

Minutes of 17 March 2008
Circulated 16 April 2008
Approved 21 April 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
17 MARCH 2008

Present: Abdo, Altschuler, Anspach, Brock, Brophy, Brown, Denver, Eagle, Fitzgerald, Fossum, Fraser, Friedman, Frier, Frost, Geary, George, Gull, Karni, Ketefian, Koopman, Larsen-Freeman, Li, Lomax, Maddock, Maybaum, Moore, Navvab, Peters, Poe, Potter, Queen, Samson, Smith (chair), Stark, Thompson, Thornton, Thouless, von Buelow, Ziff

Requested Alternate, none available: Boxer (Medicine), Fossum (Education-Dearborn), Garton (Medicine), Graham-Bermann (LSA-Soc Sci), Powell (Social Work), Reisch (Social Work), Volling (LSA-Soc Sci)

Alternates: Highfill (Sweeney-LSA-Humanities), Laine (Wakefield-Engineering)

Absent: Adriaens, Andjelkovic-Zochowska, Avi-Yonah, Becker, Carson, Currie, Dey, Engsminger, Green, Hesseltine, Hirshorn, Jackson, Kabamba, Kosch, Lehman, Mahalingam, Maher, Mehta, Mueggler, Ottaviani, Patil, Primus, Rahme, Riles, Roe, Rothman, Sabel, Sellers, Stoolman, Tropman, Younger

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Draft Senate Assembly Agenda
2. Draft minutes of the Senate Assembly meeting of 18 February 2008
3. "Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan, 2d ed."
4. "Trends in Minority Faculty Participation", Committee for a Multicultural University 2008 Report, March 17, 2008
5. Minutes of the Senate meeting of 19 March 2007

Chair Smith convened the meeting at 3:15 P.M. The draft agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 18 February 2008 were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith announced:

1. Approximately \$62,000 has been raised for the University Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship fund, and as that was matched by the President, there is now about \$125,000 total in the fund. To be fully funded, however, this number must double. An email from Chair Smith encouraging faculty to continue support of the fund was sent during the week of 10 March. The current funding level allows for funding of the first scholarship holder, and in the coming weeks the University Undergraduate Scholarship Committee

will begin reviewing applications and interviewing candidates for the scholarship. The selected student will be introduced to the Senate Assembly. Eventually, four students will be selected.

2. The articles in *The Ann Arbor News* about intercollegiate athletics have raised great interest about and awareness of academic practices at Michigan. Last year, the Senate Assembly endorsed the report of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). Currently, the COIA is preparing a statement on academic practices with respect to intercollegiate athletics at Michigan, and they hope to work with faculty governance in the development of that statement.
3. There will be a meeting of the Senate Assembly in May. The reports to the Regents by the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESF) and the Budget Study Committee (BSC) will be presented at this time. At the request of the Regents, the CESF and the BSC will present a joint report on all three Michigan campuses. In addition, the BSC is preparing a study on salary ratcheting.
4. One Senate Assembly member raised concerns about the lack of substance in the agenda for University Senate meetings. She suggested that discussion about how best to revitalize membership, and meeting business, might be a way to address the issue. Chair Smith responded that normally, there are two meetings of the University Senate. One is typically held during the spring, during which the Senate Secretary is elected; as current Senate Secretary Lehman is not up for re-election, that is not a current item of business. The other meeting, held in the fall, is the Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Lecture. On occasion, a special meeting of the University Senate is convened.

ELECTION OF SACUA MEMBERS

Chair Smith announced that election of new SACUA members for 2008-2009 would begin. He invited Professors Frost, Navvab, Poe, and Potter to make statements from the floor. In addition, Senate Assembly members asked questions of the candidates. Professor Simpson, the fifth candidate to be considered, was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

Chair Smith called for nominations from the floor; none were offered. Professors Holland and Moore were selected as Tellers.

Ballots were collected and turned over to the tellers.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY 031708-1

Chair Smith introduced a proposed Action Item placed before the Assembly by SACUA.

Chair Smith introduced the document, *Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional and Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan, 2d ed.*, to be considered for approval. The document is an update to the earlier draft reviewed by Senate Assembly during the fall. Revision to the document was suggested by Senate Assembly membership, as concerns about faculty notification and consultation for matters of institutional significance, as opposed to academic issues exclusively. SACUA worked with the Provost and other administrators during the past months to develop a statement of clarification on the issue.

Chair Smith read the text of the addition, which is found on page 5, paragraph 7:
“Issues that might be of significant concern to faculty may occasionally arise from outside the realm of the traditional faculty interests, as outlined in paragraph 6. As appropriate, and when circumstance permit, administrators will make a good faith effort to inform and seek the input of faculty representatives, with the understanding that what constitutes a significant concern is a matter in which reasonable minds may differ.”

Discussion of Active Motion-

Professor Friedman spoke about the development of this revision to the document. He said that the most important limitations to the text are the weakness of commitment to “inform and seek the input” of faculty, and the fact that the term “faculty representatives” is not clearly defined. Although the final product is disappointing, he encouraged Senate Assembly approval, as it is a strong document overall.

Professor Eagle suggested that the document be approved with the new paragraph 7 omitted, as the language is so qualified that it is meaningless. He recommended that further discussion and negotiation be attempted before approval of a relatively meaningless statement.

Professor Friedman said that he doubted that further negotiation would yield a better result. And, he said, although the language is very weak, it does represent an important move forward on the part of the administration about its responsibility to consult with faculty on significant non-academic issues. He agreed that the result is disappointing.

Professor Thouless said that it is important that at least some statement reflecting the need for consultation with faculty is an important step. He also noted that this issue is addressed in Regents’ Bylaws.

Professor Frier reported that SACUA considered rejection of the entire document about this issue. He noted that the stadium renovation is not what is central to the issue; instead, it is about the commitment on the part of the administration to consider and value the voice of faculty.

Vote on the Active Motion-

Number approving- 27
Number disapproving- 2
Abstentions of record- 2
The motion was approved.

ACTION OF SENATE ASSEMBLY 031708-2

Professor Friedman moved that the Senate Assembly charge SACUA with drafting a resolution expressing disappointment about the nature of the added item 7, to be considered by Senate Assembly for the April meeting.

Discussion of Active Motion-

Professor Fraser said that negotiations have been very thorough, and the administration is already

aware of faculty disappointment about the product of the past months' negotiations.

Professor Friedman argued that although the administration recognizes the dissatisfaction of a few SACUA members, it might be useful for the administration to realize that Senate Assembly is disappointed, if that is the case.

Vote on the Active Motion-

Number Approving- 19

Number Disapproving- 6

Abstentions of record- 2

The motion was approved.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON A MULTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Emeritus Professor Evans presented the report of the Committee for a Multicultural University, entitled "[Trends in Minority Faculty Participation](#)". This report is available electronically through the Senate Assembly website.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chair Smith announced the results of the SACUA Election. The winners in order of highest votes received were: Gina Poe (33), Mojtaba Navvab (30), David Potter (27) and Robert Frost (25). He said that David Potter had agreed to take the one-year term remaining on Barbara McAdams' term.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Arents

Secretary Pro Tempore

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:

Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

In each school, college, or degree granting division of the University, including those at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and at the University of Michigan-Flint, the governing faculty shall be in charge of the affairs of the school, college, or division, except as delegated to the executive committee, if any, and except that in the School of Graduate Studies the governing board shall be the executive board, and in the Medical School shall be the executive faculty.
