

Minutes of 23 September 2019
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
Monday, September 23, 2019
3:15
Palmer Commons, Great Lakes Central Room

Present: Ahbel-Rappe (by virtue), Ali, Barzilai, Beatty (by virtue), Butt, Byon, W. Chen, Y. Chen, Conway (by virtue), Dal Cin, DiFeo, Dinov (by virtue), Fabilli, Fenno, Finlayson, Gnedin, Indjejikian, Jones, Kahle, Kahn, Lagisettey, Laurence, Lepri, Liang, Liu, Malek (by virtue), Manera (by virtue), Mao, Marsh (by Virtue), McInnis, Meek, Myers, Papaleontiou, Philipich, Shah, Singer, Spencer (by virtue), Subramanian, Suwanabol, Tonomura, Trumpey, Turnley, Zhu

Alternate Requested: Hartley (LSA), Kannatey-Asibu (Engineering), Kattai (SSW), Meyer (LSA), Morgan (Medicine), Partridge (LSA), Sandhu (Medicine), Traynor (Medicine)

Alternate Present: Karla Goldman (SSW), Clare Croft (SMTD)

Absent: Andrias, Blackburn, Burzo, Carver, Castilho, Caulfield, Costa, Gallo (by virtue), Herbert, Jenkins, Mendlow, Nelson, Passey, Rao, Shtein, Snyder, Soloway, Toyama, Wright

3:19: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Agenda was approved. The Minutes for April 15, 2019 were approved.

Chair Beatty introduced Dr. Banasik, Director of the Faculty Senate Office and Ms. Snyder, Faculty Governance Coordinator. She then reported that there is a pending dismissal case under ByLaw 5.09.05, and described the process, which will begin with a hearing before the Senate Assembly's Tenure and Promotion Committee. The finding of the Tenure and Promotion Committee will be reviewed by SACUA and passed on to President Schlissel with a recommendation from SACUA. Chair Beatty also stressed the importance of the Senate Assembly committees to faculty governance in all its aspects.

Chair Beatty announced the meeting of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Faculty Governance Conference which will be held at the University on October 17-19, and the Davis, Markert, Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture on October 31. She drew attention to the fact that the lecture commemorates the termination of the three faculty members, which led to the University's sanction by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) because the terminations happened without faculty involvement. The current dismissal processes under Regents Bylaws 5.09.04 and 5.09.05 processes were introduced to facilitate the removal of AAUP sanction, and lay out the guidelines to ensure that faculty are included in dismissal processes.

3:35: Committee Rosters and Charges

Chair Beatty introduced the committees and rosters, asking for approval of the membership of the committees and their charges. Professor Shah moved Acceptance, Professor Chen seconded. Professor Finlayson amended the motion by removing the charge for the Tri-Campus Committee, which will be corrected. The motion passed 43-0-1. Chair Beatty said that chairs can amend their charges without asking for Senate Assembly approval, as it is anticipated that some items will arise during the year that merit

committee attention. Professor Malek asked if there are Senate Assembly members who would like to serve on committees, and two members expressed interest.

3:40: Activity—Meeting Your Senate Assembly Colleagues

3:55: Visioning Exercise for Senate Assembly Goals and Success

Through a guided process, Senate Assembly members considered the ideal role of Senate Assembly and how to serve as an effective conduit for two-way communication between their units and Faculty Senate. Some concerns were raised, such as recent developments in federal policies connected with international collaboration.

Chair Beatty said her goal is to integrate faculty governance more thoroughly throughout the University, looking at ways to move issues from committees to the executive officers, and for ways to communicate better with the University Committee. She shares these goals with the previous three SACUA chairs. Professor Myers said she anticipated that the BTAA Faculty Governance meeting would provide perspective on faculty governance in other institutions. Chair Beatty said that while the BTAA Conference is an annually recurring event, the meeting of faculty senate chairs in the state of Michigan, called by SACUA Chair Ortega in 2017/18. Professor Finlayson said she has learned a great deal about the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor from her service with Senate Assembly, but wondered how familiar faculty at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor are with the University of Michigan-Dearborn and the University of Michigan-Flint.

