

Minutes of 3 Oct 2011
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2011

Present: Barald (chair), Goldman, Kearfott, Koopmann, Larsen, Lehman, Lusmann, Rothman, Staller; Schneider

Absent: none

Guests: J. Weisse (office of provost), *UM Daily* reporter, *University Record* reporter

Materials Distributed

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the 3 October 2011 meeting of SACUA
3. Draft minutes of the 12 September 2011 meeting of SACUA
4. Draft minutes of the 2 May 2011 meeting of SACUA
5. House Bill No. 4770, dated 15 September 2011
6. Draft proposed faculty resolution in support of the current benefits policy
7. Regents Bylaw Sec. 5.09. Procedures in Cases of Dismissal, Demotion, or Terminal Appointment (revised April 2011)

The meeting was convened by Chair Barald at 3:21 P.M.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Consideration of minutes was postponed.

VISIT OF PROFESSOR ABBEL-RAPPE

The guest reviewed the recent history of a bill before the Michigan legislature that would restrict benefits to domestic partners (House Bill No. 4770). She provided the text of a proposed resolution.

Professor Lehman moved (Koopmann seconded) the language of distributed item 7. SACUA members acted as Committee of the Whole to revise the language to the following:

ACTION OF SACUA 100311-1

HB 4770 and 4771 seek to prohibit any government entity in the State, including universities and city governments, from providing public employee domestic partner benefits (medical or other fringe). We support the current practice of the University of Michigan of offering benefits to those who meet the criteria of Other Qualifying Adult. This practice is fair in that it does not discriminate against unmarried persons and offers equal compensation in the form of benefits for those performing the same jobs.

Recognizing the integrity in self governance of the University of Michigan, we support current policy that provides these benefits at the University of Michigan. To do otherwise the University of Michigan would be significantly hampered in its efforts to recruit and to retain the best faculty and staff. In addition, the health of the University Community, including the dependent children of qualified adults, would be put in jeopardy.

SACUA endorses this position and commends it to the Senate Assembly.

The Action was approved by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lehman
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.”

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