

Minutes 30 March 2020
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, March 30, 2020 3:15 pm
The meeting was held via Bluejeans because of the COVID-19 Shutdown

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

Absent:

Guests: President Schlissel; Erika Hrabec, Executive Assistant and Chief Administrator to the Office of the President; Members of the Press

3:16: Call to order/ Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for March 23, 2020 were approved

3:17 Motion: Ad hoc Library and Open Access committee

Chair Beatty introduced the following motion to create the committee:

SACUA authorizes the formation of an ad hoc committee focused on university libraries and open access. The committee's charges are to: (1) Review the financial operations of the University Press and (2) To evaluate how open access is influencing publishing processes across disciplines. The goal is for the ad hoc committee to present its findings, which may include recommendations, to SACUA by January 2021.

The motion passed unanimously. Chair Beatty said that SACUA will look at staffing the committee which will start work in the Fall.

3:29 Senate Assembly Agenda

Chair Beatty presented the following draft agenda for the April 13, 2020 Senate Assembly meeting:

3:00 Call to Order
3:02 President Mark Schlissel
3:30 Tami Strickman, Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity
4:05 Faculty Senate Chair end of year remarks
4:30 Adjournment

Professor Conway asked how long Associate Vice President (AVP) Strickman would speak. Chair Beatty said she will speak for 15 minutes.

Chair Beatty will send a memo to Senate Assembly members asking for questions for both AVP Strickman and President Schlissel.

3:32 President Schlissel

President Schlissel asked SACUA members how their teaching was going. Professor Potter said the experience was variable, and that faculty had often been relying on tech-savvy graduate students in learning how to use various on-line tools. These graduate students understand what faculty are trying to achieve and are able to give efficient assistance. He noted that directions from the central administration did not address functional issues in an effective way. He said that, in his experience, lecture capture in classrooms worked very well, but that he and some colleagues had varied experiences with Kaltura, which was slow to load and occasionally dropped files with the result that the work had to be redone. He said that faculty were doing their best to keep in contact with all their students

President Schlissel said the University Health System has been organizing to deal with a massive influx of COVID-19 patients with the consequence that elective procedures have been cancelled. He said a dedicated local unit has activated 35-40 beds and that areas throughout the hospital had been converted so that they could accommodate patients. As of the time of the meeting there were about 100 COVID-19 patients in the University hospital, and the number of patients was increasing in way that matched the University Health System's predictive model, which suggested that, unless there is a significant change by the second week in April, there would be a need for greater capacity, to which end the University Health System was exploring the use of dormitory space for non-critical patients. At the present time, however, the contingency planning has yet to achieve capacity to handle the population at the model's peak, will occur in mid-May. He noted that this could be less severe than predicted because of the social distancing effort (<https://news.umich.edu/containment-efforts-appear-to-step-covid-19-spread-down-from-exponential-norm/>), and that medical departments are looking to bring people in from outpatient specialty clinics to work with people whose specialty is direct patient care.

President Schlissel said the University Health System had developed its own COVID-19 test for symptomatic patients, that it is currently possible to test 500 patients a day, and that the system is aiming to do 1000 tests a day in an effort to stay ahead of the epidemic. He said the University Health System is also involved in multi-center trials for the drugs that have been in the news and is also looking to develop products on its own. Only people working on the COVID-19 epidemic are allowed to come into their labs.

Professor Malek asked about the supply of protective equipment.

President Schlissel said the supply is currently very good, that all patients and staff in University Hospital and Mott get a mask, and that the University's facilities operation donated a substantial stockpile of M-95 masks because they are used in the facilities' shops. He added that many local businesses have also donated masks, and that a previously scheduled shipment had arrived. The result is that while there is not an over-abundance, the health system is not facing the sorts of problems that are occurring in New York City.

Professor Marsh asked the catchment area the University Health System is serving, given the high needs in Detroit.

