SACUA | SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Minutes 7 October 2019
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, October 7, 2019, 3:15 P.M.
Fleming Administration Building, Room 4006
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340

Present: Beatty (chair), Conway (via telephone conference), Dinov, Gallo, Malek, Manera, Marsh Spencer, Banasik

Absent: Ahbel-Rappe, Potter

Guests: Martin Philbert, Provost; Christine Gerdes, Special Counsel to the Provost; Michael Solomon, Vice Provost & Dean of Rackham Graduate School; Dilip Das, Assistant Vice Provost & Accreditation Liaison Officer; Mary Boyce, Assistant Vice Provost; Members of the Press

3:18   Call to Order and Approval of Minutes
        The Agenda was approved.
        The Minutes for September 30 will be on the October 28 agenda.

3:20   Announcements, Senate Assembly Agenda
        Chair Beatty said that Dr. Banasik would be taking minutes for the meeting due to Professor Potter's travels. Chair Beatty indicated that the minutes for September 30 will be included on the next SACUA agenda due to the need to obtain President Schlissel's approval of the section covering his visit during that meeting. The next SACUA meeting will be on October 28 due to fall break, and Senate Assembly will occur in two weeks.
        Chair Beatty said that three Senate Assembly committees met, including General Counsel Advisory Committee (GCAC), Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC), and the Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC). The President's Leadership Breakfast also took place where the President talked about the initiatives coming up for the year. Chair Beatty indicated that there is a meeting scheduled with the President on Wednesday. Chair Beatty, SACUA members Conway and Spencer, and Dr. Banasik plan to attend.
        Chair Beatty commented about the Diversity Summit that took place. Dr. Banasik attended and commented that the event was great with a strong turnout.
        Chair Beatty commented that the Big Ten Academic Alliance Governance conference is coming up next week, and she encouraged SACUA members to RSVP if planning to attend the dinner.

The Senate Assembly Agenda for October 21 was approved.

        Chair Beatty asked Librarian Spencer to address faculty life issues that could be considered by the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty. Librarian Spencer mentioned that she heard about a project the University of Miami is undertaking using BrightSpot, a consulting group for libraries, to see what can be done to improve faculty quality of life. Librarian Spencer described a Research Faculty Commons within the library at the University of Miami where there is dedicated space for faculty to meet and collaborate. Librarian Spencer also indicated that she met with a colleague recently who has a faculty club at their

institution, which can also be a place to take students without causing suspicion. Professor Malek agreed that having special space where faculty can interact is very important.

3:30   Martin Philbert, Provost; Christine Gerdes, Special Counsel to the Provost

Provost Philbert expressed his excitement about the Arts Iniative, which President Schlissel recently announced. The Arts Initiative can tie campus together in innovative ways. He is hopeful that the STEM disciplines will fully embrace how scholarship is expressed in the arts. Provost Philbert emphasized that the arts are not simply an instrument to enhance what is already being done, but the arts take on their own significance, such as facilitating difficult conversations through a performance allowing humans to deal with humans in a non-threatening but provoking way.
Provost Philbert also addressed a second investment, Academic Innovation, which will allow faculty, students, and staff to explore new ways of engaging with old ways of teaching. Academic Innovation will enable multiple learning units with multiple learning objects that are accessible to people pre-undergraduate through professional continuing education. People can engage with materials without necessarily earning a degree. Engaging with online materials, which can democratize access to information, can provide more information than is available by getting a good grade. Academic Innovation permits engagement with a Michigan education in non-traditional ways. Provost Philbert gave as an example the potential to use virtual reality to walk through a groove of DNA and seeing how it is replicated.
Provost Philbert acknowledged the importance of the work that is taking place concerning Bylaws 5.09 and 5.10 which were designed precisely to protect academic freedom after several professors were suspended and terminated in the 1950's. Provost Philbert affirmed his commitment to academic freedom and to jealously protect it. He also indicated that tenure has been intertwined with pay. There is a significantly small number of faculty whose behavior the Bylaws were not meant to protect. Provost Philbert thanked SACUA for its help with the process of compiling a working group of 9 professors across the University of Michigan's three campuses who will be recommending revisions to the Bylaws.

Provost Philbert thanked Chair Beatty for her participation on the search committee to identify a new Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity. The search is currently underway.

