACUA Nominations

A nomination committee must be proposed for the next Senate Assembly Meeting. Each SACUA member will proposed one or two people to be placed before the nominating committee. Two outgoing members of the Senate Assembly will serve on the nominating committee with two outgoing members of SACUA. Suggestions to the nominating committee should be made by the end of January. Professor Lehman reminded SACUA that LSA has an upper bound of 3, Engineering of 2, Medicine of 2 and 1 from each other school. There will be two one-year positions and four three-year positions.

4:54 Adjournment

Next SACUA meeting is January 11

Next Senate Assembly meeting is January 25

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Potter
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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