President Schlissel said that the University Health System will provide care for people until it has reached its capacity. The system's catchment area is Southeast Michigan, and the University Hospital is accepting transfer patients from other hospitals that cannot care for critically ill patients (e.g. patients who are not helped by ventilators). The University Hospital can, for instance perform an ECMO procedure to oxygenate patients that cannot be done

elsewhere (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extracorporeal_membrane_oxygenation). When the University's facilities fill up, it will no longer be able to take transfer patients

Chair Beatty asked about notification procedures for units on campus if their members are diagnosed as being positive for COVID-19.

President Schlissel replied that physicians are obliged to send these notifications through the County Health Department, which will pass on the information as needed. He added that people working in the Fleming Building are told to take their temperature and look after themselves, and that people who have had extensive contact to an exposed person are told to self-isolate.

Chair Beatty about the working group that is dedicated to the response, and if there is a way for faculty to be involved in the related non-medical issues that are emerging.

President Schlissel said the emergency operations center, which is running continuously, consisted of 40 people from all three campuses. Additionally, the executive groups and key officers participate daily in an early morning phone call to review the situation. The Provost meets with the Academic Programs Group (APG) to pass on decisions affecting the University's operations.

Chair Beatty said SACUA's primary interest is with ongoing educational issues, and that SACUA hopes to be involved in decisions that impact the University's academic mission.

President Schlissel replied that he will ask the Provost to keep in touch with the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) for academic issues. He feels it is a good idea to use existing channels to this end. Professor Gallo, SACUA's AAAC liaison, said she feels that the committee is prepared for this task.

Chair Beatty asked about the timing of a search for the new Provost.

President Schlissel said that Acting-Provost Collins is to remain in place until the new Provost is appointed, that the search will begin in the fall, and that a committee will be appointed with directions to hold an open search. He expects a candidate will be identified early in 2021 to take office in July 2021. He will come to SACUA for suggestions about the membership of the search committee. He added that he hopes that the Fall Semester will be held on campus.

Professor Malek asked if it would be possible to revisit the policy of closing the labs, saying that it is possible to create a staffing model that will be safe.

President Schlissel replied that this is currently not an option because of the governor's Executive Order (https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-524025--00.html). Once the governor lifts her order the University will look at how best to bring its labs back on line, but this process will be driven by outside orders and concerns for safety. The University was encouraging labs to come up with work schedules that would keep density low before the governor's order, and individual researchers should be thinking about how to get things up and running as rapidly as possible.

Professor Malek said he agreed with President Schlissel's approach since a two-to-four month shutdown would be extremely problematic given funding models and the time required to return to normal operations.

President Schlissel said that the professional animal staff is keeping animals safe, and that there are exceptions to in the Executive Order allowing work to continue which would be otherwise be damaged for years. He referred SACUA to the website of the Vice President for Research for federal guidance on continuing compensation for employees. At the present time federal guidance effort that was charged to federal funds can still be charged to those existing funds so that everyone's jobs are secure (<https://research.umich.edu/covid-19>).

Professor Marsh asked about the data sources for the modelling the University is using for the COVID-19 outbreak.

President Schlissel said the University leadership is using models developed by a faculty member in the University Health System, based on publicly available data, for predicting patient numbers, and by faculty in the School of Public Health, who have previously researched influenza. There are links to their presentation on the University's COVID-19 web page (<https://research.umich.edu/covid-19>, and at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZq_zBMB7qg&feature=youtu.be). Professor Chris Murray at the University of Washington who has done national modelling suggests the COVID-19 outbreak cresting several weeks earlier than the Michigan model (<http://www.healthdata.org/covid>).

Professor Marsh noted that there will be an increased demand for epidemiological research as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

President Schlissel replied that the outbreak offered a justification for the nation's investment in a biomedical infrastructure, that a half century ago the currently available resources did not exist. He sees investment in the biomedical infrastructure as an insurance policy for humanity. President Schlissel concluded by saying that he is happy to keep the lines of communication with faculty governance open.

