

Minutes DATE March 7, 2022
Circulated DATE March 25, 2022
Approved DATE March 28, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, March 7, 3:15-5pm
The meeting was held Virtually

In attendance: Chair pro tem Caitlin Finlayson, Professor Sara Ahbel-Rappe, Professor Michael Atzmon, Professor Donald Freeman, Professor Elena Gallo, Professor Durga Singer, Professor Kentaro Toyama, Faculty Senate Office Director MaryJo Banasik, Faculty Governance Coordinator Elizabeth Devlin, Secretary Deirdre Spencer

Absent: Chair Allen Liu, Professor Silvia Pedraza,

Guests

Ann Zaniewski *The University Record*

AEC Co-chairs: Professor Emeritus Galip Usloy Mechanical Engineering and Professor Semyon Meerkov Mechanical and Electrical Engineering; Professor Keith Riles, Physics, Professor Don Winsor, Computer Science

Information Technology Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Ravi Pendse, Robert Jones, Information Technology Services

Financial Affairs Advisory Committee Chair Jessica Pasquale
Committee on Anti-Racism Chair Deirdre Spencer

3:15 –The meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm. Both sets of corrected minutes from Feb. 7th and 21st were approved. (Acknowledgement of *Chronicle of Higher Education* article by Professor Silke Weineck regarding the DMN lecture.)

3:20 -- Faculty Senate Office Updates -- Dr. Banasik reported that a full slate of candidates was sent to Senate Assembly today, as the slate is required to be sent two weeks ahead of the vote.

She reported having received statements from 6 candidates and will send updates before March 11th. She received 26 responses to the RSVP request for the DMN lecture's reception thus far; the deadline for RSVPs is today at noon; at this time, she has received 12 responses from the DMN committee and SACUA members. Ruthven has posters available for pickup and distribution. 'Hoping for a great turnout for the event. Chair Pro Tem Finlayson encouraged all to attend.

Regarding the upcoming Senate Assembly meeting, it was requested that guests keep presentations short to allow time for Q and A. It was asked to put the Q and A in the Senate Assembly agenda for the visit with the Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX Office. There was agreement to make this change.

3:25 -- SACUA Vice Chair Updates -- CFEI will meet March 9th with Robert Sellers to discuss the revised definition of inclusion, which was approved by SACUA and Senate Assembly. DEI Faculty Community Conversations are scheduled for April 28th. These conversations discuss the transition from DEI 1.0 to DEI 2.0. Five volunteers are working

with Tyne Lucas from the ODEI, three from CFEI and two from CAR. Rackham is dropping the GRE for PhD admissions. Please provide feedback that we hear about this change to the dean. Dr. Banasik and Chair Liu met with Martha McComas, Chair of the Committee on Equality and Social Well-Being of the Faculty to discuss their survey of the faculty. A graduate student is working with the survey's qualitative data. May is the deadline for the official report. Volunteers are needed for the Dean of the Library search committee, and for the honorary degree committee. UM-Dearborn Faculty Senate voted to affirm SACUA/SA's Flint Resolution and issued its own statement in support of the faculty at UM-Flint, regarding workload and post-tenure review. The Senate Assembly meeting agenda was reviewed. It was recommended that the stated time be allocated to a ten-minute presentation by candidates for SACUA and twenty minutes for Q and A. The agenda was revised. There will be 24 hours for Senate Assembly members to vote, as was the case last year.

3:30 -- Senate Assembly Agenda – SACUA voted to approve the agenda for the March 21st Senate Assembly meeting.

3:40 -- Administration Evaluation Committee (AEC) Qualitative Comments and Committee on the Oversight of Administrative Action -- Executive Session

3:50 -- AEC Update – Introductions of guests -- Bob Jones Executive Director of Support Services for ITS; Ravi Pendse, Vice President for IT, Chief Information Officer AEC Co-chairs Professor Emeritus Galip Usloy from Mechanical Engineering, and Professor Semyon Meerkov of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering; Professor Keith Riles, Physics; Professor Don Winsor Computer Science; Robert Jones, ITS Professor Keith Riles spoke on behalf of the AEC membership which recommends moving the project from its old platform to ITS. It will migrate to a Qualtrics survey platform. Professor Riles worked on affiliation data and Professor Don Winsor worked on security.

The ITS side is going well. The logistics and quantitative aspects are going well, however, idiosyncrasies in the HR system over three campuses are problematic. The HR data doesn't correspond to academic departments in the School of Music, Théâtre & Dance (SMTD) and Nursing. The HR system does not recognize these departments. There is enough information to hold chair evaluations in Architecture and Pharmacy, but not in SMTD or Nursing. They will be able to roll out survey at end of the month, however, the HR data will need to be captured from SMTD and Nursing, as HR doesn't recognize them as departments. Ultimately, the HR data for the survey will need to be updated to include chairs from SMTD and Nursing. HR and AEC will update their data when it is provided by the schools.

Professor Meerkov shared his screen and Professor Riles shared his slides. Professor Riles compiled affiliation data for all faculty including lecturers and LEO and infrastructure issues since the beginning of AEC. Examples of Questions for the president include: Do they consult with Faculty? Do they value teaching excellence? Do they believe that teaching load can impede research? Do you have confidence in the president?

