

Minutes 19 October 2020  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)  
Monday, 19 October 3:15 pm  
The meeting was held via Zoom because of the COVID-19 Shutdown

Present: Ahbel-Rappe, Conway (chair), Dinov, Gallo, Liu, Manera, Marsh, Potter, Spencer, Toyama, Banasik

Absent: Finlayson

Guests: Ann Zaniewski, *The University Record*, Vanessa Kiefer, *The Michigan Daily*

3:17: Call to Order/ Approval of Minutes

Chair Conway called the meeting to order. The minutes for October 5 were approved. Chair Conway said that she and Professor Manera will make a 30-minute presentation to the Regents Meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that President Schlissel will be at the SACUA meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>, starting at 3:00.

3:20: Approve Senate Assembly Agenda, Committee on Anti-Racism Charge

Chair Conway presented the proposed agenda for the October 26 Senate Assembly Meeting as follows:

- 3:15: Call to order/ Welcome/Announcements/Approval of Agenda/Minutes
- 3:25: SACUA Updates
- 3:35: Committee on Anti-Racism (draft title)
- 3:45: Title IX Advisors–Unit Feedback in Breakout Groups
- 4:15: Regent Visit (Executive Session)
- 5:00: Adjourn

Chair Conway presented the proposed charge for the Committee on Anti-Racism as follows:

1. Serve as a body to whom racist policies and practices experienced by faculty can be reported. Collect data on faculty reports of racism.
2. Monitor the investigation and discipline of racist behaviors, incidents, research and publications on the part of faculty, when appropriate.
3. Identify and share best practices for responding to racism experienced by faculty of color.
4. Sponsor at least one public facing anti-racism event per year (workshop, art performance, talk or paper, panel discussion, etc.).

Chair Conway said the title of the committee is common to many universities, and that there is a need to recruit more people of color for the committee. Professor Toyama asked if the charge of the committee could address issues of systemic racism. Librarian Spencer replied that item 2 of the charge covers the issue of systemic racism, and added that issues of accountability arise at the

individual level. Professor Ahbel-Rappe said that the Senate Assembly will be looking at a focused action item, and Professor Karen Thomas Brown, who has been working with African-American faculty about their experiences, will be coming to SACUA on November 2. She noted that, in addition to issues connected with recruitment, there are issues whether African American faculty and students feel the University provides them with a welcoming environment, and that members of the committee should decide what is appropriate because addressing systemic racism generally will not affect personal experiences. Librarian Spencer agreed that people are more likely be frank about their experiences in smaller groups, and that retention of African-American faculty should be handled at the individual level.

Professor Marsh wondered if it was necessary to develop a broader opening statement for the committee charge and Professor Manera suggested emailing the Senate Assembly members who had spoken to the issue of the name of the committee about the revised charge of the committee. Chair Conway said she would send the revised charge to the Senate Assembly members who spoke and adjust the charge accordingly.

Chair Conway said that the Title IX issue in breakout rooms that is on the agenda is about the faculty advisors in Title IX cases, and that there is need for greater clarity about how this has been handled at unit levels.

The agenda for Senate Assembly was unanimously approved.

#### 3:40 Faculty Open Mic Details

Dr. Banasik said the Open Mic sessions will give an opportunity to Senate Assembly members to reach out to SACUA members, and that eleven people (including Professors Potter and Marsh) would participate. Each member of the group would have one session per month, with up to three slots per week. The google sheet for sign up will be ready on October 20. Meetings will be via zoom, people will log on to a link, and anyone who wants to join the meeting can do so by accessing the link.

#### 3:40 Executive Session

#### 4:35: Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,  
David S. Potter  
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:  
Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges  
Sec. 4.01 The University Senate

"...[t]he 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. Jurisdiction over academic policies shall reside in the faculties of the various schools and colleges, but insofar as actions by the several faculties affect university policy as a whole, or schools and colleges other than the one in which they originate, they shall be brought before the University Senate."

Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs:

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

Assembly: “The Assembly may adopt rules for the transaction of its business. In appropriate cases not covered by rules of the Assembly, the rules of the University Senate shall apply.”

SACUA: “The committee may adopt rules for the transaction of its business.”