

Minutes of 17 February 2020  
Circulated 12 March 2020  
Approved 27 April 2020 (by SACUA)

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING  
Monday, February 17, 3:00 pm  
Palmer Commons, Great Lake Sentral

**Present:** Ali, Bawardi, Beatty (by virtue), Castilho, Y. Chen, Conway (by virtue), Costa, DiFeo, Dinov (by virtue), Fabilli, Fenno, Finlayson, Gnedin, Herbert, Huang, Jenkins, Kahn, Ketefian, Kolmanovsky, Kosnoski, Lagisetty, Liang, Liu, Malek (by virtue), Manera (by virtue), Mao, Marsh (by Virtue), McInnis, Meek, Mendlow, Meyer, Morgan, Papaleontiou, Passey, Sales, Singer, Spencer (by virtue), Subramanian, Suwanabol, Tonomura, Toyama, Wang, Wright, Zhu

**Alternate Requested:** Barzilai (LSA), Byon (Engineering), Dal Cin (LSA), Kahle (Nursing), Kannatey-Asibu (Engineering), Kattari (SSW), Lepri (Engineering), Myers (SMTD), Sandhu (Medicine), Snyder (SMTD)

**Alternate Present:** Rowe (SMTD), Payne (Engineering), Atzmon (Engineering)

**Absent:** Ahbel-Rappe (by virtue), Andrias, Blackburn, Butt, Caulfield, W. Chen, Gallo (by virtue), Hartley, Indjejikian, Junghans, Knoblauch, Kessentini, Laurence, Nelson, Partridge, Rao, Shah, Shtein, Traynor, Trumpey, Turnley, Van Berkel

3:01 Call to order

3:02 Approval of Minutes and Announcements, SACUA nominating committee

Chair Beatty invited motions for the approval of the agenda and the minutes for the 13 January, 2020 Senate Assembly meeting. The agenda was unanimously approved. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Beatty read out the following statement from President Schlissel about the ongoing investigation of Provost Philbert:

First of all, while the allegations are serious, the investigation, being conducted by an independent outside law firm, is not yet complete and everyone should reserve final judgements until that point. We all need to encourage people to come forward if they have any information on prohibited conduct. The fact that people came forward to report misconduct is a positive sign. I personally commit that complainants will be taken seriously and protected from retaliation, and that accusations will be thoroughly investigated.

I am also personally committed to learning everything we can from this situation so that we can continue with our goal of making our campus as safe as possible for all members of our community. We will look hard to see if there are improvements we can make in our search and vetting processes based on what we learn in this investigation.

I am out of town on Monday, but I would be happy to attend a senate assembly meeting in the future to discuss this or related issues.

Chair Beatty said situation connected with the Provost will result in review of University processes. She urged Senate Assembly members to address concerns about the issue to President Schlissel directly via email.

### 3:10 E-voting Action for SACUA election

Chair Beatty drew attention to the upcoming SACUA elections and urged interested parties to make their interest known to Ms. Snyder by February 28, 2020. She announced that electronic voting will be used for the SACUA elections. The use of e-voting was approved in 2011 (<https://faculty senate.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/Senate-Assembly-Evoting-Information.pdf>). Chair Beatty asked for a vote approving the use of Simply Voting for the SACUA election. The measure was approved unanimously.

### 3:15 E-voting Action for SACUA election; Committee Realignment Resolution

Chair Beatty introduced SACUA's motion for committee realignment (see appendix 1). The proposal adds a Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action (COAA) to work with the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE), as well as the grievance process and the implementation of sanctions. Other committees have been merged. The proposed change will establish six Senate Assembly standing committees, a reduction from the current nine committees.

Professor Meyer asked for clarification of the difference between standing committees and Senate Assembly committees. Chair Beatty said that the Senate Assembly committees are mandated by the Regents' Bylaws, while standing committees are created, as needed, by the Senate Assembly. A Senate Assembly member asked about the charges for the committees. Chair Beatty said that specific charges will be generated by next year's SACUA chair and will be approved by Senate Assembly. A Senate Assembly member asked about the size of the committees. Chair Beatty said that two-thirds of the members from the merged committees will have the option of being placed on the new committees if they like (one-third will be ending their terms). A Senate Assembly member asked about the change of the Rules Committee to an ad hoc committee. Chair Beatty said this was because the committee did not have a reason to meet on a regular basis. She said that if an ad hoc Rules Committee was needed it would be assembled by SACUA and approved by the Senate Assembly.

The committee realignment was unanimously approved.

### 3:22 Civic Engagement: SRAC Professor Gina Cervetti; Erin Byrnes and Mary Jo Callan, Ginsberg Center

Professor Cervetti introduced the work of the Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC). She said the committee was interested in the work of the Ginsberg Center (<https://ginsberg.umich.edu>), which is using the presidential election to help students think about their roles as citizens, to promote civic engagement and use the election season to develop the abilities of members of the University community for holding civil conversations.

