

Minutes DATE: April 4, 2022

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs  
Monday, April 4, 2022, 3:15  
The meeting was held Virtually

**Present:** Chair Allen Liu, Vice Chair Caitlin Finlayson; **New members** Professor Tom Braun, Professor Simon Cushing, Professor Rebekah Modrak, **Current members:** Professor Sarah Ahbel-Rappe, Professor Michael Atzmon, Professor Colleen Conway, Professor Donald Freeman, Professor Elena Gallo, Professor Silvia Pedraza, Professor Durga Singer, Professor Kentaro Toyama, Faculty Senate Office Director MaryJo Banasik, Faculty Governance Coordinator Elizabeth Devlin, Secretary Deirdre Spencer (R. Modrak left the meeting at 3:30.)

**Guests:**

Jeffrey Bleiler *University Record*

Sejal Patil *Michigan Daily*

Bill Schultz and Ella Kazerooni – Co-Chairs of Rules, Practices, Policies Committee

**3:15 Meeting Called to order.** At 3:19 Minutes for the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved by consent upon corrections suggested by Silvia Pedraza.

**3:20 Faculty Senate Office Updates:** Faculty Senate Office Director MaryJo Banasik announced that Faculty Awards Nominations are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. A targeted email has already gone out to faculty. Personnel updates: Ann Marshall, the new, part-time Faculty Governance Coordinator begins work on Tuesday April 5-2022. The Director of the Faculty Senate Office Mary Jo Banasik submitted her resignation effective April 18, 2022, and her last day will be next Friday April 15, 2022.

**3:25 SACUA Chair Updates:** Chair Liu and other SACUA members expressed sadness at the news of Dr. Banasik's resignation and thanked her for all of the excellent work she has done for Faculty Senate Office over the years. The chair is working with HR to have the position posted. Chair Liu will get SACUA's input regarding her replacement. Introduction of new members and introduction of existing members took place. Professor Tom Braun from the School of Public Health, Professor Simon Cushing Philosophy UMFlint, Professor Rebekah Modrak Stamps School of Art and Design, Professor Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies, who will serve for a one-year term is not here today. There will be a meeting time for outgoing SACUA members' final remarks. SACUA elections are coming up next week. Chair Liu asked SACUA members to identify their interest in running for SACUA Chair and Vice Chair. Professor Durga Singer expressed her interest in running for Vice Chair. Professor Silvia Pedraza is interested in the chair position. Chair Liu indicated that he is willing to serve as chair from January 1, 2023, through April 30, 2023.

Because Professor Pedraza is filling in for Professor Damani Partridge who returns in January 2023, Professor Pedraza would serve for eight months, and Chair Liu would serve as chair for four months until end of April 2023. Professor Pedraza and Chair Liu indicated they will run on a single ticket.

Regarding student debt cancellation, Professor Freeman will reach out to an expert colleague from the School of Education to meet with SACUA. On the suggestion by Professor Atzmon, Chair Liu has reached out to Mark Kushner to address SACUA on CrowdStrike Falcon in April or May.

**3:30 ECRT Advisory Committee Update and Discussion - Kentaro Toyama and Colleen Conway - Executive Session**

**4:00 Bill Schultz and Ella Kazerooni, Co-Chairs, Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP Executive Session)**

**4:20 5.09 Discussion Executive Session**

**4:35 Faculty Governance Resolutions on Academic Freedom** – Some Senate Assembly committees have been receiving information regarding this initiative from Sarah Sklaw, PhD, NYU. A Big Ten Academic Alliance group from Michigan State, Ohio State, and Minnesota (among others) drafted resolutions opposing legislations that would ban teaching about race. Chair Liu doesn't know the position of the state of Michigan on this matter and indicated that we would want to align a resolution with this. Professor Atzmon said AAUP, OSU, and others have shown lots of support. We should too.

Chair Liu thought that one of the Senate Assembly Committees would have brought this to SACUA's attention. A resolution would be something that SACUA would support. Professor Atzmon and Freeman don't think we should introduce two resolutions (one from the discussion during executive session) simultaneously to SACUA and Senate Assembly, as both might become short-changed.

We might invite Vice President for Government Relations, Chris Kolb from the Government Relations Committee to attend SACUA. According to Professor Freeman, Kolb may warn against pushing an issue too hard with the regents as it can affect their relationship with the legislature and thereby affect funding for the university. We would receive just one point of view from Kolb.

We should weigh in on this issue as so many other universities have, but there was discussion as to whether we should move on this without lots of discussion by assigning it to either the Committee on Fairness, Equity and Inclusion (CFEI) or the Committee on Anti-Racism (CAR) to draft a resolution using the template provided by the other universities. Professor Gallo asserted and others agreed that there is no need to discuss this as it would have broad support across academic units.

It was decided that SACUA should move first on the compliance office issue as it is more pressing for SACUA than the academic freedom resolution which is being covered by others and we are contributing through our SA committees of CAR and CFEI. Professor Pedraza said all of the statements from other institutions are very good.

**4:55 Matters Arising -- None**

**5:00 Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre D. Spencer,  
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."