3:45   Executive Session: Michael Solomon, Vice Provost & Dean of Rackham Graduate
        School; Dilip Das, Assistant Vice Provost & Accreditation Liaison Officer; Mary Boyce,
        Assistant Vice Provost

        [HLC Accreditation]

4:06   Motion 1: e-voting for Senate Assembly

        Chair Beatty presented Motion 1: For the current academic year, develop an e-voting
        platform in Qualtrics to be used in the event of an e-vote for Senate Assembly.

        Chair Beatty explained that Professor Dinov would address the process for implementing e-voting for Faculty Senate at a later date. Professor Dinov stated that Qualtrics is too simple, and it doesn't allow for discussions and survey results. He also indicated that one system should be used for both Senate Assembly and for Faculty Senate rather than using two separate systems. He expressed that there is more flexibility with an electronic system that is designed specifically for

voting. He expressed concern about implementing a system that may not be successful, and he emphasized making sure that e-voting is implemented in the correct way the first time because faculty may not try again if there are tech problems.

There was some difference of opinion on whether the platform chosen to implement e-voting is important. Professor Dinov stressed the importance of the platform, but also stated that the process is also very important because there must be a way for people to debate and give their opinions. Professor Manera agreed that a good platform is important. Professor Marsh viewed the platform as a technical issue. Chair Beatty indicated that using Qualtrics would be a quick way to show Senate Assembly that if it's needed, e-voting is available.

Professor Manera asked about the potential to use Canvas. Chair Beatty agreed that Canvas could offer a lot of potential. Canvas was then discussed as a possible platform that could be used for e-voting, and which could potentially provide for deliberation. Concerns were expressed about the amount of time that would be needed to moderate on-line conversations.

Professor Malek described a voting process in the Medical School where a link is received via email. Professor Marsh agreed that this process is often used in colleges.

4:31   Motion withdrawn

After extensive debate, Chair Beatty withdrew Motion 1.

Chair Beatty asked if it would be necessary to record Senate Assembly meetings with BlueJeans. Professor Dinov indicated that IT could record the meetings. Ms. Snyder suggested identifying whether equipment would be available at the location of the meeting in advance. She also indicated that there would be a charge to use services from IT. Professor Dinov believed that IT services on campus would be free. There was consensus that BlueJeans would be used to record the Senate Assembly meeting on October 21.

Chair Beatty indicated that recording the Senate Assembly meeting on October 21 is the first step toward implementing e-voting. Next steps will be developed after the recording takes place, and more conversations will occur then.

4:37   CESF Charge Refinement

Chair Beatty and Librarian Spencer will meet with Professor Martha McComas, Chair of CESF, next Wednesday to review charges and to develop a sharper, more focused charge, which Professor McComas requested at the recent committee chair luncheon. Professor Marsh inquired about the contents of the current charge. Ms. Snyder indicated that CESF has a general charge that is common to all committees, and there is not currently a specific charge for CESF. Chair Beatty asked whether there was a charge last year. Ms. Snyder indicated that last year the committee was charged with using longitudinal data from salary records across demographics to assess the economic status of the faculty. Chair Beatty indicated that according to Christine Gerdes, Special Counsel to the Provost, the Provost's Office is able to provide data, but they need a more focused and specific request for information.

There was some conversation about data collection that has occurred in various schools and colleges. There was consensus that public data is sometimes incomplete. Chair Beatty agreed to help CESF identify the data needed for this year's charge.

4:48   Motion 2: Faculty Governance Research Survey

Chair Beatty indicated that a request was received to participate in a faculty governance research project last year, but it was too late in the year to participate. Chair Beatty asked whether there is an interest in participating in the study for the current year. Professor Manera stated that she has received multiple inquiries from others to participate in research projects, and asked why we should consider it. Chair Beatty stated that this particular study could provide some benchmarking information about Faculty Senates at other schools (all anonymized), which could be helpful for our Faculty Senate. Professor Malek indicated that the materials provided for the study were lengthy. He asked if it would be possible for someone to review and materials and to report back with an overview. Chair Beatty agreed to review and summarize the materials. She suggested discussing this on October 28 or November 4, though she will be unavailable at the October 28 meeting.

4:52   Executive Session

Professor Malek requested to go into Executive Session and the press was dismissed.

[SACUA's relationship with administration]

5:02   Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryJo Banasik
Director, Faculty Senate Office

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."