Director Callan introduced herself, David Waterhouse, the Associate Director of the Ginsberg Center and Erin Byrnes, who leads the Big Ten Voting Challenge. She said that the purpose of the Ginsberg Center is to enhance participation in civic life, noting while that students are interested in multiple pathways to involvement, they tend to focus on voting. She drew attention to President Schlissel's statement on the importance of civic engagement (<https://record.umich.edu/articles/u-m-to-host-presidential-debate-next-october/>). She also drew attention to the overall decline in the faith people have in public institutions (currently 17% of people surveyed say they have faith in these institutions). A purpose of the Ginsberg Center is to enhance faith in democratic institutions, and Director Callan believes that faculty involvement is particularly important to developing that faith. Given that the first time that students are able to vote is often when they arrive at College, Director Callan said it was important for faculty to ask students if they are participating in voting, while avoiding telling them how to vote on specific candidates or issues. The Big Ten Voting Challenge focuses efforts to encourage voting, with the result that student turnout increased significantly between 2014 and 2018, and it aims for a further increase in the 2020 election. She believes that the upcoming fall presidential debate to be held at the University provides a prime opportunity to focus on the meaning of civic engagement.

Ms. Byrnes presented data on the increase of student participation rate in elections, showing that when eligible voters are divided by the number who actually voted, the participation rate in the 2016 presidential election was 44.7% at the University of Michigan. This compares unfavorably to the overall national rate for the 18-29-year-old age cohort of 49.5. She noted that the participation rate in the 2016 mid-term election increased to 41% from 26.7% in 2014, and that the predicted turnout for this age cohort in 2020 is 60-65%, which would be the highest turnout since 1908. The Ginsberg Center's goal for the Ann Arbor campus will be 75% student participation.

Associate Director Waterhouse discussed incorporating civic engagement into faculty work with students. He said that this can include informing students about the upcoming election, sharing resources for voter registration, informing students about the issues underlying ballot initiatives, and encouraging international students to engage with the way the system works. He urged faculty to be conscious that they cannot encourage students to vote in a specific way, and to review university guidelines. He drew attention to the tool kit assembled by the Ginsberg Center (<https://ginsberg.umich.edu/article/faculty-toolkits>). He noted that while faculty feel it is important to discuss voting with students, they may be uncomfortable having these discussions. Including information about voting on syllabi is an option.

A Senate Assembly member asked about absentee voting. Ms. Byrnes drew attention to Michigan Proposal 3 which states that an excuse for requesting an absentee vote (such as being out of town) is no longer required (<https://govote.umich.edu/>). This should make it easier for people to cast absentee ballots.

Professor Finlayson said that urging students to vote can cause issues for non-citizens. Director Callan replied that the process could be kept anonymous by integrating material into a syllabus. Chair Beatty said she could not get materials on the Big Ten Voter Challenge at UM-Dearborn because the UM-Dearborn campus was not part of the Big Ten. Director Callan said that the failure of communication would be repaired. Associate Director Waterhouse said that the Ginsberg Center website is a resource for all three campuses.

A Senate Assembly member asked about reaching out to staff. Director Callan said the Ginsberg Center is happy to come to units to talk about its work. A Senate Assembly member asked about talking to students after the election. Director Callan said the Ginsberg Center is developing events across the university for post-election and post-debate discussion.

### 3:45 Presidential Debate Planning—Catherine Carver

Ms. Carver introduced herself as one of co-leads for the Debate Steering Committee (<https://record.umich.edu/articles/2020-presidential-debate-core-team/>), that is developing programming on all three campuses around the fall presidential debate to be held at 9:00 pm on October 15, 2020 in Crisler Arena. The committee's website is at <https://debate2020.umich.edu/>.

The debate venue will be a "made for TV" venue holding 800-1000 seats, and the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) (<https://www.debates.org>) controls the tickets. The university will get a small number of tickets, most of which are expected to go to students. The commission is also working with the National Democratic Institute (<https://www.ndi.org>) on the National Democratic Institute Symposium (<https://debate2020.umich.edu/about-the-debate/ndi/>), a four-day conference which will be held concurrently with the debate. The symposium is facilitated by the Weiser Diplomacy Center (<http://diplomacy.umich.edu>), which is looking for ways to involve conference participants into teaching.

