

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Item for Information**

SUBJECT: February 2021 Faculty Governance Update

Overview of items discussed:

1. SACUA
2. Senate Assembly
3. Senate Assembly Committees
4. Faculty Senate
5. Faculty Senate Office Update

1. SACUA

SACUA held meetings on January 11, February 1, and February 8. At the **January 11** meeting, SACUA discussed plans for the January 25 Senate Assembly meeting. Members of the Senate Assembly Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion (CFEI) presented the committee's [Resolution on One University](#), which SACUA overwhelmingly supported with 7 yeases and one abstention. The Chair of the Research Policies Committee, Professor Natalie Colabianchi, gave SACUA an update on the committee's activities including recommendations to update the committee's charges, and to update the committee's name to reflect its advisory role to the Vice President for Research. A name change will be proposed for approval at an upcoming Senate Assembly meeting. At the **February 1** meeting, Provost Susan Collins was a guest. Provost Collins discussed anti-racism initiatives, and she solicited feedback from SACUA members about their experiences during Winter term. The Electronic Meetings and Accessibility Task Force, which was convened by SACUA after the September Faculty Senate meeting, presented recommended procedures for Faculty Senate and Senate Assembly meetings to maximize accessibility in electronic meetings. The Task Force will present the final procedures to Senate Assembly for endorsement at the February 15 Senate Assembly meeting. At the **February 8** meeting, SACUA met in executive session to discuss annual planning for the Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture and future administrator evaluation activities.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY

Senate Assembly met on December 14 and on January 25. During the **December 14** meeting, Senate Assembly endorsed a revised Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) Syllabus Statement. The Statement was reviewed and endorsed by the Senate Assembly Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC), and introduced to the Assembly by video message by the Chair of SRAC, Professor Gina Cervetti. Senate Assembly participated in a conversation with Guidepost Solutions while in executive session. On **January 25**, Senate Assembly voted to select members of the Nominating Committee for the upcoming SACUA election. Senate Assembly member Luke Hyde, who is also a member of the COVID-19 Faculty Council, gave an update about the Faculty Council's activities. Kevin Hegarty, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, was a guest. He gave an update to the Assembly about activities within his areas of responsibility. Senate Assembly members then spent thirty minutes participating in breakout groups with representatives from Guidepost Solutions to provide feedback about the climate in their units. The 7 breakout groups were organized by school or college affiliation.

3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Senate Assembly committee work is underway. The following committees recently met, or have upcoming meetings scheduled since the last update:

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee	December 9, January 20, February 24
Communications Advisory Committee	January 20
Development Advisory Committee	January 29, February 12
Financial Affairs Advisory Committee	February 15
General Counsel's Advisory Committee	February 4
Government Relations Advisory Committee	February 11
Information Technology Committee	January 27, February 24
Medical Affairs Advisory Committee	February 17
Research Policies Committee	December 10, January 21, February 19
Secretary of the University Advisory Committee	December 8, February 2
Student Relations Advisory Committee	January 22, February 26
Committee on Anti-Racism	January 20, February 26
Committee on the Economic and Social Well-Being of the Faculty	December 14, January 7, February 11
Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion	December 9, January 20, February 17
Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action	December 18, January 22, February 26

4. FACULTY SENATE

The Faculty Senate is hosting the 30th Annual Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture on February 16 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This year's lecture will be in a panel format, which will be held virtually. Three distinguished panelists will participate, including Nadjé S. Al-Ali, Robert Family Professor of International Studies, Professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies, Brown University; Susan Benesch, Faculty associate at Harvard and adjunct professor at American University, Director of the Dangerous Speech Project; and Michael Bérubé, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature and Immediate Past Chair of the University Faculty Senate at Pennsylvania State University. Chandler Davis, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, a namesake of the lecture, will introduce the panelists. This year's theme is *Challenges to Academic Freedom in a Changing Landscape, at Home and Abroad*.

5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

A new Faculty Governance Coordinator, Elizabeth Devlin, was hired. She began working in the Faculty Senate Office on January 25, 2021.

Submitted: February 2021



Colleen Conway, SACUA Chair