

Minutes November 7, 2022
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, November 7, 2022, 3:15
The virtual meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and virtually via Zoom

In-Person Attendance – Chair Pedraza, Vice Chair Singer, Professor Braun, Professor Modrak, Professor Toyama, FSO Director McCarthy, FSO Coordinator Vanderberghe, FSO Coordinator Marshall, Secretary Spencer

Remote Attendance – Professor Atzmon, Professor Cushing, Professor Liu

Absent: Professor Villalobos

Guests:

Provost Laurie McCauley
Special Counsel Christine Gerdes

Press:

Katie Kelton – *The University Record* – virtual attendance
Amer Goel – *The Michigan Daily* – in person
Simon Moncke – *The Michigan Daily* – in person

3:15 – The meeting was called to order at 3:17. The minutes of the 10-31-2022 meeting were approved after discussion.

3:29 – Chair Updates/ Announcements – The chair advocated for acceptance of minutes as initially submitted. There had been no vote taken at the 10-31-22 meeting regarding the submission of minutes or notes from Senate Assembly committee chairs with meaningful content to share with SACUA and to be made publicly available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3:30 – Provost Laurie McCauley and Provost’s Special Counsel Christine Gerdes discussed faculty mental health with SACUA and made a slide presentation highlighting statistical data. – Executive Session

4:20 – Post Guest Discussion – Suggestions were generated for how the Senate Assembly, and perhaps subcommittees could gather information on the faculty mental health of their respective units. – Executive Session

4:25 – The Chair reported on elimination of faculty position in LSA departments, described as a review of unit caps on tenure track positions. She shared a correspondence from the dean of LSA explaining in detail the review which had not been taken since 2008. – Executive Session

4:40 – FSO Director’s Report – Professor Michael Atzmon is retiring and stepping down from SACUA at the end of December. He will be able to serve on a SA committee as a retiree. Chair Pedraza will run for Atzmon’s vacant seat at the end of December. Professor Allen Liu will return as chair at the beginning of January. – Executive Session

4:45 – After review and revision a motion was made, and vote taken to approve the agenda for the upcoming Senate Assembly meeting.

4:55 – Matters Arising – Discussion returned to the issue of SA committee chairs submitting minutes or notes of significant content from their meetings so that future chairs will know what was accomplished. This information should be publicly available. Kentaro Toyama made the following motion: “Senate Assembly committees should capture meaningful content of meeting discussions in written form, for the sake of public record.” During discussion, the motion was modified to acknowledge executive sessions as an exception: “Senate Assembly committees should capture meaningful content of meeting discussions in written form, for the sake of public record, with the exception of that which is discussed in executive session.” The revised motion was approved. For additional clarity here, that executive session exception was understood in conjunction with the motion approved at the 10/31/22 SACUA meeting: “SACUA liaisons can communicate anything that is discussed in SA committees in executive session to SACUA in executive session, and vice versa.”

5:00 Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre D. Spencer
Spencer

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 polices 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.”