UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Item for Information

Subject: Faculty Governance Update

In August, SACUA became aware of an alarming report that the Center for the Education of Women (CEW) had rescinded an offer to author Alice Walker to speak as part of its 50 year anniversary celebration. Based upon accusations reported in some news reports, SACUA passed the following resolution on August 19, 2013 which it sent to CEW, Senate Assembly, the President, the Provost, and the Board of Regents:

ACTION OF SACUA 081913-2
SACUA expresses concern about the potential damage done to the reputation of the University of Michigan and its faculty by the appearance of insensitivity to principles of academic freedom stemming from the disinvitation of Alice Walker as speaker for the CEW. The resolution passed unanimously with one abstention.

In reaction to the recently announced Presidential Search Advisory Committee, SACUA passed the following resolution unanimously:

ACTION OF SACUA 082613-1
SACUA expresses disappointment that, despite the urging of the Senate Assembly in its November 12, 2012, resolution below, the recently announced Presidential Search Advisory Committee does not include a representative of the Faculty Senate selected from the suggestions provided by SACUA.

SENATE ASSEMBLY ACTION 111912-1
Resolved
Whereas the Senate Assembly and Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs constitute the official representative bodies of the Faculty Senate, and
Whereas the Senate is authorized by the Regents Bylaws to consider any subject pertaining to the interests of the University, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in regard thereto, and
Whereas the selection and appointment of executive officers of the University is of critical importance to the functioning and progress of the University,
We urge that search committees for executive officers and, particularly, the search committee for the University's next president, include representatives of the Faculty Senate chosen from a list of names selected by SACUA and approved by Senate Assembly.

As has been reported in earlier Faculty Governance Regents Updates, SACUA met the entire summer spending much of its time naming new members to the Senate Assembly committees and creating new committee charges. There has been an effort in recent years by SACUA to provide more specific direction to the committees SACUA oversees on behalf of Senate Assembly. Some other efforts of SACUA this summer have been directed toward improving

central faculty governance communications with the entire University community. SACUA also accomplished some "house cleaning" by: 1) naming the assistants to support the Faculty Grievance Monitor (FGM), 2) naming the three SACUA members to serve on the SACUA Faculty Hearing Committee, and 3) naming SACUA as the appellate body to hear appeals from a determination of non-grievability in grievance actions.

SACUA also took the action of creating a SACUA Special Task Force on Scholarship: Transmission and Ownership on August 19, 2013:

ACTION OF SACUA 081913-1
SACUA approves the formation of a special task force on publishing, the charge as drafted (below) and the appointment of members as discussed in executive session.
SACUA Special Task Force on Scholarship: Transmission and Ownership
This special task force is charged with developing a statement of principles and guidelines broadly relating to the transmission and ownership of scholarship in an era of rapidly changing technology. New university initiatives such as Google digitalization, Haithi Trust, Deep Blue, and Maize Books, all challenge traditional methods of knowledge publication, storage, dissemination and production. They raise questions about changing business models, new rules of accessibility (such as open access, embargos), and new ideas about copyright and the ownership of intellectual property. The impacts of these initiatives will deeply affect every faculty member at the University of Michigan. They may also have profound implications for the way that our students plan their professional careers, within the academy or beyond. For these reasons, a faculty voice during the early stages of the changes is essential. We charge this special task force to be the voice of the governing faculty and to develop a set of guidelines and principles rooted in our shared perspectives and values, by which to help us direct, critique, assess and discuss, these initiatives and other future initiatives so critical to our academic life.
The resolution passed unanimously with one abstention.

Submitted: September 2013



(T E Schneider on behalf of SACUA)