

Draft Minutes 16 August 2021

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)  
Monday, 16 August 3:15 pm  
The meeting was held via Zoom because of the COVID-19 Shutdown

Present: Liu (Chair), Ahbel-Rappe, Atzmon, Conway, Freeman, Partridge, Potter, Toyama, Banasik Devlin

Absent: Finlayson, Singer

Guests: Ann Zaniewski, *The University Record*, Scarlett Bickerton, *Michigan Daily*

3:16: Call to order 8/2/21 Minutes/Announcements

Chair Liu called the meeting to order. The minutes for August 2, 2021 were approved. Chair Liu said that Al Blixt, who will facilitate the SACUA retreat on August 25, will join the meeting in Executive Session.

3:20 Faculty Senate Office Updates

Dr. Banasik said that thank-you notes have been sent to the 57 people who have completed their terms on Senate Assembly committees. She said that the Honigman auditorium in Hutchins Hall has been reserved for Faculty Senate Meeting on October 4, noting that the Rules Committee has stated that there should be an in-person option for the meeting.

3:25: SACUA Chair remarks

Chair Liu said he has secured chairs for all Senate Assembly committees, and that Dr. Banasik and Ms. Devlin have begun meetings with chairs and committees (three so far). He said the SACUA nominee for membership of the working group on culture change, put forward in March, is dropping off of the committee because of a scheduling issue. He is writing the Provost's office to see if the person can be replaced with the second nominee whose name had been put forward. He has had no response from the Provost's office so far.

Chair Liu said that all but two deans had agreed that Senate Assembly members could use their unit's "all faculty" lists to communicate with their faculties. The two units that had not granted permission, the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA) and the Medical School said that the reason they were not granting permission was the size of their units. He noted that the "all faculty" lists in the Dental and Medical Schools include clinical faculty. The "all faculty" lists will be used to distribute a newsletter about Senate Assembly meetings to units.

Professor Freeman said that small units have a struggle to find out what happens at Senate Assembly and communicating this information is a burden for busy Senate Assembly members.

3:28: Rules Committee Working Group for Lecturers

Chair Liu said he would like to explore the possibility of creating a parallel process to that developed for the proposed inclusion of clinical faculty in the Faculty Senate to consider the inclusion of lecturers in that body, and that the president of the Lecturers Employee Union (LEO) expressed interest in the prospect.

Professor Gallo pointed out that lecturers are unionized so she does not see the need for them to be represented in the Faculty Senate. She understands that it is important to take the pulse of the entire community in the face of an extraordinary situation—but that an extraordinary situation should not dictate structural change; she sees no compelling reason to vastly include the size of the Faculty Senate. Professor Conway asked Professor Gallo if she felt the same way about clinical faculty. Professor Gallo said she differentiated between the two groups because lecturers have a powerful union. Professor Atzmon said that union membership and participation in faculty governance are two different things. He noted that the Faculty Senate deals with tenure issues and expressed discomfort about people who are not on tenure track dealing with tenure issues. At the same time, he also feels that everyone should have a voice—that there is an ethical responsibility to care about lecturers and clinical faculty if tenure track faculty can opt out of in-person teaching.

Professor Freeman pointed out that extended discussion of the matter was premature since SACUA is still in the information-gathering phase. He noted that there is a substantial difference between clinical faculty who have no way to represent their views while lecturers do. Also, he noted, clinical faculty have approached SACUA about the issue of representation in the Faculty Senate, which is not true of lecturers. He feels that SACUA needs information about how the term “clinical faculty” is applied to people across the university as there may be a shifting of the sands underneath the tenure track faculty as a whole new class of faculty is being created outside of public view. Professor Partridge agreed that SACUA needs to know how the category of clinical faculty is defined before it decides on representation.

Professor Atzmon said that if SACUA is gathering information, it should look at both lecturers and clinical faculty.

