

Minutes 5 November 2018
Circulated 8 November 2018
Approved 12 November 2018

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, November 5, 2018 3:15 pm
4006 Fleming Administration Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340

Present: Atzmon, Beatty, Carlos (Bluejeans), Conway (Bluejeans), Lippert, Malek, Marsh (chair), Schultz, Spencer, Potter, Schneider, Snyder

Absent:

Guests: Members of the Press

3:17: Call to order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Professor Schultz suggested adding committee liaison reports to the agenda before “Matter Arising.” The Agenda was approved as emended.
The Minutes for October 29, 2018 were approved

3:26: Announcements

Chancellor Borrego of UM-Flint cancelled her visit with SACUA on short notice, citing the need to meet with an important donor. Chair Marsh asked if SACUA would be willing to meet with her at a non-standard time if that should be necessary to facilitate the rescheduling of the meeting. Professor Lippert stressed the importance of having the majority of SACUA members present at the meeting.

Chair Marsh reported that he has been continuing to meet with departments. His most recent meeting was with the Physics Department in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA) was productive and engaged. There was good feedback when questions about what SACUA was doing especially on the topic of writing letters of recommendation. Professor Atzmon said that Chair Marsh’s email to the senate had been well received by his colleagues.

3:30: November 19 Senate Assembly Update

Chair Marsh opened discussion of agenda items for the November Senate Assembly meeting. One item on the agenda will be the possible change in the Senate Assembly rules so that people could vote electronically with Professor Masten updating the Assembly on possible rules changes. Chair Marsh suggested that another portion of the meeting be given over to a breakout discussion on the responsibilities of faculty for supporting students with letters of recommendation. President Emeritus Duderstadt has said he is interested in getting faculty feedback on this issue, and it is possible that a member of his blue-ribbon panel will be invited to the meeting. Professor Atzmon asked if the Senate Assembly should be educated on issues connected with Office of Institutional Equity (OIE). Professor Potter suggested that sanctions and grievances be discussed. He observed that exploration of differential tenure rates under LSA deans suggests that executive committees cannot be seen as being independent of the dean. This

is significant because the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) recommends that sanctions be reviewed by an independent, elected, faculty committee.

Professor Lippert raised the issue of the handing of faculty governance issues to staff offices in place of actual faculty governance groups. She would like to explore with Senate Assembly members the way that governance issues are handled in their units and suggested SACUA consider a recommendation that governance issues be brought to Senate Assembly instead of a staff office (staff often having a different take on governance issues than faculty do). Professor Schultz asked about leaving an electronic vote open at the end of a meeting, saying that he was concerned that who had voted at the meeting would probably not be recorded, so there was a risk of double counting. Chair Marsh observed that if a record of the proceedings of the meetings was made available to absent members of Senate Assembly, they could cast an informed vote. Another option to enhance participation would be to have the meeting streamed electronically for absent members.

Professor Carlos said Professor Masten would like to have some directions from SACUA about specific topics he should address. Professor Masten has expressed an interest in discussing representation and the security of the voting process. It is the case, that Senate Assembly can change its rules of its own accord, and thus it is possible for Senate Assembly to vote to put the question of rules changes to the Senate electronically. Professor Beatty asked if there is appropriate technological capacity for such voting. Professors Carlos said Masten have expressed continued concern on this score.

Chair Marsh said that Senate Assembly would need to consider whether or not it would be appropriate for a person who was not at a meeting to vote on a topic that had been discussed at the meeting. If people feel strongly that people should not vote if they are not at a meeting, then the issue of electronic voting is moot. Chair Marsh suggested that electronic voting could be depend upon electronic attendance. Librarian Spencer asked if this would involve streaming the meeting with an option to vote. Professor Carlos asked where the budgetary support for electronic voting and the streaming of meetings would come from. Professor Beatty said the Provost's office would have to fund it.

Professor Beatty observed that electronic voting could be used to obtain a quorum. Professor Potter pointed out that if electronic voting became an option it might be possible to treat some issues like ballot initiatives about which voters would seek to inform themselves before voting, while other matters might require active participation in a meeting. Professor Lippert pointed out that *Robert's Rules of Order* discourage electronic participation. Chair Marsh acknowledged that there are pluses and minuses with respect to electronic voting and participation with respect to the Senate Assembly but noted that electronic voting was the only way to give the bulk of the faculty will a voice on issues that should go to the Senate. He noted that *Robert's Rules* condones the use of mail ballots in place of large meetings. Professor Lippert said she is more comfortable in using electronic voting for the Senate, less comfortable with using it for the Senate Assembly. Chair Marsh added that if the Senate Assembly decided that it wished to employ electronic voting, the Senate Assembly could vote to use it. Professor Potter said the Senate Assembly can ask for an electronic vote by the Senate on a Senate Assembly motion because it would have initiated the process. Professor Conway said that electronic voting for Senate Assembly could be allowed for people who are travelling. Professor Lippert said *Robert's Rules* allows for changes in voting to be authorized by a meeting. Chair Marsh asked Mr. Schneider how hard it has been to make quorum at Senate Assembly. Mr. Schneider replied that there have only been one or two times when quorum has not been obtained at Senate Assembly in the last five years.

It was agreed that topics for the November Senate Assembly meeting will be:

1. Electronic voting (Chair Marsh will join Professors Carlos and Masten in establishing a clear set of talking points). This discussion will be preliminary to a

vote at a later meeting and an advisory vote could be taken on whether to pursue the issue for both the Senate and the Senate Assembly or for just one of these bodies; governance issues;

2. The “blue-ribbon panel;”
3. Grievance procedures;
4. Topics for President Schlissel.

4:19: President Schlissel Town Hall Format at the December Senate Assembly Meeting
This item was tabled.

4:21: Committee Liaison Reports

Professor Schultz discussed a meeting of the Building, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee (BFIC) at which transportation and parking were the primary subjects with a new parking structure is being completed for the Kellogg Eye Center. There was also discussion of busing being saturated, and a push for articulated buses on Fuller where buses run every two minutes at peak periods. The adoption of articulated buses would require a transit center near North Campus. Parking fees were discussed, and it was indicated that all fees are subsidized by \$150 apiece. The cost of parking will increase as there are plans for new structures. There was discussion of naming of buildings (also a topic raised in the meeting of the Development Advisory Committee [DAC]) and a planned discussion of the futures of the Fleming Building and the Trotter Center. Chair Marsh asked about ways to make parking more efficient (e.g. electronic applications that will tell people what parking lots have openings). Professor Schultz said there was also discussion with the Ann Arbor Transit Authority (AATA), which charges the University whenever a card is swiped for a ride. Although ridership by members of the University community is increasing, it is still felt that the relationship makes economic sense for the University.

Professor Schultz said the DAC had met. There will be no search committee in connection with the replacement for Vice President Gerry May. Professor Schultz raised the possibility that SACUA and the DAC should join together for a celebration of Vice President May.

Librarian Spencer said that the Information Technology Committee met, discussing Duo (dual authentication for computing). The Medical School has run a pilot program using Duo, which has proved satisfactory. Duo will become mandatory in January for everyone.

4:31: Executive Session

[Personnel Matter]

5:05: 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."