

Minutes 31 August 2020
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, 31 August 3:15 pm
The meeting was held via Zoom because of the COVID-19 Shutdown

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

Absent: Gallo

Guests: Members of the Press

3:16: Call to Order/ Approval of Minutes

Chair Conway called the meeting to order and invited members of the press to identify themselves. Ann Zaniewski, representing *The University Record* discussed work for 7 years at the *Detroit Free Press*, and said she is always on the lookout for faculty stories. Lily Gooding, junior with *The Michigan Daily*, said that she had been with the paper for a year, is covering SACUA for the first time. The meeting Agenda was approved.

Chair Conway said that a targeted email inviting faculty to the advisory Faculty Senate meeting on September 16 must be sent out by 3:00 pm on Wednesday, September 2. She asked SACUA to approve an agenda for this meeting electronically, and to send any proposed changes to the language of the agenda to the Faculty Senate Office before 2:15 pm on the 2nd.

3:20 Announcements from Faculty Senate Office Director

Dr. Banasik said she thought the Faculty Senate meeting on August 28th meeting went well, and noted that a diversity of opinions had been expressed. She said that the Faculty Senate Office has been scheduling meetings with all the committee chairs, working with the chairs and vice presidents who will be advised by those committees to ensure that the committees' works will be relevant. The Office is working on plans for the Faculty Senate meeting on the 16th.

3:25 Announcements from SACUA Chair

Chair Conway said there will not be a SACUA meeting on September 7 because the Labor Day holiday is observed by the University. As a follow-up to the August 25th SACUA retreat she asked SACUA if they thought that Patricia Sellinger and Debra Kowich, who discussed FOIA issues with SACUA at the retreat should be invited back. Librarian Spencer said the main takeaway from the discussion at the retreat was that members of the University community should keep personal and business email separate. Professor Marsh said that he had asked the FOIA office to assemble FAQ because this affects a lot of faculty, and there are many misconceptions about the FOIA laws amongst faculty. He feels that such a FAQ should be on the Faculty Senate website. Chair Conway suggested that SACUA request a one-page document that could be made available to faculty.

Chair Conway said between 560 and 580 faculty, graduate students, and staff had attended the faculty senate meeting on August 28, and that presentations had been articulate, coherent and respectful. There were several requests for the recording of the meeting, and students have been asking about what happened over the weekend, suggesting that there is energy around the meeting. Professor Manera raised the point that some people felt they have been coerced into teaching in person, also that students are obliged to sign a waiver holding the university harmless in the event of contracting a COVID-19 infection. Professor Toyama said the overall tenor of the meeting was critical of the administration's planning for the fall semester. Librarian Spencer said she heard people want SACUA to look out for community members, especially staff members, to ensure that the voices of those with less power are heard.

Chair Conway said she had attended the Academic Performance Committee (APC). She drew attention to the need for the ad hoc committee that will be examining open access issues in connection with the University Press and the University Library to begin meeting.

3:35 Electronic Voting at the September 16th meeting of the Faculty Senate

Chair Conway introduced the following draft proposal for electronic voting at meetings of the Faculty Senate:

Except as otherwise provided in rules of the Faculty Senate, meetings of the Faculty Senate may be conducted through use of Internet meeting services designated by the SACUA Chair that support anonymous voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, and showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions. These electronic meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be subject to all rules adopted by the Faculty Senate to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, Senate members' participation. An anonymous vote conducted through the designated Internet-based service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

Dr. Banasik said the text was developed by Professor Potter and herself, and that the motion is to be proposed at the opening of the meeting. The intent is not to replace in-person meetings, but rather to enable electronic meetings until such time as an in person meeting at which this vote can be ratified, is possible. The motion passed 7-0-1.

3:45 Proposal for the committee on Anti-Racism

Professor Ahbel-Rappe and Librarian Spencer said that they have studied the way that issues of racism could be integrated into other committee charges. Having done that, they concluded that a dedicated committee should be established that will focus on the issue. Librarian Spencer said that, given that SACUA has advisory rather than oversight power, there are several different possible approaches to draw attention to issues that must be addressed given the current climate nationally and on campus. She shared that colleagues had suggested a separate committee might be the most targeted plan. Chair Conway said she had received similar responses; Professors Ahbel-Rappe and Finlayson said that the committee would require a specific charge so that it could function efficiently.

The proposed charge for the Committee on Anti-Racism is as follows:

To define racist and anti-racist behaviors and their subsequent manifestations; serve as a body to whom racist policies and practices can be reported; oversee the investigation and

discipline of racist behaviors, incidents, research and publication on the part of faculty. Collect data on faculty reports of racism. Identify anti-racist best practices for faculty to respond to negative results from Prop -2 and free-speech. Maintain a curated list of resources on how to incorporate anti-racism into curricula. Establish a public facing presence on anti-racism by at least keeping abreast of campus anti-racism events and publicizing them, if not attending them as well. Sponsor at least one public facing anti-racism event per year (workshop, art performance, talk or paper, panel discussion, etc.).

The proposal passed 8-0. It will be presented to Senate Assembly at its meeting on September 21st.

3:50 Discussion of Committee Liaison Roles/Committee Charges

Chair Conway raised the issue of how SACUA liaisons should function with their committees, noting that Ms. Snyder will also be taking minutes at committee meetings if the committee chair wants to make use of her services. Librarian Spencer said she had good experiences as a SACUA liaison but feels that it is not clear if the primary role of a liaison should be communicating SACUA's views to the committee, or communicating the views of the committee to SACUA. On balance she feels the most effective role for a liaison is to bring issues from the committee to SACUA. Chair Conway said the liaisons should be the conduit of information from committees that would enable make it possible for SACUA to coordinate their activities. Professor Potter said liaisons had often brought issues from committees to SACUA which SACUA had then presented to Senate Assembly. Professor Toyama said one function of a liaison is to inform members of committees about issues that are significant to SACUA. Chair Conway asked liaisons to set-up a meeting to consult with Dr. Banasik about forthcoming committee meetings to get a sense of the upcoming agendas that were being established for committees at the meetings that were being held with committee chairs and vice presidents. Chair Conway said time will be given to liaisons at SACUA meetings to present committee issues, if needed. Dr. Banasik said committee minutes will make information about what committees are doing more readily available on the Faculty Senate Office website.

4:01: Formation of a Task Force to Examine the Recommendations of the WilmerHale Report

Chair Conway said that the establishment of task force to review the WilmerHale Report (https://regents.umich.edu/files/meetings/01-01/Report_of_Independent_Investigation_WilmerHale.pdf) is at an early stage. Professor Manera said that issues raised in the report include the way the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE) keeps a record of complaints, and consistency in reporting that can identify a pattern of abusive behavior, and that anonymous comments in the Academic Evaluation Committee (SEC) survey should be drawn to the attention of the Provost and the President and that the major recommendations are:

1. Ensuring that Information Reaches OIE and Appropriate University Officials
2. Ensuring that Findings are Based on Full Investigations
3. Ensuring that Hiring Decisions are Informed by past findings of Policy Violations

Chair Conway said it was important to have a committee that could read the report from the faculty perspective. Professor Potter suggested the formation of a task force to review the WilmerHale Report to make recommendations based on the report which would be transmitted to the Provost and President, and then to the Regents within three months. Professors Marsh, Potter and Chair Conway discussed possible membership involving those within and outside faculty

governance. There was consensus that the committee should consist of one SACUA member, one person with experience in faculty governance and, preferably, one person with legal expertise.

4:21 Executive Session

AEC function
Communication with the President
OIE

5:08 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."