

Minutes 18 May 2020
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, May 18, 2020 3:15 pm
The meeting was held via Zoom because of the COVID-19 Shutdown

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

Absent:

Guests: Vice President for Research Rebecca Cunningham, Members of the Press

3:21: Call to Order/ Approval of Minutes

Chair Conway called the meeting to order; the agenda as were the minutes for May 4 were approved. Librarian Spencer said she had attended a meeting of the committee concerned with alcohol and other drugs. Chair Conway asked SACUA member for email approval of the May 11 minutes by May 19.

3:23 Announcements from Faculty Senate Office Director

Dr. Banasik, said she had attended the Faculty Governance Consortium on Friday, May 15 at which planning for the Fall semester was the major topic. The Consortium's meeting on May 29 will focus on budgetary issues. She drew attention to the Regent's agenda for the May 21 meeting, at which they will be voting on the academic calendar for 2022/23 wherein the start-date for classes will be prior to Labor Day. She said "Thank You" notes for Senate Assembly members have been sent out. Chair Conway said some deans have written back acknowledging the service of Senate Assembly members.

3:25 Announcements from SACUA Chair

Chair Conway asked for a motion to approve the SACUA resolution concerning changes in Bylaw 5.0/5.10. She said President Schlissel had told her that the Regents are expected to vote on the revisions to Bylaws 5.09/10 at their meeting on May21. Professor Ahbel-Rappe asked about the status of SACUA's previous communication with the Regents. Chair Conway said this statement had been transmitted to the Regents via Secretary of the University Churchill, and will appear in Faculty Governance's May Report to the Regents. Chair Conway and Dr. Banasik said that the point of the resolution is to take more formal action. The resolution is as follows:

Resolution to Affirm Faculty Input Received Concerning Pay Suspension and Bylaw 5.09
Whereas, the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) serves the faculty as the executive arm of the University Senate and of the Senate Assembly;
Whereas, SACUA serves the faculty in a represented capacity;
Whereas, SACUA has listened to feedback received from faculty at all three campuses through several town halls concerning revisions to Bylaws 5.09 and 5.10;
Whereas, the consensus of faculty does not support the current language in the suspension of pay process section of the proposed revisions of Bylaw 5.09, including imprecision

of language defining “job abandonment,” the possibility that the process can be initiated prior to an indictment, and the fact that the two processes will be running simultaneously.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that SACUA hereby confirms and states its position that proposed revisions to Bylaw 5.09 regarding suspension of pay procedures are contrary to the feedback received from faculty on all three campuses and should not be adopted by the Board of Regents.

The resolution passed 7-2. Librarian Spencer asked if it was possible to attend the Regents’ meeting, Professor Beatty drew attention to the University’s YouTube outlet: www.umich.edu/watch/.

3:30 Vice President for Research Rebecca Cunningham

Chair Conway welcomed Vice President Cunningham and invited SACUA members to introduce themselves.

Vice President Cunningham (<https://www.research.umich.edu/staff/rebecca-cunningham>) said she has been a member of the University community for more than 20 years, holding a joint appointment as Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, and Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education in the School of Public Health. Her vision for the office, while currently clouded by the COVID-19 outbreak, will broadly focus in interdisciplinary research that brings people together from different disciplinary backgrounds. She noted that research on COVID-19 is currently drawing upon diverse areas of the University community.

In response to a question about the reopening of research activity on the University campus, Vice President Cunningham said the reopening will require major behavioral changes, and follow the State of Michigan guidelines. These will include the requirement that researchers, upon entering a building, answer questions related to possible symptoms, have temperature checks, attest to not feeling ill, that they will socially distance in the workplace work and pay especial attention to disinfecting equipment (see <https://research.umich.edu/covid-19/covid-19-research-operations>). Saying that it is important for the University to return to its mission of research, she added that the University has a larger responsibility both to the co-worker community and to the community of Southeastern Michigan, hence the need for a slow return to work. She noted there are over 50 buildings housing studio or lab research, and that people will need to change the way they operate in all those spaces, which will have to be prepared in a thoughtful way. She said researchers, who know their own spaces best, will have to make plans, which will need to be approved by research-leaders, for the use of that space.

Vice President Cunningham said the ramp-up in research activity will take weeks, following a principled approach which involves a top-down ordering of buildings to be reopened in four waves, with eight buildings in the first wave. She is interested in opening a variety of different buildings to see where there will be difficulties. The comprehensive plan for reopening will be available on the website for the Office of Research.

