

Draft Minutes 12 April 2021

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)  
Monday, 12 April 2021 3:15 pm  
The meeting was held via Zoom because of the COVID-19 Shutdown

Present: Conway (chair), Atzmon, Dinov, Finlayson, Freeman, Gallo, Liu, Manera, Marsh, Potter, Spencer, Singer, Toyama, Singer, Banasik, Devlin

Absent: Ahbel-Rappe

Guests: James Hilton, Dean of Libraries, Charles Watkinson, Director, University of Michigan Press, James Iseler, *The University Record*, Scarlett Bickerton, *Michigan Daily*

3:16: Call to Order/Announcements

Chair Conway called the meeting to order. She said new members will be asked to leave the meeting when it enters executive session, during which time she indicated that SACUA will consider a resolution on mandatory vaccination.

3:20: Faculty Senate Office and SACUA Chair Updates

Dr. Banasik said that a reminder is going out to the Faculty Senate seeking ten faculty volunteers to serve on the ten-person advisory group for the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE). The deadline for these volunteers and for volunteers to serve on Senate Assembly committees has been extended to Friday, April 16.

Chair Conway said that both the ad hoc committee to review the Administrator Evaluation Committee (AEC) survey and the ad hoc rules committee held their first meetings in the week of April 5. She drew attention to the memorandum from President Schlissel about nominees for the Advisory Board for Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA). She noted there is a real effort on the part of the Athletic Department to consider faculty input.

Chair Conway said SACUA will consider the composition of the Standing Judicial Committee, for which there are currently 15 volunteers (all full professors as only people at that rank were invited to serve) at the April 26 meeting. The committee will consist of at least twelve people. Professor Manera asked if SACUA could appoint all fifteen to the committee. Chair Conway agreed that twelve is a minimum number so that would be possible. Professor Freeman said that diversity of experience is more important than rank for service on the hearing committee. Dr. Banasik said it was possible that there is insufficient disciplinary diversity in the current group of volunteers and, if that is the case, an invitation would be sent to associate professors.

Chair Conway said the request for volunteers for the OIE faculty board has been extended.

3:25: Senate Assembly Agenda

Chair Conway asked for approval of the Senate Assembly agenda. She said Research Policies Committee (RPC) chair, Professor Colabianchi, will introduce Vice President Cunningham, and

that if SACUA passes a vaccination resolution, it will go on the agenda at 4:50. The current agenda is:

- 3:15: Call to order/Welcome/Agenda/Minutes 3/15/21/Announcements
- 3:20: Faculty Senate Office Updates
- 3:25: SACUA Updates
- 3:30: Rebecca Cunningham, VP Research
- 4:00 Mike Hague, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance UM-Flint
- 4:25: Bryan Dadey, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs UM-Dearborn
- 4:50: Matters Arising
- 5:00 Adjourn

The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

3:30: Dean Hilton and Charles Watkinson

Chair Conway said that library newsletter announced a library overhaul (<https://www.lib.umich.edu/about-us/news/coming-soon-library-system-overhaul>). The announcement raised concerns about access over the summer. Librarian Spencer said the library's current cataloguing system is out of date, and that this is the fourth overhaul of the system. She noted that in her experience, summer is the best time for this work.

Dean Hilton and Mr. Watkinson introduced themselves to SACUA. Chair Conway asked Dean Hilton about the library technology system overhaul, explaining that a faculty member had expressed concern about the disruption it will cause. Dean Hilton replied that the replacement of the system began before the pandemic, it is a multi-year project, and the deadline for switching to the new system is in July. He hoped the disruption will be minimal. He added that there will continue to be challenges, and that library operations will not fully return to normal by the Fall 2021 semester. He said that the library has provided access to in-copyright books through emergency circulation, through the Hathi Trust Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS) (<https://www.lib.umich.edu/about-us/news/hathitrust-emergency-temporary-access-service>), and has to decide when to return to regular circulation; the process will be evolving throughout the summer and regular circulation will be in place for the 2021 Fall Semester though the library can pivot back if conditions change. The library, especially Hatcher, is currently unrecognizable because purchases that have arrived during the shutdown have not been catalogued.

Librarian Spencer asked if the library will be scanning on demand within copyright restrictions. Dean Hilton replied that, in this case, the situation will resemble the situation in the 2019 Fall Semester. He added that it might be possible to access real time data on the status of books through the new cataloguing system.

Chair Conway asked for an update on "open access" agreements. Dean Hilton replied that the Library Council has been informed about "funding to mission" with respect to the University of Michigan Press and scholarly monographs. He is working with the Big Ten Academic alliance to create a "transformative agreement" with Wiley, and will be talking to Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Budgetary Affairs Dittmar and Vice President for Research Cunningham about the implications of such an agreement.

