

Minutes 27 April 2020
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, April 27, 2020 3:15 pm

The meeting was held via Bluejeans because of the COVID-19 Shutdown

Present: Ahbel-Rappe, Beatty (chair), Conway, Dinov, Finlayson, Gallo, Liu, Malek, Manera, Marsh, Potter, Spencer, Toyama, Banasik, Snyder

Absent:

Guests: Members of the Press

3:15: Call to order/ Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chair Beatty called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved. The minutes for April 6 and April 13 were approved.

3:20: Announcements

Chair Beatty said she presented Acting Provost Collins the questions sent to her from SACUA. On the topics of enrolments, Acting Provost Collins said the news was surprisingly positive, that enrollment figures for Spring/Summer Term were ahead of the 2019/2020 Academic Year, but that there are no numbers for the Fall 2020/2021 Term.

Asked about the impact of the Federal Government's 60-day ban of the issuance of Green Cards (<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/uscis-announces-temporary-suspension-premium-processing-all-i-129-and-i-140-petitions-due-coronavirus-pandemic>), Acting Provost Collins said the policy affects immigrants who apply for visas at embassies, not international graduate students, and that while the government is looking at non-immigrant visas, nothing has happened yet.

In response to a question about the duration of the University's travel ban, Acting Provost Collins said it will continue until June 30th, 2020, and will be reviewed for the Fall Term as travel funds are contained within restricted university funds. Professor Marsh asked if that included funds from grants. Chair Beatty said that the ban did not cover travel funded by grant money. Professor Finlayson said that teaching travel grants have been cancelled on the Dearborn campus.

In response to a question about the reopening on the University's research operations, Acting Provost Collins said reopening will be a gradual process, following safety protocols. She said that labs are at the top of the list to open.

In response to a request that SACUA be included in the annual review process for the faculty ombuds, Acting Provost Collins said she would consider the request and respond at a later time. Chair Beatty noted that the ombuds are happy to provide SACUA with their annual report but that it has to go to the Provost first. A second request was made to Acting Provost Collins to allow the SACUA chair to attend meetings of the Academic Programs Group, as had been the case in the past, though not in recent years; the response was that she is open to the request.

Professor Conway asked about the meeting between Chair Beatty, Professor Potter and the Higher Learning Commission's Reaccreditation Group.

Chair Beatty said some of the group's questions had focused on the administration's response to faculty governance, and that she and Professor Potter had said they felt faculty governance was being heard, that there is regular communication with the President and Provost, and that communication could be enhanced so the Provost received better information directly from the level of the faculty. Professor Potter concurred, saying that amongst the examples they had provided had been the case of the shift to Shared Services. Acting Provost Collins noted that the Deans were quite independent and have been known to push back against proposals from her office, which helps in getting accurate feedback.

3:25: SACUA Action with Respect to Outgoing Chair Beatty

Professor Marsh introduced the following motion:

SACUA recognizes Professor Joy Beatty for her outstanding contributions to faculty governance during her tenure at the University of Michigan. SACUA further commends Prof. Beatty for her exceptional leadership as Chair of the Faculty Senate during a period of unprecedented challenges to the operation of the University.

The motion passed unanimously (Chair Beatty abstained).

3:30: Executive Session

[Immediate Past Chair]
The discussion was tabled
[Honorary Degree Committee]
The list was approved as proposed
[5.09/5.10 revision]
[Outgoing SACUA member comments]

5:00 Adjourn

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 policies 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.”