Professor Liu said it is important for researchers to know what the guidelines will be for reopening, to know whether, for instance, people are allowed to come at certain periods of time or at any time between 8am and 5pm. He said researchers will need to have a definition of what constitutes a shift and how long different groups can be in a lab.

Vice President Cunningham replied that details will be determined at the school level, but that, at the start, a limited number of people will be approved, and there will be no additional shifts for the first week or so a building is open even though people can be admitted at staggered times. If people were to be swapped in and out, that would triple the number of people who could come into contact with each other during the course of a day.

Professor Liu said he had lab space for twenty-four people, that he was only allowing eight people in at a time, and asked if there could be eight people for four hours then four people for four hours. Vice President Cunningham replied that a shift would consist of eight people for eight hours for the two-week pilot period, and that only thirty percent of wet lab space could be used during this phase. During future months, buildings might be able to add more people; a determination on that point will be made at the school level. Professor Liu noted that interpretations of the policy are differing across units. Vice President Cunningham said that, although there are still school-level details to be worked out, University-wide policies are dictated by concern for good public health, and that the University is following state guidelines.

Professor Manera asked about the duration of the pilot period and how the success of the program will be measured. Vice President Cunningham said the pilot program will last no less than two weeks, and that success will be reflected in the absence of crowds at entry points, confirmation by safety teams that people are observing social distancing, assessment of illness in the labs, with special care taken to determine if community transmission is taking place, and consistent availability of disinfectant supplies.

Professor Marsh asked if building will be open on weekends. Vice President Cunningham replied that this will vary by school, and that answers are evolving but that yes many lab buildings will have weekend hours depending on availability of building support staff. Professor Liu asked if intake procedures would govern entry at all entrances. Vice President Cunningham replied that all building entry would need to be governed by intake procedures. She added that it is her hope that most of the University's labs up and running by July 4th. Professor Gallo asked if there is plan to include large-scale testing. Vice President Cunningham replied that the country and the University currently cannot do asymptomatic testing, but she cannot make a prediction beyond May and June. She feels that asymptomatic testing will be possible in the future.

Professor Liu asked if Vice President Cunningham was in conversation with research-leaders at other institutions to see how the University's processes compared with theirs. Vice President Cunningham replied that most other universities are still working towards the reopening of their research facilities, but that, according to people with whom she has spoken at peer institutions, their metrics are similar to those being employed by the University.

Chair Conway thanked Vice president Cunningham for joining the meeting and said that SACUA will be meeting throughout June and would be happy to have further discussions as things go forward.

4:03 Police Oversight Committee Final Candidate Slate

Dr. Banasik said that six people had been nominated for the Police Oversight Committee, and that SACUA should approve the slate for the election that will take place through Simply Voting. There will be a targeted email sent to Senate members, and that *The Record* will run an article with details of the election (<https://record.umich.edu/articles/six-running-for-senate-faculty-seat-on-police-oversight-panel/>). The election will be open for one week running from Thursday, May 21 Wednesday, May 27 at 5 pm. In response to a question from Professor Dinov about how the results will be communicated, Professor Potter said that while only the results for the top vote getter will be publicly announced there is no reason why people cannot ask, privately, for the vote totals. Professor Ahbel-Rappe said publication of totals for the lowest vote getters will discourage people from running for office. The slate was unanimously approved.

4:11 Library Ad Hoc Committee Charge Revision and Membership Update

SACUA authorized the formation of an ad hoc committee focused on University Library and Open Access. The committee's charges are revised as follows:

The committee's charges are: (1) To evaluate the influence of Open Access on publishing structures across disciplines and (2) To identify the impact of Open Access on financial operations of the University Press. The goal is for the ad hoc committee to present its findings, which may include recommendations, to SACUA by January 2021.

Chair Conway said there have been discussions across the 2019/2020 academic year about the Press and Open Access, and concerns have been raised about what this looks like across disciplines. She said she is meeting with Dean of Libraries Hilton on May 19 to tell him what SACUA will be doing, and that Professor Beatty had assembled the committee, looking to bring together people from across disciplines. The committee will consist of Professor Atzmon, Professor Dinov, Professor Kabo, Professor Rao, Professor Schironi and Librarian Spencer. Asked about the committee that had explored issues of publication in 2015, Professor Potter said that committee had not had the ability to gather the specific data this committee is charged with examining. The charge and committee membership were unanimously approved

4:19 Executive Session

Judicial Committee
COVID-19 Planning Updates and Discussion

5:05: 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."