UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS' COMMUNICATION
Item for Information

Subject: Faculty Governance Update

An historic event occurred on September 13 when the chair of SACUA and the faculty governance chair at UM-Flint attended the annual UM-Dearborn Senate Retreat. We do not believe such a system-wide meeting has occurred before. The personal contact was especially valuable when discussing the reconstructing changes and guidelines for future Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESF) reports to the Regents. Additionally, the Flint and Dearborn leaders have been invited to several activities occurring on the Ann Arbor campus this fall.

On September 24, Senate Assembly had President Emeritus James J. Duderstadt as a guest who spoke on the topic of "Research Universities and the Future of America: A National Academies Study." Also, Senate Assembly committee memberships and charges were approved by Senate Assembly. This included 1) the previously mentioned changes to the CESF, 2) name changes for the Committee for an Inclusive University (formerly Multicultural) and the Civil Liberties Committee (formerly Board), and 3) the creation of two new committees which are named the Provost's Advisory Committee on Budgetary Affairs and the Committee on University Values. These changes and additions were made to improve and update the Senate Assembly committee structure, to direct more emphasis on the budgetary portion of the Provost's duties, and to have a standing committee dedicated to forming guiding principles. Most of the Senate Assembly committees are advisory to a specific executive officer.

On October 4, SACUA held the annual Committee Day Luncheon for the Senate Assembly committees which is the one time in any year when all the committees and most of the executive officers are together in one room.

On October 22, Senate Assembly will host its bi-annual Regent Candidates' Forum at 3:30 PM in Forum Hall of Palmer Commons. You are invited to the event and, as I am sure you remember, the Forum will give Regent candidates an opportunity to answer questions posed by University faculty.

On October 31, at SACUA's request University of Virginia faculty governance chair Professor George Cohen will provide the University community a talk entitled "Reflections on the UVA Leadership Crisis" at the Michigan Law School's Honigman Auditorium at 4:00 pm. More details will follow but the Regents are warmly invited to attend along with all members of the public.

Finally, on November 1, the University Senate will hold its annual Davis, Markert, Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture at 4:00 PM also at Honigman Auditorium. Yale Law School Dean Robert C. Post is this year's speaker and you are invited to attend along with the public. Professor Post's lecture is entitled "The Constitutional Meaning of Academic Freedom."

Submitted: October 2012

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SACUA Chair Kim Kearfott