

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
Monday, 14 December, 2020 3:15
The meeting was held by zoom

Present: Abir, Ahbel-Rappe (by virtue), Bridwell-Rabb, Byon, Castilho, Conway (by virtue), DiFeo, Dinov, Dolins, Evrard, Fabiilli, Finlayson (by virtue), Friese, Gnedin, Guzdial, Hertz, Huang, Hughes, Hyde, Jenkins, Kahn, Kattari, Kazerooni, Ketefian, Knoblauch, Lahiri, Lampe, Lepri, Liu, MacLatchy, Maitra, Manera (by virtue), Mansfield, , Maxim, Mesa, Modrak, Okwudire, Ostling, Papaleontiou, Passey, Ramaswamy, Sales, Singer, Spencer (by virtue), Toyama (by virtue), Wang, Wright

Alternate Requested: Kolmanovsky

Alternates Present: Girard, Anouck (Kolmanovsky)

Absent: Ali, Andrias, Barzilai, Bawardi, Burzo, Butt, Caulfield, Conjeevaram, Dal Cin, Fontana, Gallo (by virtue), Garner, Junghans, Kessentini, Kolmanovsky, Lagisetty, Laurence, Liang, Madathilparambil, Mendlow, Morgan, Nelson, Pal, Partridge, Pinto, Snyder, Subramanian, Trumpey, Van Berkel

3:20: Call to order/ Welcome/Announcements/Approval of Agenda/Minutes of 10/26

Chair Conway called the meeting to order and announced that voting would be through Simply Voting, which has now been confirmed to be an accessible platform. The minutes for October 26 were approved.

3:20: Faculty Senate Office Updates

Dr. Banasik announced that Robyn Snyder, previously Faculty Senate Office Coordinator, has left the university. There are 19 applications to fill the position, interviews will be held in January. The Davis, Markert Nickerson (DMN) 30th anniversary virtual event will be on Tuesday February 16th from 3:00-5:00 (<https://faculty senate.umich.edu/davis-markert-and-nickerson-lecture-on-academic-and-intellectual-freedom/>).

Dr. Banasik said that Electronic Meeting Task Force will have a presentation for Senate Assembly at the meeting on January 25, 2021.

Dr. Banasik said that Professor Pasquale, chair of the Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action (COAA) had met with SACUA, and that other Senate Assembly committee chairs will be meeting with SACUA in the course of the Winter Term to discuss the work of their committees. She noted that several of these committees are examining aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the University community (e.g. the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee [AAAC] which was exploring issues connected with the promotion process) and urged Senate Assembly members to encourage colleagues to fill out the survey from the committee on the Social and Economic Welfare of the Faculty.

3:25: SACUA Updates

Chair Conway said SACUA had met with Provost Collins, and that it had a one-hour meeting on December 7th with Guidepost Solutions, the group employed by the Regents to study the University's response to the

WilmerHale report. Representatives from Guidepost Solutions will meet with the Senate Assembly in January.

Chair Conway said SACUA leadership has met with Central Student Government (CSG) leadership, and that CSG is looking to collaborate on issues of mutual interest. Chair Conway said faculty who wished to raise concerns about the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics should contact her because she attends the monthly meetings of the Advisory Board in Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA).

Chair Conway invited faculty to bring issues forward that can she could present in her regular meetings with the Provost and the President senior administration. She said opportunities to communicate with SACUA through the open Mic program would be extended to members of Senate Assembly committees in the Winter Term. She wants to ensure that as many people as possible are in contact with the consultants from Guidepost Solutions.

3:30: Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) Syllabus Statement

Professor Cervetti, chair of the Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC), introduced via recorded video the proposal to change the existing Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) syllabus statement in favor of one that had been unanimously endorsed by the SRAC.. The existing statement reads:

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://ssd.umich.edu>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

The proposed revised statement reads:

The University of Michigan welcomes students of all abilities and identities. If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. You are welcome to contact me through _____ . Some aspects of this course, the assignments, in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD Office at G664 Haven Hall) to help determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://ssd.umich.edu>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Please reach out at least ___(weeks/days) before accommodations are required. That being said, I will try to accommodate situations that come up unexpectedly as the semester progresses. Any information you provide is confidential and will be treated as such.

Chair Conway welcomed LSA Student Government representatives Divya Manikandan and Jacob Cohen to discuss the changes.

Ms. Manikandan said LSA student government had been approached by a student who was having difficulty navigating the accommodations process. Further investigation revealed that disability has been identified as being the second leading cause of discrimination at the university.

Mr. Cohen said the three main changes between the old and new syllabus statements were

1. Introducing the word “we”;
2. pointing out that students can meet with the professor beyond the first day of class (anxiety for students identifying themselves);
3. Setting a time limit for the request.

He said that LSA student government did not want to appear to be seeking to force a professor to give accommodations that cannot be given. LSA Student Government's intention is to make University more inclusive for students with disabilities.

Professor Kattari said she supported the proposal not to have a strict timeline for declaring a disability because students may not know that they have a disability until later in the semester. She asked if the proposed language had been reviewed by SSD (<https://ssd.umich.edu>). Ms. Manikandan said they have met with academic deans and that SSD has agreed to send out a google form to its whole roster of students to get their views on the changes. She said they have reached out to clubs and student groups which will look at the statement when it is approved by Senate Assembly.

Chair Conway drew attention to the chat where a question was asked about contact between LSA student government and branch campuses.

Professor Hughes thanked students for raising the issue because it is important to make syllabus statements as inclusive and welcoming as possible, and asked if it is difficult for a student to obtain a VISA form at the University. Ms. Manikandan says that the Testing Accommodation Center (TAC) can't be used without a VISA, which requires a diagnosis. She said many students don't want to do get a diagnosis. She said that LSA student government hopes to make the assessment process easier for students.

Professor Kattari moved acceptance of the proposed syllabus statement, Professor Hughes seconded the motion.

Mr. Cohen said there was a second syllabus statement that did not make it into the menu for the meeting. Chair Conway said the Senate Assembly could only vote on the proposal that Assembly has seen in advance. She invited LSA Student Government to present the second proposed syllabus statement to the meeting on January 25, 2021. Professor Okwudire, noting that he had needed to provide accommodation the day of final because of a last-minute injury, suggested adding language urging students to reach out if they cannot get a VISA. Ms. Manikandan said that they can revise the language to take account of these situations—but drew attention to the statement “That being said, I will try to accommodate situations that come up unexpectedly as the semester progresses” in the proposal, which she believed did address a situation of the sort Professor Okwudire had raised.

There was an issue with the functionality of Simply Voting, the vote was postponed until after the meeting with the Guidepost Solutions consultants.

4:00: Guidepost Solutions Consultants (reviewing the University's implementation of recommendations in the WilmerHale report concerning former Provost Philbert)

Executive session

4:32: Voting on the CSG Proposal

The issues with Simply Voting were resolved while the meeting was in executive session. The motion passed 33-2-1. . She said the Guidepost Solutions consultants, and Chief Financial Officer Hegarty will also be guests at that meeting. She said there will be a discussion of financial issues confronting the UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint campuses with representatives from those campuses at the February Senate Assembly meeting.

4:40: Matters Arising

There were no matters arising. Chair Conway said that the Faculty Senate Office will reopen before January 14th if Senate Assembly wish to raise issues of concern.

4:41 Adjournment



Respectfully submitted

David Potter
Senate Secretary

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.