

Minutes 22 April 2019
Circulated 25 April 2019
Approved 29 April 2019

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, April 22, 2019 3:15 pm
4006 Fleming Administration Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340

Present: Atzmon, Beatty, Conway, Malek, Marsh (chair), Schultz, Spencer, Potter, Schneider

Absent: Carlos, Lippert

Guests: Cynthia Wilbanks, Vice President for Government Relations

3:19: Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved. Chair Marsh announced the release of the report from the Blue-Ribbon Panel on the intersection between political thought/ideology and a faculty member's responsibility to students (https://www.provost.umich.edu/provost_comm/20190321_Blue_Ribbon_Panel_Report.pdf). He said President Schlissel will not be meeting with SACUA on April 29 as scheduled and that the report about the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) will be disseminated later this week.

3:25: Honorary Degree Committee

Five names have been submitted, Chair Marsh said he will pass these names on to President Schlissel.

3:30: Cynthia Wilbanks, Vice President for Government Relations

Vice President Wilbanks, who assumed in her role in 1998 after having previously worked with two members of Congress, said her office interacts with government at the national, state, and community levels, and supports the interests of UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint. The State Outreach Team seeks to connect with communities across the state dividing the state into three parts (east, west and central). At the Federal level, she has begun the process of getting acquainted with four new members of the House of Representatives. Her office works with the congressional delegation on federal issues connected immigration, taxation, research funding, financial aid, library aid through the Higher Education Act (HEA) (<https://www.acenet.edu/advocacy/Pages/Higher-Education-Act.aspx>) and the National Resource Centers Program, which provides grants to institutions of higher education for area studies centers that serve as national resources for research, training, and outreach related to specific world regions (<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsnrc/index.html>). In dealing with the congressional delegation she often joins with Wayne State University and Michigan State University on issues to advance shared objectives. She has just signed off on the most recent lobbying report (<https://www.govrel.umich.edu/index.php/federal/lobbying/>).

Vice President Wilbanks said the University's office in Washington (<http://www.govrel.umich.edu/index.php/federal/>), which has three staff members, was first established in 1990 when there were literally a handful of universities with Washington office. It is now the case that most Big Ten universities have Washington offices.

In working with the state (<http://www.govrel.umich.edu/index.php/state/>), The University has a State Relations Director, Rebecca DeVoght who focuses on the state appropriations process and other issues that have an impact on the university. The office's current focus is on developing relationships with the new administration in Lansing, with particular emphasis on the budget process, which has been complicated this year by some new factors introduced by Governor Whitmer. A first draft of the budget was issued in March with a view towards completing the process in June, which would fit with the University's fiscal year which begins on July 1.

Vice President Wilbanks said that dealing with the city of Ann Arbor can at times be synergistic and, at others, challenging. She looks to find common ground, especially when issues are connected with students, but realizes that there are times at which the university's ambitions collide with local government. She noted that there was a significant change in the composition of City Council in November. Michael Rein, who now holds the position Director of Community Outreach, is charged with developing this relationship with the local community (<https://www.govrel.umich.edu/index.php/community/director-of-community-relations/>).

Vice President Wilbanks said she routinely travels around the state to develop relationships, feeling that it is important that the campus is not seen as an isolated entity in Ann Arbor. She noted that members of the Michigan Legislature were very keen on "fixing" the circumstances connected with the Nasser case, and that there were around 100 pieces of legislation connected with it. The result is that she has a significant amount of work as legislators are devoted to fixing a broken situation, and she routinely sends legislative proposals out for comment, focusing on bills that impact the University as a whole.