Q and A:

1. Question: Were there any changes in qualitative comments and storing them?
Answer: No changes introduced.

2. Question: Were there different forms of reporting. No.
3. Question: Have any survey experts weighed in on this? No.

National election polls have professionals and experts involved. In the future we should speak with ISR.

It was suggested that more questions on faculty governance and faculty input be included, and that gender be added to one question on free speech as part of the language to be protected.

The comment was made that presidents generally get low marks for consulting with faculty. This was the case with President Coleman (her previous tenure as President), who received high marks overall, but not in the area of consulting with faculty. "No basis for judgement" was recommended as another response category for inclusion. In regard to the question about student sexual misconduct, it was queried whether faculty members have any way of meaningfully knowing about student sexual misconduct to respond to such a question. Another faculty member said that some faculty might have little more than an overall gut feeling about the performance of an administrator, and felt faculty should have the opportunity to answer "I don't know". It was suggested that faculty governance could be helpful in formulating questions. The committee representatives were happy to see that SACUA is supporting AEC in its efforts, in part as there was push back in the past regarding faculty evaluating the administration.

4:20 -- Senate Assembly Committee Chair Report - Committee on Anti-Racism - Chair Deirdre Spencer shared slides and reported on Anti-Caste language to be included in the university's anti-discrimination language. She also reported on the upcoming online event for the week of April 11th, and that faculty participants were already committed and considering a moderator. Topics to be addressed were challenges to the validity of scholarship on race and ethnicity regarding tenure and promotion; work environment with regard to micro-and-macro aggressions and pay equity. Equality of resources and opportunity across all three campuses is another point of discussion. There is a desire to maintain autonomy for the event. The committee is looking to schedule a visit from VP for DEI, Robert Sellers, SACUA has extended their support for the event, and asked how they might help with publicity, etc. There is potential for CAR's fall event with a high-profile speaker to dovetail with a fall DMN lecture that addresses CRT.

4:35 -- Senate Assembly Committee Chair Report - Financial Affairs Advisory Committee - Chair Jessica Pasquale said the first meeting was held in October because UM VP and CFO Geoff Chatas was just hired. He visited their first meeting in October. November AVP Brian Smith addressed 421 financials. In December Prof. Dollins visited and spoke on a report about Dollars, Fund of funds. This report looked at Human rights violations, and in this case, human rights violation in the Congo rainforests and its connection to certain funds. Geoff Chatas said UM's policy is generally not to comment on questions regarding their investments. There was no January meeting, but in February they met with Hank Baier on capital projects, and in March, met with Baier again to speak on the cost of carbon neutrality. In April, Vice Provost Amy Dittmar will speak of the cost of COVID-19 and its impact on the budget. It is undecided if there will be a meeting in May.

Q and A:

A question was raised about an audit for violation of carbon neutrality/sustainability in

regard to investment funds and about a more formalized approach to investigations regarding these topics. The question was asked if the regional campuses investments were being looked into as well as Ann Arbor? Ms. Pasquale responded that the regents would be the ones to request a review, and that has only occurred twice in history: once in the 1970's and perhaps again in the 1980's. The committee would like to have a more formalized process in place in anticipation of future potential investigations.

Ann Arbor has 2 power plants and is the main focus of carbon neutrality. One faculty member noted that the regional campuses were not represented on the committee that produced the carbon neutrality report, although a wide array of campus interests were represented. This brings up concerns in terms of the lack of representation in the drawing up of the original carbon neutrality document. One faculty member pointed out that charging for each day you park on campus (one of the proposals in the plan) would inhibit students and faculty from participating in on-campus events and lectures, since Flint and Dearborn are commuter campuses. However, Flint and Dearborn are low in terms of energy consumption, the main culprit in terms of energy consumption being Ann Arbor. The Ann Arbor campus has proposed moving to a geothermal form of energy. This is the plan for a new building which will house both the School of Information and Computer Science on North Campus. There is some vocal opposition to the project of deep wells being dug at the cost of a few millions of dollars each on North campus. Going completely geothermal will take some 20-30 years to switch fully.

4:50 -- Matters Arising - A discussion ensued regarding the differences between the regional campuses and Ann Arbor in terms of campus commuting. Dearborn students and faculty come from Detroit, Royal Oak, Ferndale, etc. It is very much a commuter campus. There is no way to provide transportation because people live every place. The area around Dearborn campus has few sidewalks and few direct transportation links from the other cities from which students, faculty, and staff commute. Most students in Ann Arbor are within walking distance but this is not true of Dearborn students and faculty. Commuting is a key issue. Ride sharing does not take in to account that people have different teaching/class schedules and come from disparate locations, that many students as well as faculty have childcare drop offs (car seats and drop off times are both hinderances to ride-sharing), etc.

5:00 -- Adjournment – The meeting adjourned early at 4:53pm.

Slides:

AEC: <https://faculty senate.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Report-to-SACUA-March-7-2022.pdf>

CAR:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1iNXDUM5dSmAp2H2yLpcKIUGD8r5zqOgk3GMeaRFCn1E/edit#slide=id.g118a8d6987e_2_12

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre D. Spencer

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."