

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

**SUBJECT: October 2020 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 September 14, September 28, October 5, and October 12. At the **September 14** meeting, SACUA discussed charges for Senate Assembly committees for 2020-2021 and logistics and planning for the September 16 Faculty Senate and the September 21 Senate Assembly meetings. The **September 28** meeting was held in executive session. During this meeting, SACUA discussed the creation of a WilmerHale Report Task Force and a proposed Senate Assembly Committee on Anti-Racism. President Schlissel joined the meeting for a candid hour-long discussion. Provost Susan Collins was a guest at the **October 5** meeting. Amir Fleischmann, Secretary of GEO, was also a guest. The **October 12** meeting was also held in executive session. The university's proposed plans to use employee volunteers to serve as advisors to meet cross-examination requirements under Title IX was discussed. SACUA discussed the search for a future Vice President for Enrollment Management with search consultants responsible for managing the search.

**2. SENATE ASSEMBLY**

Senate Assembly's first meeting of the academic year was on **September 21**. Senate Assembly approved the committee charges for 2020-2021. Student Life Vice President Martino Harmon attended for a brief introduction to the assembly and to give an overview his role. Accessibility issues that arose during the Faculty Senate meeting were discussed, and a Resolution was passed calling for increased attention to accessibility for future electronic meetings.

**3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES**

In an effort to increase connections between Senate Assembly committees and the executive officers they advise, the SACUA Chair and Faculty Senate Office Director met with each Senate Assembly committee chair and corresponding executive officer. During these planning meetings, the charges and goals for the year were discussed.

Senate Assembly committees have begun meeting. All meetings have been scheduled for Fall term with some committees scheduling meetings for the full academic year. All meetings continue to take place virtually through Zoom. Committee rosters and charges are posted on the [Faculty Senate Office website](#). Available meeting agendas and minutes have also been posted. The following committees recently met, or have upcoming meetings scheduled:

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee	September 8, 23
Communications Advisory Committee	September 25
Development Advisory Committee	September 29
Financial Affairs Advisory Committee	Scheduled: October 19
General Counsel's Advisory Committee	October 7

Government Relations Advisory Committee	September 15, October 13
Information Technology Committee	October 13
Medical Affairs Advisory Committee	Scheduled: October 21
Research Policies Committee	October 7
Secretary of the University Advisory Committee	September 15, October 6
Student Relations Advisory Committee	September 25
Committee on the Economic and Social Well-Being of the Faculty	September 28
Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion	September 9, 23, October 7
Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action	September 25

#### 4. FACULTY SENATE

The Faculty Senate held a virtual meeting on **September 16** where over 2,250 faculty participated to consider 6 motions. During the meeting, Faculty Senate discussed and voted on the following motions:

**Passed: Motion 1:** SACUA Motion on Electronic Meetings for Faculty Senate: Yes: 1,993 No: 37

**Failed: Motion 2:** No Confidence in Re-Opening Plan: Yes: 915 No: 991

**Passed: Motion 3:** Implementation of Permanent Policy Requiring Substantive Consultation of the Administration on All Matters Relevant to Faculty With Existing Bodies of Faculty Governance: Yes: 1,328 No: 615

**Failed: Motion 4:** Call for All Members of University Community to Engage Constructively Together to Overcome Challenges and Meet the Educational Mission of the University: Yes: 826 No: 903

**Passed: Motion 5:** Call for University Administration to Release Details About Models and Assumptions that Have Guided University Planning for Fall Term: Yes: 1,635 No: 118

**Passed: Motion 6:** No Confidence in President Mark Schlissel's Leadership: Yes: 957 No: 953

**Passed: Motion 7:** Resolution to University to Resolve GEO Strike and Withdraw Litigation: Yes: 934 No: 360

On October 9, the Faculty Senate hosted a virtual Regent Candidate Forum. Three candidates participated in the Forum, including incumbent Regent Shauna Ryder Diggs, Michael Mawilai, Green Party Candidate, and Carl Meyers, Republican Candidate. After giving a brief statement in support of their candidacy, the candidates participated in two thirty-minute question and answer periods. During the first question and answer period, candidates responded to questions submitted in advance by SACUA and Senate Assembly. During the second thirty-minute period, candidates responded to questions submitted by attendees at the event. The event was open to the public, and over 125 people attended.

#### 5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

The Faculty Senate Office has populated a task force to consider rules and procedures for electronic meetings for Faculty Senate and Senate Assembly. A major emphasis of the task force is to ensure that future electronic meetings meet the accessibility requirements of attendees who need accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The goal of this task force is to recommend rules and procedures to be considered for approval at Senate Assembly at the January 2021 meeting.

Submitted: October 2020



Colleen Conway, SACUA Chair