

# Ghost of SACUA past

## Michael Thouless

Janine Johnson Weins Professor of Engineering

Arthur F Thurnau Professor

Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

- SACUA (2007-2010)
  - Chair (2009-2010)
  - Vice-Chair (2008-2009)
- Senate Assembly (2004-2010)
- Acad. Affairs Advisory Comm. (2004-2007)
- Admin. Evaluation Comm. (2004-2007)
- Rackham Executive Board (2000-2003)
- College of Engineering Executive Committee (2013-2016)



# What is the function of the University Senate?

The 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.

*Designed for addressing academic issues, not collective employment grievances...*

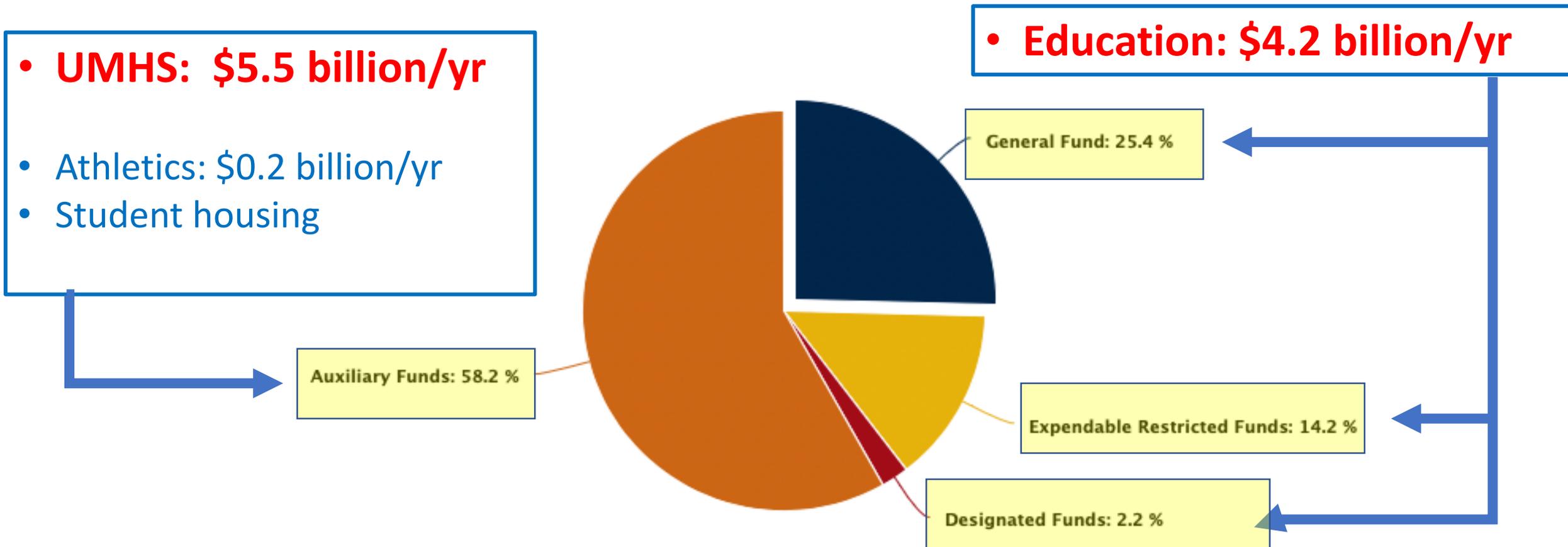
*But, if not dominated by “at-will” employees, it can be powerful enough to provide moral pressure to resist corporatization.*

# UM: Four businesses, one university

Source: <https://publicaffairs.vpcomm.umich.edu/key-issues/tuition/general-fund-budget-tutorial/>

## An overview of U-M's operating budget

U-M's operating budget has four major sources of funding.



# Clinical instructional staff

## Sec. 5.23. Clinical Instructional Staff (*revised June 2001*)

1. *Adjunct Clinical Instructional Staff.* Any academic unit may appoint professional practitioners in the community or within the University at appointment fractions below 50 percent as adjunct clinical professors, adjunct clinical associate professors, adjunct clinical assistant professors, adjunct clinical instructors, or adjunct clinical lecturers to support the instructional program.

Appointments as adjunct clinical instructional staff are on an annual or shorter basis and are without tenure. Appointment and/or promotion criteria shall be consistent with those for regular instructional staff to the extent applicable.

2. *Clinical Instructional Staff.* An academic unit may be authorized to appoint clinical instructional staff to support its instructional program only if a policy authorizing such appointments has been adopted by the school, college, or division in accordance with the bylaws of that unit and has been approved by the appropriate provost, chancellor (Flint or Dearborn), president, and Board of Regents.

Clinical appointments are at appointment fractions of 50 percent or greater and are without tenure. The following titles may be used for clinical appointments: clinical professor, clinical associate professor, clinical assistant professor, or clinical instructor.

# Will the medical school become larger than rest of UM?

**2009:** Largest colleges, Senate Assembly apportionment

- LSA
- Medical School
- (Medical School clinical faculty – if they were a college!)
- Engineering

**2021:**

- Clinical faculty increase: 80% and growing (1,265→2,268)
- T/T increase: 9% (2,880→3,316)

**May 2022:**

- **Medical school: 168 appointments**
  - 124 clinical-track appointments “reported” to Regents
  - 44 T/T appointments “approved” by Regents
- **LSA: 54 appointments**
  - 0 clinical-track appointments “reported” to Regents
  - 54 T/T appointments “approved” by Regents

# Conclusions

- A blanket expansion of the Senate to include all untenured faculty will deprive the tenure-track faculty of the only voice they have at the university level, particularly if this is done with no strategic thought.
- Inclusion of the clinical faculty in the Senate will further increase the influence of the corporate model of the health-care industry into the rest of the university.
- SACUA needs to work closely with LEO leadership on issues of common interest, perhaps sharing some of their informal access to the Regents and President.
- The clinical faculty need to self-organize into a grouping that can express their interests, then the leadership of that grouping can work with SACUA on issues of common interest.