4:25: Unit reports

Professor Turnley, from the Penny W Stamps School of Art and Design, said the school is proud to be one of the nation's best in developing of a wide spectrum of creative research addressing prominent social issues. The School, which offers three undergraduate and two graduate degrees, has a faculty of 39 Tenure Track faculty, and 30 Lecturers. The School has enhanced its research profile, selectivity and diversity, with a 20% increase in under-represented students. In terms of organization, there are no departments, but two new associate deans, Jane Prophet, Associate Dean for Research, Creative Work and Strategic Initiatives, and Brad Smith, Associate Dean for Academic programs have recently been appointed, and there has been a major renovation project to alleviate previous issues in making the best use of available space (<https://stamps.umich.edu/creative-work/stories/commons-renovation>). Other points of pride are the School's speaker series (<https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps>), which usually makes use of the Michigan Theater for its events, and its exhibition space in downtown Ann Arbor. He suggested the School would have a better dialogue with the Assembly if a summary of faculty senate activity could be disseminated along with the Senate Assembly minutes.

Professor Myers said that the School of Music, Theater and Dance which consists of seventeen departments offering more than forty undergraduate and twenty-five graduate degrees, is home to 126 Tenure Track faculty and 64 Lecturers. There are currently 1113 students in the School, of whom 825 are undergraduates and 288 are graduates. She said the School had been solely a Music School until the 1980s, when the Theater Department was added. The School takes enormous pride in the talent of its students and faculty, whose ranks include MacArthur, Oscar, Grammy award winners. She said that the Musical Theater Department is the most selective in the University with 1800 applications for 20 places.

Professor Myers said the events connected with the ongoing 5.09 dismissal case may have had a significant impact on the School which is has suffered a decline in graduate student enrollment. There have also been structural changes as the Dean has taken the lead in examining ways to rethink the teaching environment. Another challenge facing the School is that the Arts typically depend on support from private philanthropy; it is not always easy for the School to have its goals prioritized within the University's overall fund-raising efforts. She concluded by saying that the Dean is trying to understand the way faculty governance works on the campus and is supportive of faculty who participate in faculty governance.

Professor Turnley asked about the reason for the Musical Theater Department's success. Professor Myers said that the department was created with the assistance of a major grant from Margaret Dow Towsley, but that the success of the program stemmed from the fact that it has the reputation of investing in all of its students, whatever their roles.

Professor Manera discussed the College of Engineering, which offers 17 undergraduate degrees for its 7133 undergraduates, of whom 27% are female (an increase of 30% in the last decade). There are also 1846 Masters Students (25% female) and 1691 Doctoral Students (26% female). The faculty consists of 425 Tenure Track faculty, 130 Research faculty and 92 Lecturers. She reported that faculty are often involved in in Research Initiatives Clusters which have raised \$256,000 in grant money. One concern that faculty share is connected with space; although a new Space Robotics Building is being constructed, there is generally a shortage of lab space, and need for improvements to existing space. Faculty are also concerned about low scores on a climate survey about faculty sense of belonging and of being valued, and about the retention rate for female graduate students. She said that efforts to enhance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) include the addition of a DEI representative on every search committee as well as mandatory ADVANCE training for the other members of search committees. There is also a significant issue with parking and some 1400 parking tickets are issued on North Campus each year.

4:50 Matters Arising

Chair Beatty invited Senate Assembly members to send suggestions for speakers at future meetings. Professor Lawrence said it would be good for Senate Assembly to hear from the presidents of Student Government on each of the three campuses.

Professor Marsh asked for information about the Senate Assembly photo, attempted at the April 15, 2019 meeting. Chair Beatty said that regretfully, the photo had not turned out.

A Senate Assembly member asked about the ruling from the National Labor Relations Board which would make student workers (including Graduate Student Instructors) ineligible to unionize (<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/nlrp-proposal-would-make-student-workers-ineligible-to-unionize>). Professor Ahbel-Rappe asked that the Assembly look at University admissions policies.

4:59 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted

David Potter
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.01:

The University Senate

The 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.

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.04:

The Senate Assembly

The Senate Assembly shall serve as the legislative arm of the senate.

The assembly shall have power to consider and advice regarding all matters within the jurisdiction of the University Senate which affect the functioning of the university as an institution of higher learning, which concern its obligations to the state and to the community at large, and which relate to its internal organization insofar as such matters of internal organization involve general questions of educational policy.

Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs: In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed.