

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

Hybrid Meetings held in Ruthven 1120 and on Videoconference

SUBJECT: October 2022 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:

- During the early Fall, SACUA met on September 12, 19, and October 3. Between meetings, SACUA communicated via email. On September 12, SACUA held a luncheon for the Senate Assembly Committee Chairs, in Ruthven, as well as a lunch with all committee members on the 21. A busy month, as befits the start of the academic year.
- On **September 12** SACUA hosted the Senate Assembly Committee Chairs Luncheon, held in Ruthven's University Hall. We had a great turn out with very good discussion. Most Chairs expressed their frustration about the administration not really listening to their recommendations. Yet they remained enthusiastic about the work they could do with their Committees. Everyone introduced himself or herself and one could see that there were so many interesting people on the faculty! Chair Pedraza gave them a handout on how to Chair a meeting, to help them, and entertained their feedback on their experiences.
- Chair Pedraza announced the hiring of a new Coordinator (full time) for the SACUA office -- Eric Vandenberghe.

Also at this meeting, SACUA discussed with our Parliamentarian, Paul Fossum, what should our name be. Colloquially, faculty use *Faculty Senate*; however, he instructed us that it should really be *University Senate*. We are now using the latter more and more, though our stationary being printed with *Faculty Senate* remains an issue.

Also at this meeting, on Executive Session, SACUA met with our working Group on Public Health, and once again discussed the issue of Work Connections. This suffered from the confusion of there being two Work Connections review groups – one initiated by our last Provost Susan Collins, and other one initiated by SACUA. Since their

recommendations were quite close, with the assistance of our new Provost Laurie McCauley we have now been able to lay this to rest.

- Chair Pedraza, Director McCarthy, and FSO Coordinator Marshall have been learning how to conduct our future Senate Assembly and Senate meetings using Robert's Rules of Order (the old way) and electronic voting (the new way). It is a challenge but one that we think is worthwhile. The excellent staff in Ruthven's IT have been doing their best to help us.
- We are also making an effort to interact with each of the Senate Assembly new Committee Chairs, regarding the new charge to their Committee this year, as well as their last year's Report.
- At its **September 19** meeting, SACUA considered the faculty composition data obtained from the Office of Budget and Planning. SACUA's Working Group on the Clinical Faculty will be considering the possible inclusion of the Clinical Faculty and the Lecturers in the University Senate. To this end, this data was invaluable.
- At this meeting, in Executive Session, SACUA met with Tabbye Chavous, our new Vice-Provost for Equity and Inclusion and for DEI initiatives, in Executive Session. SACUA is also reviewing the faculty disputes as well as faculty grievance process.
- On **September 26**, the SACUA leadership (Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair, and FSO Director) met with our new President Santa Ono (virtual) and had a very successful encounter. He comes across as a very nice human being who is competent, communicates well, and is sincere. We look forward to his arrival and to, as we agreed, turning a new leaf.
- On **September 30**, the SACUA leadership met with Chancellor Deba Dutta from UM-Flint, as he reached out to them. It was a very good exchange regarding the situation at UM-Flint that allowed us to better air our concerns.
- On **October 3**, SACUA held the Regents' Candidate Forum in Ruthven's University Hall. We hosted four candidates – two incumbents from the Democratic Party (Kathy White and Michael Behm), 1 from the Republican Party (Sevag Vartanian), and 1 from the Green Party (Sherry Wells), with Chair Pedraza as moderator, asking the six questions that had been sent to them ahead of time. The candidates had received the questions the day before. The Forum was held in hybrid form -- both in person and virtual. *The University Record*, in its online version, made it available to the broader academic community. To date, 462 persons have watched it.

Also on this day SACUA held its regular meeting, during which the issue of the expansion of the University Senate to include the Clinical Faculty was considered, in Executive Session.

- On **October 4**, SACUA gave four awards at the Faculty Awards dinner for those receiving the awards. Chair Pedraza presented the awards:

The **Distinguished Faculty Governance Award** was shared by two faculty this year: Neil Marsh, Professor of Biological Chemistry, and David S. Potter, Professor of Greek and Roman History. Their academic accomplishments are many and their contributions to SACUA as past Chairs and Secretary made a real difference to faculty governance.

The **Jackie Lawson Memorial Award** went to J. Caitlin Finlayson, Associate Professor of English at the UM-Dearborn campus, whose service to faculty governance exemplifies this award's emphasis on contributions across the regional campuses.

The **Regents Award for Distinguished Public Service** went to Oveta Fuller, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, in the Medical School, as well as the Department of African and African-American Studies in LSA. Her research focuses on health disparities in communities of color, particularly on the transmission of HIV and COVID in Africa.

- On **October 21**, SACUA will be holding a Retreat for its members at the Matthei Botanical Gardens. Planning for the Retreat is now underway.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY:

- On **September 26**, the Senate Assembly held its first meeting of the year, the first in the Ruthven Building. Chair Pedraza and FSO Director McCarthy, with the help of Coordinator Marshall, did their best to bring together the new – the technologies of online meetings, videoconferencing – that have improved the participation of the faculty in its governance together with the old – arriving at the Senate decisions through a parliamentary process of deliberation. Our excellent IT staff in Ruthven assisted us in the process. In general, it worked well though there is still a bit of room for improvement.
- At this Senate Assembly meeting, the faculty voted to add the word *caste* to the many characteristics we do not allow anyone to discriminate against. Thus, our revised statement regarding discrimination in the Bylaws of the Board of Regents Section 14.06 should read that: “The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, caste, national origin, age, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status.” However, we need to request that the Regents amend our ByLaws so they read in this manner. At present, we have only affirmed this statement. The 2/3 vote from the 74 Senate Assembly faculty present (in person or virtually) was: Yes = 50, No = 2.

3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:

- Senate Assembly committees continue to turn in their yearly Reports, which are approved by SACUA. Chair Pedraza and Director McCarthy have worked with the newly appointed Chairs regarding their new charge for this 2022-23 year.
- The SA Committees, each of which has a separate charge and works on different issues important to the faculty, constitute an important part of the work of faculty governance. They can be found at: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu>

4. UNIVERSITY SENATE:

- We plan to hold a University Senate meeting on Monday, November 21.

5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE:

- We look forward to our new Coordinator, Eric Vandenberg, joining us in mid-October. Eric comes to us from MIT, where he was the Administrative and Financial Assistant for the Chemistry Department. He has two Master's degrees – from Michigan State University (in Jurisprudence and Legal Doctrine Analysis) and from the University of Toledo (in Criminal Justice). He will start working in the SACUA office mid-October. He comes across as very capable and quite humble, too. We look forward to working with Eric.

Submitted: October 2022



Silvia Pedraza, SACUA Chair