Professor Gallo suggested that SACUA gather information about post-doctoral appointments as well; she does not object to gathering information about clinical faculty, but reiterated the point that LEO has not made the same request. Professor Conway said that SACUA needs to consider the issue of clinical faculty representation in light of conversations in the 2020/21 academic year when the deans of the Nursing School and the Medical School raised that issue. Professor Singer, as chair of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) had started meeting with people from the Medical School from December 2020 onwards, and felt that SACUA had a responsibility to the people who had been told that the issue of their representation in the Faculty Senate would be considered. Professor Conway said that Professor Singer had met with LEO President Herold (<https://mcommunity.umich.edu/#profile:fogh>) multiple times and had received no indication that LEO was interested in membership in the Faculty Senate. Professor Partridge said that the issues of the way that a title is used and of representation in the Faculty Senate are separate.

Professor Atzmon said that the sentiment ballot distributed after the September 2020 Senate meeting only included clinical faculty, meaning that the exclusion of lecturers is an issue.

Chair Liu noted that research faculty were part of the Faculty Senate while lecturers and clinical faculty are not, that SACUA’s working group can study clinical faculty and LEO can provide information about LEO members. He said that it should be up to LEO to decide how it should be involved. He said he is familiar with a medical specialist who had been a research faculty member and thus was a Faculty Senate member, but that now that this specialist is a clinical faculty member, and no longer has representation.

Professor Ahbel-Rappe asked if SACUA can determine the membership of the Faculty Senate. Professor Potter said that SACUA could be perceived as being hostile to LEO if it looked

like it was trying to interfere with the union, and added that SACUA can determine membership in the Faculty Senate.

Professor Freeman said that SACUA could make the issue of membership in the Faculty Senate more complex than it ought to be by including LEO members. Professor Toyama asked if there were adjunct faculty who are not in either category and noted that there is an efficiency argument, as each group whose membership is discussed will add additional work. He said that the case of clinical faculty is a good test case for SACUA, and suggested that when it had completed its consideration of clinical faculty membership in the Faculty Senate, SACUA could turn to lecturers, noting that a reason why lecturers might not have been asking for Faculty Senate membership is because they think SACUA will refuse the request. He said he is in contact with LEO leadership, which wants support from the Faculty Senate.

Professor Ahbel-Rappe asked if the faculty voice would be stronger on issues that affect everyone if more people were involved in the Faculty Senate. Professor Conway replied that if the Faculty Senate were too large, it could water down the perception that tenure track faculty have a particular voice.

Chair Liu suggested that the best course of action might be for each group to have representation in senate assembly so as to allow different groups to have their own voice. Professor Gallo noted that having multiple groups that talk about different things could be unproductive as it could suggest that some faculty groups are more important than others.

Professor Freeman requested that SACUA be presented with a series of motions concerning Faculty Senate membership to vote so as to focus discussion before the beginning of term. Chair Liu said that a decision about how best to proceed will take place at the SACUA meeting on August 30. He will start a document to develop the wording of a motion.

#### 4:00 DEI Committee Update and Discussion

Chair Liu asked if there is an update on a task force to deal with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) issues. Professor Partridge said the working group needs to discuss the relationship between the task force and committees, and that he would like to postpone the discussion.

Professor Liu raised the issue of the poll about SACUA meetings in the fall. In this poll four SACUA members had not expressed a preference for either in-person or virtual meetings, three had expressed a preference for virtual meetings and two had expressed a preference for in-person meetings. He has purchased a device that will facilitate hybrid meetings. Professor Freeman said the situation is dynamic, and asked if SACUA could postpone a decision about meeting format and potentially change the meeting format according to the situation on campus. Professor Gallo, asked if those who favored a remote meeting are opposed to a hybrid format. Professor Ahbel-Rappe noted that hybrid meetings are already standard. Professor Conway asked Professor Potter if one meeting format was easier than another from his perspective as secretary. Professor Potter said that in-person meetings are easier to report, but noted that Senate Assembly meetings will be hybrid in 2021/2022. Dr. Banasik said that Senate Assembly committees have not yet discussed hybrid meetings, and that she will attend in-person meetings. Professor Conway suggested that the August 30 SACUA meeting be held in-person as an experiment. Dr. Banasik said that the Senate Assembly had approved rules to the effect that SACUA meetings should be in person. Chair Liu said the August 30, 2021 SACUA meeting would be planned to be in person with remote option. Dr. Banasik said that SACUA meetings are scheduled in 4006 Fleming (the room in which SACUA meetings were held before the pandemic).

#### 4:13: Executive Session Executive Session

5:06: 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 polices 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."