4:06 COVID-19 issues/updates

Professor Marsh observed that researchers are safer in their labs, where they are wearing protective garb, than they are when they are out in public. Chair Beatty noted it seemed like that some non-essential businesses remained open in the Ann Arbor area.

Professor Malek, said faculty in the Medical School are getting email from various sources that is congruent with what President Schlissel said about the spread of the virus, and that the progress of the outbreak is very difficult to predict. He expressed concern about the well-being of the medical staff in a worst-case scenario, noting that protections only work until someone makes a mistake. He said that medical staff are forming support groups to ease stress.

Professor Marsh asked how infectious the virus is and about the accuracy of reporting concerning the spread. Professor Malek said that he had been told that it is more infectious than the flu.

Chair Beatty asked how other units were responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. Professor Conway noted that with Spring and Summer teaching moving on line, there is a question about opening campus back up in June, and whether this could have an impact on teaching in the Summer half-term beginning in July. Professor Marsh said his department (Chemistry) is planning to offer all its Spring/Summer courses, even the lab courses, on line, but agreed it is difficult to know what will actually happen given that the infection curve is flattening out, suggesting that social isolation is having a positive effect. He is hoping to get small groups back into labs. Professor Gallo said it is her impression that teaching arrangements for the Spring and Summer terms are not going to change, and that large groups of students will not be using classrooms

Professor Ahbel-Rappe asked whether the outbreak is having a negative impact on graduate recruitment. Professor Gallo said that students from China, who had been offered admission, were encountering difficulty getting visas with the result that her department (Astronomy) is thinking of recording classes for students who can't arrive in the Fall. Her Department is operating in totally uncharted territory, noting that it has shifted to virtual visits in place of campus visits to prospective graduate students. She feels that the University should expect lower rates of matriculation, especially from abroad, at all levels.

Professor Malek said that Social Distancing will flatten the infection curve to enable economic recovery, but that without widespread vaccination, there will need to be more creative

solutions in the future. Professor Marsh agreed that there is limited tolerance for stay in place orders.

4:06: Senate Assembly agenda
The agenda was approved.

4:23 Review of orientation documents and process for incoming SACUA members

Chair Beatty said the new members of SACUA will be joining the meeting on April 6th, and asked if there were additions to the packet of materials new members will be receiving. Professor Ahbel-Rappe said she felt the packet was very good, but suggested adding an acronym list. Professor Conway noted that terms like SPG and 5.09 are not on the committee list, and asked that the names of the people who will be advised by SACUA committees be added to the slide listing SACUA committees. Dr. Banasik said she would add these, and that the orientation call will on Thursday afternoon April 2 at 3:00 pm

Chair Beatty opened discussion of the SACUA leadership elections for the coming year. Professor Potter said that the voting will be remote and Professor Marsh suggested that those seeking the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair could deliver statements at the meeting on April 13th with voting to open afterwards. Professor Conway proposed reserving time at the meeting on the 13th for statements of 3-4 minutes. Dr. Banasik names should be in by the 9th so the ballot could be posted for the 13th. There was agreement that this is the way the election will be run.

4:40 Matters Arising

Chair Beatty asked for topics to be addressed in the meeting on April 6th. Dr. Banasik noted that there will be a private meeting on April 3rd with the Acting Provost and Ms Snyder noted that Acting Provost Collins be attending the meeting from 3:30-4:00. Chair Beatty invited SACUA members to submit questions for Acting Provost Collins. Chair Beatty and Professor Conway will be meeting with Associate Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs Alexandra Matish and Academic Human Resources on Wednesday April 1.

Professor Malek said SACUA should send an email to all faculty asking for concerns (listing SACUA members and their email addresses). The note can also let the full Faculty Senate know that Professor Schlissel will be at the Senate Assembly meeting on April 20. Professor Potter said any faculty member could join the Senate Assembly meeting and Professor. Marsh observed that an advantage of virtual meetings is that it can be easier to attend meetings that one would typically not attend. Chair Beatty said the email blast to Faculty Senate should go out by the end of the week.

4:47 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."