UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Item for Information

Subject: Faculty Governance Update

University Senate actions in September partially included A) comments sent to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and B) a resolution on benefits changes and transparency, both shown below.

A) To the Presidential Search Advisory Committee:

In my capacity as Chair of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) and Chair of the Senate Assembly, I have been asked to synthesize, and forward to you, our discussions relating to characteristics of the next president. The Senate Assembly is the faculty-elected campus-wide legislative arm for the whole faculty at the University of Michigan. Created by the Regents Bylaws, we are authorized to "consider and advise" the Regents on any matter "pertaining to the interests of the University".

Senate Assembly members were urged to attend the public forums, held in various locations during September 2013. They were also urged to submit comments directly. They deliberated and debated the issue of presidential characteristics at our September 23, 2013 meeting. In addition, SACUA conducted an electronic poll of Assembly members. The following reflects a synthesis of these ideas.

1. There was a strong sense that the next president must have deep roots in, or been associated with, a large and complex research university.

2. In particular, he or she must have an understanding of, and appreciation for, the resources and environment necessary to foster creativity and innovation in science, literature, art, medicine and other areas of knowledge creation.

3. He or she must be equally committed to the educational mission of the university and understand how our teaching and learning environments are changing.

4. The individual must understand the complexities of the current economic, political, and business landscape and the unique challenges that exist in the state of Michigan.

5. He or she must be committed to cultivating and sustaining diversity and inclusion, broadly defined.

6. He or she must be a respected and charismatic leader but this must be tempered with the ability to be a responsive listener.

7. He or she must be an excellent communicator and be able to relate important and complicated ideas to a variety of different constituencies both inside and outside the university.

8. He or she must understand and appreciate the unique complexity of the University of Michigan, including its regional campuses, the athletics department, and the medical campus.

We recommend soliciting questions, framed by faculty, students, staff, and alumni from all three campuses--which might be posed directly to candidates--that would help illuminate their positions on matters of import to these various constituencies.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Staller

SACUA, Chair

Associate Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work

B) Action of Senate Assembly 092313-1

Attracting and retaining the best faculty and staff, essential to maintaining the University of Michigan's reputation and status as a top public university, requires that the University remain competitive in salary and benefits. In its review and modification of faculty and staff benefits, the University has, in recent years, tended to examine components of total benefits in isolation and often under conditions of secrecy. In the interests of comprehensiveness and greater transparency, Senate Assembly urges that the University and the relevant HR committees consider benefit packages in their entirety and involve faculty in a more open and meaningful process.

Vote on the Active Motion:

The Action was approved by unanimous vote with no abstentions of record.

Submitted: October 2013

TE Schneider

(T E Schneider on behalf of SACUA)