

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

SUBJECT: September 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

Even though SACUA does not typically meet during the summer, SACUA has been in contact throughout the summer to address ongoing concerns expressed by faculty regarding the university's reopening plans. SACUA has been sharing concerns received with the university administration on a regular basis.

SACUA met virtually on July 13, August 17, August 25, and August 31, which was the first official meeting of this academic year. On **July 13**, SACUA met to discuss feedback received from faculty during breakout groups attended by over 100 faculty members at a Faculty Senate Town Hall. SACUA shared this feedback with the President and Provost. On **August 17**, SACUA had an informal meeting to discuss university reopening plans and related university communications. On **August 25**, SACUA held a retreat to set priorities and actions for the upcoming year. Mike Wood from the Michigan News gave a presentation about working with the press, and Debra Kowich, Office of General Counsel, and Pat Sellinger, Chief FOIA Officer, discussed FOIA and how these requirements may impact faculty. At the retreat SACUA approved the creation of the Committee on Anti-Racism, which will be presented to Senate Assembly for approval at its September meeting. SACUA will be creating an ad hoc committee to review recommendations in the WilmerHale report in the coming weeks. The committee will submit a report in February 2021 with recommendations.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY

Senate Assembly's first meeting of the academic year will be on September 21.

3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

The Faculty Senate Office has populated Senate Assembly committees, and some committees have already scheduled their meetings for the year. Formal approval by Senate Assembly of committee rosters and charges will be voted on at Senate Assembly's first meeting on September 21. Senate Assembly approved a Resolution in the spring to create a Committee on the Oversight of Administrative Action (COAA), to combine several committees into a Committee on Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion (CFEI), and to merge the Building, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee with the Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC). These committees have been populated and are ready for formal Senate Assembly approval of the rosters and charges.

The focus of recruiting for Senate Assembly committees this year was to increase participation of Faculty Senate members. All new volunteers added to committee rosters this year are members of Faculty Senate.

4. FACULTY SENATE

The Faculty Senate hosted a Town Hall on **July 8**. Over six hundred people attended this virtual event, and over 100 people participated in breakout groups at the end of the meeting. The meeting was held in a webinar format. President Schlissel and Provost Collins presented remarks and addressed questions submitted by Faculty Senate members in advance, and during the meeting. The Faculty Senate held an emergency meeting on **August 28**. This meeting was called by petition of more than 150 Faculty Senate members. Thirteen Faculty Senate members requested the opportunity in advance to speak during this meeting, Additional Faculty Senate members had the opportunity to engage in dialogue during the meeting. This meeting was held in a Zoom meeting format with chat and Q/A functions and engaged more than 580 participants including faculty, staff, and students. The Faculty Senate will be holding a meeting on **September 16** to discuss six motions that were received in advance, and to vote on the motions during the meeting.

5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

The Faculty Senate office has completed its work on populating the committees. This year the Senate Chair, Faculty Senate Office and committee chairs are meeting with each executive officer to discuss committee charges and plans for the year for each officer's respective Senate Assembly advisory committee. The Faculty Senate Office is currently developing rules and procedures to hold electronic meetings in the future. The Faculty Senate Office Director continues to participate in regular meetings with a faculty governance consortium to share and discuss fall reopening plans and role of faculty governance in institutional consultation and decision.

Submitted: September 2020



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