

Draft Minutes 24 May 2021

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
Monday, 24 May 3:15 pm
The meeting was held via Zoom because of the COVID-19 Shutdown

Present: Liu (Chair), Ahbel-Rappe, Atzmon, Conway, Finlayson, Gallo, Potter, Singer, Toyama, Banasik, Devlin

Absent: Freeman, Partridge,

Guests: Vanita Seed, *The Michigan Daily*; Jeffrey Bleiler, *The University Record*

3:18: Executive Session

5.09 process

3:42 Call to order 5/17/21 Minutes/Announcements

The minutes for May 17 were approved. Chair Liu said that the faculty award deliberation will be in June.

3:46: Faculty Senate Office Updates

Dr. Banasik said the Senate Assembly committee rosters will be finalized on Wednesday, May 27, and that there are currently 200 volunteers for these committees.

3:46: SACUA Chair Updates

Chair Liu said he had been invited to be part of a working group exploring ways to incentivize vaccination for faculty and staff, the goals being to enhance vaccination numbers and reporting. He said the University is in the process of acquiring commercial software to enable easy reporting of vaccination status and looking at possible incentives for vaccination such as gift cards, football or concert tickets. There will be one more meeting of the group, on Wednesday, May 26, and the final proposal will go to President Schlissel by Friday, May 28.

Chair Liu said there are six nominees for the dean search committee for the Stamps School of Art and Design. He has asked nominees for statements, and will do this for candidates for the dean search for the College of Pharmacy (there are currently four nominees). SACUA will use Simply Voting to vote on the candidates and give the names of the top three vote getters to the Provost, who would like them by May 28.

Chair Liu said he had met with Vice President Pendse to discuss the functionality of Simply Voting. He said that the Information Technology group had met with representative from Simply Voting who said that it would be possible to create a template to create a record of how individual members voted. He will continue to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of voter identification with SACUA.

3:52 Ann Arbor Schools and Before and After Care

Chair Liu said that since the Ann Arbor Public Schools use gyms and cafeterias to provide before- and after-school care, a practice that is not in keeping with COVID protocols, the district is cancelling the program for the academic year 2021/2022. Professor Finlayson noted that the Senate Assembly meeting start time of 3:15 conflicts with the time people will have to pick up children from school, and that the district's decision will have a knock-on effect for meetings and teaching after 3:00.

Chair Liu agreed that the district's decision will be a serious issue, for faculty and that the University administration needs to be informed about the challenges faculty will face. He said he had been told that there was a suggestion that the district have buses to take children to third-party locations. Professor Finlayson noted that moving children between multiple care centers could enhance spread of the disease.

Professor Ahbel-Rappe, said the deans and provost should address this immediately since faculty schedules will have to be rearranged. Faculty should not have to choose between their child's safety and teaching a class. She said this is an issue that will also be taken up by the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO).

Chair Liu said that he will discuss the after-school program issue with the Provost, and will bring up the Committee on Fairness, Equity and Inclusion (CFEI) recommendations on the promotion and tenure process in this context. Professor Ahbel-Rappe said the Provost should ask department chairs to review the after-school issue with their faculty and have a solution well in advance of the Fall term. Professor Conway said the issue should be brought to the Provost with a request for specific action such as the creation of a child care task force or the reengagement of the COVID council so that the issue could be explored from multiple perspectives while encouraging deans and chairs to have faculty identify needs and move classes. She noted that the district's decision will impact staff as well as faculty, and that it is important that new policies not create larger problems in the future.

4:04: Integration of Academics and Athletics/Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR)

Chair Liu said Professor Montgomery had written to him to say that improved integration between their athletic and academic experiences could be facilitated for student athletes by increasing communication between the Academic Support Program, the Career Center and the Advising office of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA). Professor Conway said student athletes had reported enhanced ability to stay in touch with their classes while travelling through the use of recorded materials to the Academic Progress Committee. Professor Potter said the Ross Academic Center was a victim of its own success. Because there is a very good academic support system for athletes in the Ross Center, student athletes are effectively discouraged from going to campus (even when the tutors try to encourage them to do so). In season time constraints made it likely that student athletes would be based in the Ross Center, but, he noted, if Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) in large classes were encouraged to hold at least one office hour in close proximity to the hour they teach, it would be easier for student athletes, who are going to be on campus at that time, to go to an office hour.

Professor Atzmon said faculty may be unwilling to continue recording their classes after COVID. Professor Finlayson said that recording material raises privacy issues, and that there was a potential violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>) if recordings of students participating in class are shared. Chair Liu said many professors in the College of Engineering are recording their lectures. Professor Finlayson noted that these lectures differ from the seminar style classes in which students constantly interact that she typically teaches. Chair Liu said he will share SACUA's response to President Schlissel on this issue by Friday, May 28.

4:13: Executive Session

LEO negotiations

SACUA members continuing to serve on committees that they were serving on before joining SACUA

SPG on emeritus status

4:58: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
David S. Potter
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:
Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

Sec. 4.01 The University Senate

"...[t]he 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. Jurisdiction over academic policies shall reside in the faculties of the various schools and colleges, but insofar as actions by the several faculties affect university policy as a whole, or schools and colleges other than the one in which they originate, they shall be brought before the University Senate."

Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs:

Senate: "In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed."

Assembly: "The Assembly may adopt rules for the transaction of its business. In appropriate cases not covered by rules of the Assembly, the rules of the University Senate shall apply."

SACUA: "The committee may adopt rules for the transaction of its business."