

Minutes DATE: November 1, 2021
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, November 1, 2021, 3:15pm
The hybrid meeting was held in 4006 Fleming and via Zoom

In-person attendance: Donald Freeman, Allen Liu, Kentaro Toyama, MaryJo Banasik, Elizabeth Devlin, and Deirdre Spencer.

Zoom attendance: Caitlin Finlayson, Michael Atzmon, Colleen Conway, Sara Ahbel-Rappe, Durga Singer.

Absent: Damani Partridge, Elena Gallo.

Guests: Ann Zaniewski from the *University Record* (remote), Jessica Gurvitz from the *Michigan Daily* (in person) Susan M. Collins, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (in person), Christine Gerdes, Special Council to the Provost (remote).

3:15 The meeting was called to order by Chair Allen Liu. The minutes of the October 25th SACUA meeting were approved at 3:16, with Professor Freeman abstaining due to his absence from that meeting.

3:17 Chair Liu introduced the new Secretary, Deirdre Spencer.

3:18 MaryJo Banasik, Director of the Faculty Senate Office, offered Faculty Senate Office updates. She reported on the introduction of the new Faculty Senate Newsletter template. There are two templates including one with columns and black text on white, and the other with a colorful background and white text. She facilitated the rapid send out of the newsletter on October 28th.

Dr. Banasik also reported that there are discussions underway with University IT on the formation of a database to maintain records of faculty governance participation. IT and Faculty Senate Office staff plan to meet next week to discuss this database, for which Chair Liu expressed hearty support.

3:25 Chair Updates

Chair Liu met with the Provost and requested a Work Connections update meeting. In addition to Work Connections, Chair Liu and Provost Collins also discussed faculty salary survey.

Chair Liu also had a good chat with SACUA member Michael Atzmon regarding use of the chat function during Senate meetings. Senate members have concerns over chat usage. Professor Atzmon asserted that when one cannot see who is attending a meeting, and the

“raise hand” function cannot be seen, you don’t know who is there or with whom you are communicating.

Chair Liu stated that in-person meetings will ultimately diminish the need for use of the chat function.

At the APG meeting deans supported the proposal that SACUA establish guidelines for chat usage when faculty are involved. The Provost was also supportive of guidelines for chat.

According to Chair Liu, there was no traction among APG deans regarding motion 3.

Chair Liu wrote to the President and the Provost regarding a special COVID council meeting to talk about the motions. He commented that we are “moving in the right direction”.

AAAC have discussed motions 3 and 5 with the Provost.

Chair Liu stated that there will be a working group for the lecturers similar to the Clinical Faculty Working Group. Chair Liu asked that they produce a report due by end of the first week of December.

Professor Freeman said we should be mindful of some lecturers falling through the cracks since not all lecturers are part of LEO.

Professor Singer asked if LEO and lecturers would report back to SACUA. Chair Liu’s response was yes, and that they would then communicate with the Rules, Practices, and Policies Committee. Professor Singer also asked whether the rules committee will be looking at lecturer representation as well. Chair Liu said the charge for the rules committee has yet to be finalized or approved by SACUA.

Vice Chair Finlayson sent a suggestion to Chair Liu that SACUA earmark 2:30-3:00 prior to SACUA meetings to discuss timely issues of the week that may arise that are not on the agenda, as needed. SACUA has packed meetings, then sudden timely issues arise which need quick response.

Vice Chair Finlayson noted that often SACUA is rushed. Discussions become asynchronous by email with selective membership. If we don’t have issues to discuss, we can begin at 3:15 but begin at 2:30 if we need more time and space. We could earmark that time and it would be in executive session.

3:30 – 5:00 Executive Session

5:07 Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre D. Spencer
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."