Ms. Carver said the Steering Committee anticipates that the debate will have a significant impact on the campus, as there will be 3000 members of the international media and six major networks broadcasting from campus (though not from the Diag) throughout the week. This will enable members of the university community to share their expertise with the media. There will be a university-wide theme semester, "Democracy and Debate", focusing on three themes: free speech and exchange affairs; membership in a democratic society; and democratic engagement. Ms. Carver said that the Steering Committee has held three town halls for students to address campus climate issues, and she is happy to meet with departments and groups on campus. Professor Finlayson asked about outreach to UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint. Ms. Carver said that a call for volunteers was sent to both campuses as well as to the Ann Arbor campus.

4:15 Campus Lighting Standards—Dark Skies—Professor Oey and Karie Slavik, Associate Director of the University of Michigan Biological Station

Professor Oey introduced the issue of light pollution. For her presentation see:

<https://facultysenate.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/Dark-Skies-Presentation.pdf>

Professor Oey asked for the Senate Assembly to support the motion on Dark Skies (see appendix 2), which was formally introduced to the Senate Assembly by Professors Meyer and Tonomura. Chair Beatty mentioned that it was her understanding that the city of Ann Arbor was in the process of developing rules related to light pollution, and Professor Oey said that to support that effort the faculty group has offered a Dark Skies proposal to the city planning commission. The proposal is currently under discussion. Librarian Spencer asked about other universities that are acting on this initiative. Professor Oey said that Arizona State had participated in a Dark Skies initiative for Tucson. The movement has not taken hold at institutions based on the East Coast.

The vote was 36-0 in favor of the Initiative.

4:30 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted

David Potter  
Senate Secretary

#### Appendix 1: **Committee Realignment**

WHEREAS, Senate Assembly committees provide an avenue for faculty to address issues and concerns;  
WHEREAS, Senate Assembly may create standing and special committees to assist it with its work;  
WHEREAS, the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA), on behalf of Senate Assembly, shall serve as an instrument for effecting the actions of the Faculty Senate and Senate Assembly;  
WHEREAS, issues that arise or demand attention change from time to time requiring realignment of Senate Assembly committees to address current goals and needs.

BE IT RESOLVED, A new committee is established with a charge to address issues related to the Office of Institutional Equity, the grievance process and implementation of sanctions. This committee shall be named the Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action (COAA).

BE IT RESOLVED, Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESF) is revised with an expanded charge to encompass topics such as campus climate and social well-being, while also serving in an advisory capacity to Academic Human Resources pertaining to faculty-life issues. CESF's name shall be revised to *Committee on the Economic and Social Well-Being of the Faculty* (CESWF).

BE IT RESOLVED, Committee on Civil Rights and Liberties (CCRL), Committee for an Inclusive University (CIU), and Tri-Campus Committee (TCC) are merged and consolidated into one committee, the *Committee for Fairness, Equality, and Inclusivity* (CFEI). CFEI's initial specific charge is to address issues of inclusion for all populations on the three campuses including Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint.

BE IT RESOLVED, Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC) and Building, Facilities, and Infrastructure (BFIC), are merged into one committee, FAAC, addressing issues related to both financial affairs and building, facilities, and infrastructure.

BE IT RESOLVED, Rules, Practices, and Policies Committee (RPP) is designated as an **ad hoc** committee. Committee members shall serve for one-year terms when assigned as specific needs arise.

#### Appendix 2: **Senate Assembly Resolution on Dark Skies**

Whereas some forms of night-time lighting impede public safety and are a serious environmental concern, corresponding to forms of lighting that are a nuisance and serve no useful purpose, and are therefore defined as light pollution;

Whereas, in particular, glare impedes visibility on roads and pedestrian walkways, creating a threat to roadway users, especially cyclists and pedestrians; and light trespass and sky glow disrupt human sleep cycles and are linked to multiple medical conditions;

Whereas artificial light at night is also a major threat to the environment because it disrupts the natural ecosystem and generates energy inefficiencies that contribute to climate change;

Whereas artificial light at night is also necessary to help ensure the safe performance of outdoor activities;

Therefore, in order to:

1. Minimize adverse impacts of light pollution in the form of light trespass, glare and sky glow;
2. Protect the natural environment from artificial light at night;
3. Promote energy efficiency;
4. Foster an environment that supports and/or enhances nighttime activities serving the University's

missions in research, teaching, and service;

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate Assembly encourages the University to comply with best practices for minimizing light pollution that are recommended by the International Dark Sky Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society, by revising the U-M Design Guidelines and mitigating existing sources of light pollution as soon as is feasible.

**University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.01:**

*The University Senate*

The 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.

---

**University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.04:**

*The Senate Assembly*

The Senate Assembly shall serve as the legislative arm of the senate.

The assembly shall have power to consider and advice regarding all matters within the jurisdiction of the University Senate which affect the functioning of the university as an institution of higher learning, which concern its obligations to the state and to the community at large, and which relate to its internal organization insofar as such matters of internal organization involve general questions of educational policy.

---

**Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on**

**University Affairs:** In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed.