

Minutes 8 January 2018
Circulated 1 February 2018
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Approved 5 February 2017

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, January 8, 2018 3:15 pm
Fleming Building, Regent Room

Present: Atzmon, Beatty, Ortega (chair), Schultz, Szymanski, Wright, Potter (via Skype),
Schneider, Snyder

Absent: Marsh, Carlos

Guests: Members of the Press

3:15: Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Minutes

3:10 Announcements

Chair Ortega said that Executive session would likely go past 5:00 pm. He introduced new members of the press to SACUA

3:18 the agenda was approved

3:20 The December 4, 2017 minutes were approved.

Chair Ortega discussed a meeting he had with President Schlissel in late December. They discussed:

1. SACUA's trip to Dearborn.
2. The plan to move SACUA meetings around. President Schlissel indicated his support for these efforts. Chair Ortega added that SACUA is open to invitations from units beyond the Medical School, which will host a meeting in late January. Professor Malek asked when an agenda for that meeting would be available.
3. The Ombuds replacement. Chair Ortega drew attention to a subsequent email from the Provost inviting additional nominations.
4. A meeting he held with the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) and raised concerns about the transparency of processes. He said that there would be a new SACUA website which would provide clarification on procedural issues.
5. SACUA's desire to enhance its contact with the Regents so they could appreciate the faculty's perspective. In the future, there will be two opportunities to address the Regents at their meetings each semester. Chair Ortega has sent a letter to the Regents inviting them to a breakfast meeting with SACUA.

The Senate Assembly meeting January 22 will feature guests from the Athletic Department, including Professor Ketra Armstrong the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), Professor Anne Curzan as chair of the Academic Performance Committee (APC), and possibly Assistant Provost Philip Hughes, director of the Academic Success Program.

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Chair Ortega began a discussion of SACUA outreach and the functionality of its committees. He said that Professor Szymanski will take the lead on outreach activities in conjunction with the visit by Richard Spencer. Professor Marsh will take the lead in developing improved recruitment and engagement activities for faculty government. Professor Malek raised issues about the effectiveness of current communications strategies. Professor Wright suggested that SACUA might have greater effectiveness in communicating with different units if SACUA members took the lead in communication with their home units, suggesting that an email from a known person would be more likely to be read than something that appeared to be a generic communication.

Chair Ortega outlined changes on various committees. Professor Gina Cervetti of the School of Education will be the new chair of the Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC). The Civil Liberties Committee and the Tri-Campus task force will need new chairs as the current chair of both committees, Dr. Fraser, has suffered an injury and is stepping back from various activities. Professor Lippert has indicated her willingness to take on a role as chair/co-chair of the Tri-Campus Task Force. There is also concern about the working of the Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the University. The Academic Freedom Lecture Committee will need a fresh organization and new memberships as it seeks to identify a speaker and date for the lecture in the fall of 2018.

In Chair Ortega's view, the current system of populating committees is sub-optimal. At the present time, committee membership is determined in the late summer with a result that committees get a late start in the academic year, typically not meeting before October. Chair Ortega will introduce a new system under which members will be selected by April 30 and there will be a general meeting along the lines of the old Committee Day lunch at which President Schlissel will be present to thank departing committee members for their service and new members for taking up roles on these committees.

Executive Session

Openings on SACUA for 2018-19
Academic Freedom Lecture
Faculty Response to Richard Spencer's visit to campus

5:31 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:

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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.”