Subject: Faculty Governance Update

SACUA Chair Charles B. Smith will deliver the annual report on faculty governance to the Regents in which he will address the following topics:

- Improved communications between faculty involved in governance and members of the Board of Regents
  - Role of faculty input in appointment and reappointment of the University President
  - Uses of online administrator evaluations
  - Consultation of faculty in major academic initiatives
  - Consultation of faculty in major building programs

- Faculty involvement in the oversight of faculty and staff benefit programs
  - Sale of MCARE and the BCN administration of health benefits
  - Steps to manage the “unfunded health care liability” for retirees
  - Changes in the funding of retirement programs
  - Proposal to create a faculty-staff-administration benefits oversight committee

- Challenges to tenure and their implications for academic and intellectual freedom
  - The report of the Flexible Tenure (Weiss-MacDonald) Committee
  - 5.09 hearing in the case of a tenured professor refusing to teach an assigned course
  - Faculty authority in grading of student academic performance

- Improved faculty grievance procedures
  - Problems with current grievance procedures
  - SACUA taskforce on grievance procedure revision

- Recommendations on unit faculty governance
  - Election of unit executive committee members
  - Responsibilities and authority of unit executive committees

- Faculty initiatives in case Proposal 2 is supported by Michigan’s voters

- Evaluation of student success in light of the Spellings Commission Report
  - Role of Academic Affairs Advisory Committee
  - SACUA participation on the Faculty Study Committee, a data acquisition committee

(Submitted, November, 2006)