

Minutes of December 5, 2011
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
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MINUTES OF THE SACUA MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2011

Present: Barald (Chair), Goldman, Lehman (Senate Secretary), Kearfott (Vice Chair), Koopmann, Larsen, Rothman, Staller; Schneider

Absent: Lusmann

Guests: President Mary Sue Coleman, Regent Julia Darlow

Press: *Michigan Daily* (Mary Hannahan), *University Record* (Jamie Iseler), *AnnArbor.com* (Kellie Woodhouse)

Materials Distributed

1. Draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of the November 14, 2011 and November 28, 2011 meetings of SACUA
3. Draft resolution regarding the right of students and faculty to protest peacefully on college campuses (UC Berkeley and UC Davis police assaults)
4. Draft resolution regarding reporting criminal activity on campus (Penn State)

The meeting was convened by Chair Barald at 3:17 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 14, 2011 and November 28, 2011 were corrected and approved.

RIGHT TO PROTEST RESOLUTION

The resolution regarding the right of students and faculty to protest peacefully on college campuses (UC Berkeley and UC Davis police assaults) was discussed and approved unanimously without change.

REPORTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY RESOLUTION

The resolution regarding reporting criminal activity on campus (Penn State) was discussed.

Secretary Lehman said that the resolution was complex, especially the recommendations, and although he did not oppose any of the statements in the resolution, he was worried about unintended consequences and cited as a possible example the mandatory training section. SACUA agreed to remove the word “mandatory” and also agreed to change the word “children” to “minors.” Secretary Lehman asked if there is a problem that the resolution will solve. Professor Goldman said that a resolution, like the one just previously approved in the meeting, does not absolutely require the presence of an active problem because it could also serve instead as an equally important proclamation. Professor Rothman quoted a portion of the resolution and said this resolution’s purpose is to state that SACUA believes “it is critical that students, staff, faculty and administrators take individual responsibility in matters of suspect or actual criminal activity.” The resolution was approved unanimously with the two changes.

VISIT OF GUEST PRESIDENT COLEMAN

President Mary Sue Coleman arrived at 3:30 p.m.

SACUA asked President Coleman about the impact on the University and the relevance of recent events at Penn State. President Coleman stated that she has asked General Counsel Suellyn Scarnecchia to assign a lawyer to form a committee from the offices of the executive officers to review University policies involving minor children and the University. The preliminary focus will be on: 1) policies and procedures for reporting, 2) the training of staff, 3) screening volunteers, 4) whether any staff and students are on a sex offender registry, 5) existing gaps, and 6) how to address those gaps. President Coleman said the whole review process will be conducted to protect children, whom she defined as “minors” or anyone under the age of eighteen.

SACUA asked President Coleman about State of Michigan funding. President Coleman acknowledged that there has been a steady net decrease in state appropriations to the University. She said that those decreases and the state of the world-wide economy, including that of the State of Michigan, has caused a great deal of pressure to find other sources of income but also to maximize the effectiveness of existing money through efficiencies. She said the University has realized tremendous cost-savings by improving efficiencies such as the increased use of existing building space. President Coleman said she realizes the present fiscal situation and circumstances that cause tuition increases worry many families and that some feel a college education is unaffordable. President Coleman said she has made need-based scholarships a very high priority in fund-raising efforts. President Coleman said it has always been a goal of the University to make a college education affordable. She said she continually promotes higher education to industry, government and donors as a social investment in human capital and a public good.

Secretary Lehman asked President Coleman for her reaction to an Association of American Universities (AAU) report that a number of AAU-member presidents supported the use of employment contracts with faculty rather than granting tenure. President Coleman said that she was surprised by the account of the report and said that she values tenure. President Coleman said that she is not aware of a similar discussion at the University. President Coleman said that there was post-tenure review at the University of Iowa when she was its president but that there is no discussion at the University she is aware of involving post-tenure review. President

Coleman left the meeting at 4:00.

VISIT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION GUEST REGENT DARLOW

Regent Julia Darlow arrived and the meeting entered executive session at 4:05 p.m. for a discussion with the guest.

Regent Darlow left and the meeting resumed open session at 5:45 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Schneider
SACUA Office Staff

Board of Regents of the University of Michigan Bylaws *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.”