



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC)
September 29, 2022, 11:00am

The hybrid meeting was held in Ruthven Conference Room 1100 and via Zoom

Minutes: 9/29/2022
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Present: Julia Catalano (graduate student representative), Colleen Conway, Christine Gerdes (Provost's Office), Bruno Giordani, Rachel S. Goldman, Emmanuelle Marquis, Luke McCarthy (FSO), Laurie McCauley (Provost), Mark Rosentraub, Gabrielle Scott (undergraduate student representative), Chair Priti Shah, Jordan Siegel, Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott.

A regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee was held with Chair Priti Shah presiding and Luke McCarthy, FSO Director, serving as secretary. Laurie McCauley, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, was present. Christine Gerdes, Special Counsel to the Provost, was also present.

The meeting began with introductions.

The committee discussed student wellbeing.

- Grading policies were considered, with various pro/cons of curved grading being examined.
- The committee discussed assistance for individual students with failing grades;
- Student peer support was considered, including "Mood Lifters" (a "weight watchers" for mental health").
- Student mental health was then considered at length;
 - The committee discussed the need for better coordination of U-M support groups (such as coordination with Mood Lifters). Concerns were raised regarding the availability of CAPS appointments, the need to proactively identify students in need *before* they seek assistance, and the need for a holistic approach to advising/supporting students.
- The committee considered the benefits of beginning the Winter term a week later.

There was a brief discussion of a retaliation training module for employees that is being developed.

The committee considered whether to develop a focus group to provide feedback on curve grading. Initial brainstorming occurred regarding what such a focus group might look like, if created.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke McCarthy