Chair Conway asked what universities are using financial models similar to that which the library is using with the University of Michigan Press for their presses. Mr. Watkinson said the most similar model to the University of Michigan Press is MIT Press, which is planning to convert all monographs to "open access" in calendar year 2022. He added that the University College of London Press has always been "open access." He said the University of North Carolina Press is moving in a similar direction, but is less far along. He said other presses that have developed "author-pay" "open access" models are Cambridge University Press and Manchester University Press.

Chair Conway observed that under library management, the University of Michigan Press is losing money, and asked if a financial model based on losing money is acceptable. Dean Hilton replied that all kinds of things the University does lose money. The library, working with the provost, has taken the press out of auxiliary status. Auxiliary units, eg. Athletics, are usually set up so they meet their own costs, and the University of Michigan Press had been set up as an auxiliary unit. In his view the mission of the press is to facilitate scholarship, but that scholarly monographs, where the primary audience is a small set of other scholars, needs to be “funded to mission.” In his view scholarly monograph sales are not going up, and their publication is a mission not a business.

Librarian Spencer said there has been discussion about the University of California Press being a peer institution to the University of Michigan Press given that the University of Michigan and the University of California, Berkley and the University of California, Los Angeles are leading public institutions. Dean Hilton said that university presses fall into different peer groups than universities, and that some university presses, such as the University of Chicago Press thrive because they have large and diversified operations, or make money by competing in trade spaces. He said the University of Michigan Press looks to publish 80-100 monographs, while the University of California Press, which has a robust journals program that the University of Michigan press does not has 73 staff, and publishes 200 books a year. Therefore, while the University of California, Berkeley is comparable to the University of Michigan as an academic institution, the presses are not comparable.

Professor Dinov noted that the University of California does have a fully online publication model, and asked it could be possible that a book published by a University of Michigan faculty member would be freely accessible to University of Michigan students.

Chair Conway asked Dean Hilton to discuss transformative publication agreements. Dean Hilton said he is in a conversation with the Provost about international publishing trends and funding mandates, noting there is a movement towards “open access” publishing in the sciences. He noted that some disciplines had funds to support “open access” publishing and others do not. He noted that dealing with journals involves dealing with for profit publishers. He said there are three choices as to who should pay for publication. He said that when the University of Michigan receives a subvention from an author, quality not marketability determines publication. He observed that the profit margins at Wiley and Elsevier are 30% profit margin, and that the University of California system had reached a publication agreement with Elsevier (<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/03/17/university-california-reaches-new-open-access-agreement-elsevier>). He is exploring the consequences of a decision by all journals to adopt a “pay to play” publication model. He believes that the cost increase for the University would not be great.

Dean Hilton said the library is looking at how best to time negotiations with Elsevier, and that the present time is not a good one in which to initiate a major change. He expects to sign a contract ensuring that the University has full access. Another possibility would be to join with the University of North Carolina to pay more per title and have less overall access, a third possibility would be to seek a “transformative agreement” such as that entered into by the University of California system. He noted that in an “open access” model, publishers will seek to make up for lost revenue from readers by charging higher publication fees.

Professor Manera asked if the University of Michigan Press had two categories of publication, books that that sell and those that do not, and if there is a strong peer review process. She noted that costs are being shifted away from readers and on to principal investigators. Dean Hilton replied that the University will not adopt a model that shifts publication costs entirely on to faculty. He said the University of California has is a multi-payer model so faculty without money still get published, that high-profile journals are not “pay to play,” but lesser journals are.

Chair Conway asked what the immediate future is for major journal subscriptions. Dean Hilton replied that the result of the pandemic is that the Library expects to negotiate a one-two year extension on agreements.

Professor Dinov said that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have agreements with publishers to the effect that work published with their funding should “open access” within a year. Dean Hilton said he wants to evaluate the University of California, Berkeley system, noting that publishers allow authors to circulate pre-publication versions of their work, but not the published version. He noted that in many disciplines people object to the 12-month embargo, in others they think 12 months is too short. He said the differing impact of new publication arrangements on well-endowed versus less well-endowed institutions is unclear, and that the impact of “open access” would be greater for the University of Michigan than for other Big Ten institutions because faculty at Michigan publish more. He thinks the “march towards open” is inevitable.

4:00: Executive Session

WilmerHale Task Force

SACUA Officer Elections

Professor Liu was elected SACUA chair for 2021/2022

Professor Finlayson was elected SACUA vice chair for 2021/2022

SACUA unanimously adopted the following resolution on vaccination for inclusion on the Senate Assembly Agenda:

WHEREAS, Senate Assembly affirms the value of an in-person residential experience at the University of Michigan.

WHEREAS, Senate Assembly supports the safe return of all students, faculty, and staff to in-person campus activities in the Fall 2021 semester as is reasonably practicable.

BE IT RESOLVED, Senate Assembly supports mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for all students, faculty, and staff with limited legally mandated exceptions.

5:05: Adjournment

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.”