

Minutes May 2, 2022  
Circulated May 9, 2022  
Approved May 9, 2022

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs  
Monday, May 2, 2022, 3:15  
The meeting was held virtual via ZOOM

**In attendance:** Vice Chair Durga Singer, Immediate Past Chair Allen Liu, Professor Michael Atzmon, Professor Tom Braun, Professor Simon Cushing, Professor Rebekah Modrak, Professor Sergio Villalobos Ruminott, Part time Faculty Governance Coordinator Ann Marshall, Secretary Deirdre Spencer,  
**Absent:** Chair Silvia Pedraza, Professor Kentaro Toyama

**Guests**

Jeff Bleiler *The University Record*

Samantha Rich *The Michigan Daily*

Gloria Hage, Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Council

Prior to the meeting Vice Chair Singer asked about the number of members needed to establish a quorum (including herself) to begin the meeting. Immediate Past Chair Liu responded, “five members” and Secretary Spencer mentioned five voting members were required for quorum and that the Secretary does not vote. Vice Chair Singer announced the members of the press, explained that executive session meant the press would not be in the room, and that most of today’s meeting would be in executive session, thereby dismissing the press at 3:35pm.

3:15 Call to order / The meeting was called to order at 3:18pm. A vote was taken to approve the April 25th Minutes / Announcements – The minutes were approved by consent vote with no corrections at 3:22pm.

3:20 Vice Chair Singer Update: Past chair Liu reported updates. He asked Professor Sergio Ruminott Villalobos from Romance Languages to introduce himself. Professor Villalobos said he was advised to be present from May on for one year which is why he had missed some meetings, but he has been reading all of the circulated materials. He has also worked with Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC).

Vice Chair Singer re-explained the meaning of executive session. Round robin introductions took place. Past Chair Liu reported on the upcoming faculty committee conversation with DEI 2.0 11:30-1, next Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>. It is co-sponsored by SACUA. CFEI and CAR were asked to provide representation: 2

members from CAR and 3 from CFEI. Past Chair Liu will be the moderator. He participated in commencement exercises last Friday and Saturday. Vice Chair Singer wanted to discuss using Slack for communications. Only a few Faculty Senate Office members used Slack last year. A small group consisting of Prof. Liu, Pt.-Time Faculty Governance Coordinator Marshall, Vice Chair Singer, Chair Pedraza, and Secretary Spencer are starting to use Slack for SACUA communications.

Faculty Governance Awards report: There were 3 nominations for Distinguished Faculty Service Award, 2 nominations for the Jackie Lawson Award, 5 nominations for the Librarian Achievement Award and 2 nominations for the Library Recognition Award – There will be focus groups at the request of 21CP consulting group on behalf of DPSS. There are a total of 11 applications for the Faculty Senate Office Director position to be reviewed. Jamie from Center for the Education of Women (CEW+) has compiled rubrics for the applications. Jamie has also helped the Faculty Senate Office with the budget.

Regarding Faculty Perspectives articles – Professor Modrak and Chair Pedraza provided comments on a draft copy. The question was asked if we were endorsing the concept of the article with edits? Professor Atzmon commented that the scope should be broader, and Braun asked for clarification regarding the relation between SACUA and articles published in the Faculty Perspectives column. The article type has been around for a long time. Not much review is necessary. There is an 800-word limit. Faculty Perspectives articles must go through the Faculty Senate Office. Regular faculty can submit other articles to *The Record* directly without going through FSO. Further discussion on this matter will be moved to Matters Arising.

3:25 Materials from the Committee on Anti-Racism (CAR) were presented for a vote. Chair Spencer introduced the two motions on Anti-Chinese Racism and Anti-Caste.

Professor Modrak asked why was the focus on Chinese? Secretary Spencer explained that the China Initiative of the federal government, presented to CAR by Professor Duxin Sun described harassment and discrimination of Chinese scholars and researchers. Professor Liu spoke and brought the matter to the Research Advisory Committee and CAR. The China Initiative of 2018, ended this past February. In a survey conducted summer 2021, 47% of Chinese professors responded to the survey at Michigan reported having trouble concentrating or be as productive as before. Professor Liu reported cases of Chinese scholars not allowed into the country and turned away at Detroit Metro Airport. There were several examples of discrimination reported in support of Secretary Spencer's position. CAR would like to have anti-Asian discrimination language included in formal university anti-discriminatory language. Brandeis, UC System, and Harvard have included anti-caste discrimination language. Vice Provost for Diversity Equity and Inclusion Rob Sellers suggested reaching out to ECRT, which will be the chair's next move.

It was recommended that the statement explain in the initial paragraph why is it

focused on Anti-Chinese sentiment and not targeted toward Asians in general but Chinese in particular. A member of CAR said not only were Chinese researchers targeted but non-Chinese collaborators were also targeted. Professor Liu communicated this information to the Research Advisory Committee and to the Dean of the College of Engineering regarding the problem. He would circulate a PowerPoint to members of SACUA that he shared with the dean. Our guest had arrived, and we had to push the matter to the end of the meeting for more discussion. Vice Chair Singer apologized to the press about the lack of a resolution to the matter prior to dismissing them.

3:35 5.09 Case – Gloria Hage, Associate General Counsel **Executive Session**

3:50 Work Connections Working Group Update **Executive Session**

4:20 Memorandum from the Motion 4 Working Group - 20-30 **Executive Session**

4:50 Matters Arising: In circling back to the CAR statements – Professor Modrak was concerned about offending those from other Asian countries outside of China by not mentioning them in the introductory sentence and concentrating on China instead. She recommended that context be provided for why there is emphasis on people from China specifically and recommended adding supporting information up front. As a separate matter it was recommended that Anti-Asian violence related to COVID-19 be addressed. Vice Chair Singer recommended that CAR contact INDIGO and ask someone from that group to look at the language. INDIGO is the LSA Asian and Asian-American Faculty Alliance. Here are links to the group. <https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/indigo/>

Professor Liu supported the position of CAR by providing supporting information that he presented to the dean of the College of Engineering. MIT and Tennessee had high profile cases where charges against Chinese researchers were recently dropped. It was suggested that the resolution begin with Asian more broadly by saying anti-Asian and Anti-Chinese.

Professor Atzmon said there were two issues that should not be conflated. One was government policy, and the other was reaction to COVID-19. Chair Spencer agreed to take this back to CAR.

Regarding the Faculty Perspectives article, we want to see the content if we approve the idea of the article, but the content would be the responsibilities of the authors. We should provide feedback regarding the article recommending a UM Office for Ethics. SACUA agrees to have the article to move forward.

EXECUTIVE Session: Caste-based discrimination continues. We discussed a

broader meaning of caste, extending it to include class and tribe, may be needed. Secretary Spencer will discuss this as well with CAR.

5:00 Adjourn:d Meeting adjourned at 5:09pm

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."