Professor Schultz noted that President Schlissel observed that the rural/urban divide in Michigan is significant and asked what impact that had on Vice President Wilbanks' program. Vice President Wilbanks replied that her outreach team tends to concentrate on the less populated areas of the state that her "east side" person, person does, for instance, making a deliberate effort to extend beyond the major urban area, spending a fair amount of time in Saginaw and Alpena. The "west side" person, Dana Sitzler

(<https://www.govrel.umich.edu/index.php/stateoutreach/dana-sitzler/>) also works with native American groups. Veronica Johnson (<https://www.govrel.umich.edu/index.php/stateoutreach/>), the director of the Lansing Service Center does a lot of work with Lansing where the mayor, Andy Schor (<https://lansingmi.gov/759/About-the-Mayor>), is a University of Michigan graduate. Vice President Wilbanks also developed Michigan outreach (<http://www.outreach.umich.edu>), an online communication that goes out four times a year, is designed to help people find information about the University of Michigan's outreach projects, summer/special programs and services. She works with the Communications Office to provide hard data to alumni and legislators on the interactions of people in different parts of the state with the University.

Professor Conway asked who provided similar services for the UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint campuses. Vice President Wilbanks said that Government Relations is part of the Office of External Relations, which is led by Ken Kettenbeil (<https://umdearborn.edu/faculty-staff/government-relations>) at UM-Dearborn, while Mia McNeil is Director of Government and Community Relations at UM-Flint McNeil (<https://www.umflint.edu/govrelations/government-community-relations>).

Professor Atzmon asked if Vice President Wilbanks had dealt with restrictions on international visitors. Vice President Wilbanks said that while individuals with visa issue will work with individual schools and colleges, she will sometimes take cases to members of

Congress where Congresswoman Dingell has been helpful. On the wider scale, her office contributes to a common agenda in advocating to the best policies and overcoming barriers noting that as recently as last week AAU presidents had addressed issues connected with research projects employing faculty across national boundaries (<https://www.aau.edu>).

Professor Malek asked about the University's interaction with the K-12 environment. Vice President Wilbanks pointed to many examples of schools and colleges addressing aspects of education at this level, one example being the College of Engineering's decade-long Michigan Engineering Zone in Detroit (<https://www.google.co> at UM-Dearborn [m/url?q=https://mez.engin.umich.edu/&sa=U&ved=0ahUKEwiJ5uyFv-ThAhUFnawKHfm1BA8QFggEMAA&client=internal-uds-cse&cx=004429323523046389724:anhjn1863-0&usg=AOvVaw1tPRrtI8WKGvKmFaz-tRo0](https://mez.engin.umich.edu/&sa=U&ved=0ahUKEwiJ5uyFv-ThAhUFnawKHfm1BA8QFggEMAA&client=internal-uds-cse&cx=004429323523046389724:anhjn1863-0&usg=AOvVaw1tPRrtI8WKGvKmFaz-tRo0)); another example is the interaction between Cass Tech and the Medical School (<https://impact.govrel.umich.edu/u-m-partnership-with-detroits-cass-tech-encourages-youth-to-pursue-stem-careers/>); a third example is Wolverine Pathways a program that works with communities in Southfield, Detroit and Ypsilanti (<https://wolverinepathways.umich.edu>); a fourth example is the participation of the School of Education in the cradle to career program established at Marygrove College in Detroit with a \$50 million foundation grant from the Kresge Foundation (<https://detroit.umich.edu/news-stories/u-m-partners-on-new-cradle-to-career-education-center-at-marygrove-college-in-detroit/>).

Professor Schultz asked which office coordinates the University with community colleges. Vice President Wilbanks replied that this resides in the provost's office and enrolment management and that there are around 1200 transfer students each year. She also drew attention to the Michigan College Access Network for high schools and community college students seeking pathways into higher education (<http://www.micollegeaccess.org>).

Librarian Spencer asked how changes in administrations effected the work of Vice President Wilbanks' office. Vice President Wilbanks said her office focuses on the University's objectives rather than individual political leaders and that her strategy is to influence policy through extensive use of data since "policy by anecdote" is challenging.

4:15: Executive Session

SACUA Chair and Vice Chair election
5.09 Process

Professor Beatty was elected Chair for the 2019/20 academic year.
Professor Conway was elected Vice Chair for the 2019/20 academic year.

4:56: 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."