

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

SUBJECT: September 2021 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

Although SACUA does not ordinarily meet during the summer, meetings were held on July 19, August 2, and August 16, and a retreat was held on August 25. This first SACUA meeting of the semester took place on August 30. SACUA also met on September 13. At its **July 19** meeting, SACUA discussed SPG 601.38 *Required Disclosure of Felony Charges/and or Convictions*. Professor Heather Ann Thompson attended the meeting to discuss the SPG. The SPG is scheduled to be reviewed in February 2022. SACUA plans to discuss the utility of the SPG and to engage with faculty who are well-versed in the issues at hand, which did not occur prior to the implementation of the SPG. At its **August 2** meeting, SACUA discussed the charge for the Rules, Practices, and Policies committee (RPP) to consider representation of additional non-tenure track faculty groups in the Faculty Senate. SACUA also discussed protection of faculty academic freedom in the realm of social media after reviewing sample guidelines developed by Penn State. At its **August 16** meeting, SACUA discussed repopulating the Rules, Practices, and Policies (RPP) Senate Assembly committee to consider representation of additional non-tenure track faculty groups in Faculty Senate. At the **August 25** retreat, Al Blixt, Managing Partner at New Campus Dynamics, facilitated a half-day interactive meeting to discuss plans and goals for the year. At its **August 30** meeting, SACUA discussed fall planning feedback received from Faculty Senate members through a survey. Over 1,000 tenure-track faculty completed the survey, as well as forty-four research track faculty, and forty-four librarians. During this meeting SACUA confirmed plans for a reference group to provide information about clinical faculty appointments on all three campuses, and a working group that will prepare a report with the data received. At its **September 13** meeting, SACUA discussed revisions to the Umbrella policy and worked on populating a Faculty COVID Council that will serve in an advisory capacity to the President and Provost during the 2021-2022 academic year.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY

The Senate Assembly will have its first meeting of the academic year on Monday, September 20. The meeting will take place in a hybrid format allowing participation in person at Palmer Commons or remotely via Zoom.

3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Eighteen Senate Assembly committees have been populated, and committee chairs are in place, with the exception of the Rules, Practices, and Policies Committee. The SACUA chair and Faculty Senate office staff have met with committee chairs alone or in consultation with executive officers for those committees that are advisory to an executive officer to discuss charges and logistics for this academic year. The Senate Assembly will review and approve the charges at its September 20 meeting.

4. FACULTY SENATE

A Faculty Senate meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 4 from 3:15 to 5:00. President Schlissel, Provost Collins, and Executive Director of the new Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office

(ECRT) Tami Strickman, are confirmed attendees. Faculty Senate will vote for a Senate Secretary and for a Parliamentarian during this meeting.

5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

The Faculty Senate Office is currently working with Information and Technology Services to identify the best data management solution to manage faculty governance data, including committee membership, nominations to serve on various university committees, and nominations to receive Faculty Senate-administered awards, among other data management needs. The Faculty Governance Coordinator is busy at work coordinating monthly committee meetings for the eighteen Senate Assembly committees. The Coordinator will be taking minutes for all committee meetings to improve record keeping for Senate Assembly committees and to reduce administrative burden experienced by faculty who serve on faculty governance committees.

Submitted: September 2021



Allen Liu, SACUA Chair