

Minutes of 26 October 2020
Circulated December 2020
Approved 14 December 2020

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
Monday, 26 October, 2020 3:00
The meeting was held by zoom

Present: Ali, Barzilai, Bridwell-Rabb, Castilho, Caulfield, Conway (by virtue), Dal Cin, Dinov, Dolins, Evrard, Fabiilli, Finlayson (by virtue), Fontana, Gnedin, Guzdial, Hertz, Huang, Hughes, Hyde, Jenkins, Junghans, Kahn, Ketefian, Knoblauch, Kolmanovsky, Lagisetty, Lahiri, Lampe, Laurence, Lepri, , MacLatchy, Madathilparambil, Maitra, Manera (by virtue), Mansfield, Marsh, Maxim, Mesa, Modrak, Nelson, Okwudire, Ostling, Pal, Papaleontiou, Partridge, Pinto, Ramaswamy, Sales, Singer, Snyder, Spencer (by virtue), Subramanian, Toyama (by virtue), Trumpey, Wang,

Alternate Requested: Friese (Nursing), Kattari (Social Work), Liu (Engineering),

Alternates Present: Hoffman (Nursing), Baker (Engineering)

Absent: Ahbel-Rappe (by virtue), Abir, Conjeevaram, Kessentini, Liang, Mendlow, Morgan, Andrias, Bawardi, Burzo, Butt, Byon, DiFeo, Gallo (by virtue), Garner, Kazerooni, Passey, Van Berkel, Wright

3:22: Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Chair Conway called the meeting to order, and said that the minutes for September 21 will be approved at the meeting on November 16. She asked Senate Assembly members to email Dr. Banasik if they should experience access issues during the meeting.

Chair Conway said that SACUA is considering calling a full Faculty Senate meeting in place of the Senate Assembly meeting scheduled for December 7.

Dr. Banasik said that SACUA has populated an Electronic Meetings and Accessibility Task Force to ensure that future meetings will be fully accessible. She said that she is working with SACUA to establish an Open Mic program, making SACUA members available on a regular basis to meet with Senate Assembly members.

Dr. Banasik said that she and Chair Conway had attended Big Ten Faculty Governance Conference from October 15-17, which was hosted by the University Nebraska at Lincoln. She said that there had been extensive discussion of Title IX issues.

3:25: SACUA Updates

Chair Conway said that SACUA had been in extensive communication with the central administration since the Faculty Senate meeting on September 16, and that President Schlissel will be holding a further meeting with SACUA and faculty who had presented motions at the Faculty Senate meeting. SACUA has also been in communication with the Regents, a Regent attended the SACUA meeting on October 5, and she, along with Professor Manera, had attended the Regents' meeting on October 22. She

expressed her hope that the Open Mic program will to allow better communication between Senate Assembly and the central administration.

Professor Potter said that the committee to review the Wilmer Hale report into allegations of sexual misconduct by former Provost Philbert (https://regents.umich.edu/files/meetings/01-01/Report_of_Independent_Investigation_WilmerHale.pdf) will consist of himself, Librarian Spencer and Professors Elizabeth Armstrong, Rachel Goldman, and Catherine McKinnon. The purpose of the committee will be to evaluate the central administration's response to the recommendations of in the WilmerHale report.

Professor Toyama said that a survey of faculty, asking about teaching preferences for the winter term had been sent out on October 19th, and that the results will be analyzed by deans Gallimore and Moje as well as himself and Professor Dinov. Martha McComas from Dentistry also participated along with MaryJo Banasik, Christine Gerdes and Jim Burkel.

Professor Manera discussed the development of the President's Covid Council, which is taking place as a response to the Faculty Senate meeting on September 16. She said that President Schlissel had turned the staffing of the committee over to SACUA. In staffing the committee, SACUA is striving to represent faculty of different schools, ranks, and backgrounds. The commission will meet twice a month to provide input on the plan for the Winter Term.

3:37: Committee on Anti-Racism

Chair Conway said this issue was carried over from the meeting on September 21st, when Senate Assembly had passed the idea of the committee but requested further work on the committee's charge. She said that SACUA had approved new charge then sent the charge to those who had spoken on the 21st. The committee currently consists of four members of the faculty from the Ann Arbor campus who are serving on the Committee for Fairness, Equity and Inclusion (CFEI) as well as one faculty member from UM-Dearborn and one faculty member from UM-Flint. The charge is as follows:

1. Serve as a body to identify ways in which University, College, or other institutional policies contribute to structural racism and identify ways to change policies to promote anti-racism.
2. To guide and recommend to SACUA and the Senate priorities for University policies that support anti-racism.
3. Serve as a body to whom racist policies and practices experienced by faculty can be reported. Collect data on faculty reports of racism.
4. Identify and share best practices for responding to racism experienced by faculty of color.
5. Sponsor at least one public anti-racism event per year (workshop, art performance, talk or paper, panel discussion, etc.)

Chair Conway noted that, as a Senate Assembly committee, the committee on Anti-Racism is focused on Faculty Governance issues. Professor Hyde said the new charge responded to concerns expressed on September 21st. Librarian Spencer drew attention to Anti-Racism initiatives that University has instituted (<https://record.umich.edu/articles/u-m-to-launch-several-new-anti-racism-initiatives/>) and said that the Committee on Anti-Racism can interact with these committees.

Chair Conway invited volunteers from Senate Assembly for the Committee on Anti-Racism. Professor Mesa asked who would be responsible for populating the committee. Chair Conway replied that the Faculty Senate Office would populate the committee from Senate Assembly volunteers.

The motion passed 43-0-0

3:45: Title IX Advisers (unit feedback)

Chair Conway said that the new Title IX regulations had created a role for faculty advisors who would questions complainants and respondents in Title IX proceedings. The Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC), the Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action (COAA) and SACUA had

expressed concern with respect to the proposal. She invited Professor Singer, the chair of AAAC, to speak to the issue.

Professor Singer said questions included lack of clarity about the advisor role, and protections for faculty who should undertake this role. She noted that there are also questions about the qualifications for volunteers, and about whether the obligation for the institution to ensure that an advisor is present in a Title IX hearing meant that the advisor needed to be a faculty member, and whether there were people with specific training who could be selected for this process instead. She said the AAAC had raised these concerns with the Provost's team, and had been told that faculty volunteers have come forth. AAAC had also been told that a training lasting several hours was provided to the volunteers. Professor Singer said the Provost's team is not unwilling to change the policy, but did not understand the depth of the AAAC's concerns.

4:00: Discussion of the Title IX Advisor Program in Breakout rooms

4:15: Regent Visit: Executive Session

5:00 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.