

**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 Fall, SACUA met on October 3, 10, not on the 17 due to Fall Break, and on the 31. On the 24, SACUA held the Senate Assembly meeting in Ruthven's University Hall. Between meetings, SACUA communicated via email.
- 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. As of November 3, 1,200 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 and/or the Lecturers was considered, in Executive Session, and a Clinical Faculty Working Group was created.

- On **October 3**, SACUA gave four awards at the Faculty Awards dinner for those receiving the awards. At a lovely dinner held in the Michigan League, 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 held a Retreat for its members at the Matthei Botanical Gardens. The Retreat was facilitated by Denise Williams, who made clear through the use of a 4-fold table that groups of people who work together have different styles of conflict management, given their level of assertiveness (high or low) and their capacity to cooperate (high or low). These 2 variables along 2 axis result in 4 different styles of conflict management: competing, collaborating, avoiding, and accommodating. Our facilitator's goal was to get us, SACUA members, to think about how to become more of a team that works together in a collaborative fashion. While SACUA has a way to go before getting there, realizing that it is a goal is a first step.

This year, the date of our Retreat was late, to accommodate the arrival of our new Director McCarthy. Next year, we plan for it to be, once again, at the end of the summer before school begins, when meeting at the Matthei Botanical Gardens would be especially nice.

- Last, but not least, SACUA is pleased that one of President Ono's first acts was his announcement that U of M will create an independent central Office of Ethics, Integrity, and Compliance for the 3 campuses, including Michigan Medicine. As announced in *The Record*, this OEIC Office will report to the President, the Vice-President, and the General Counsel, with a "dotted line" relationship to the Regents. This was one of SACUA's goals, led by former SACUA Chairs David Potter and Colleen Conway, and SACUA hopes to participate in the details for implementing the new OEIC.

## 2. SENATE ASSEMBLY:

- Chair Pedraza, Director McCarthy, and FSO Coordinators Marshall and Vandenberghe have been learning how to conduct our Senate Assembly and University 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.

The Senate Assembly meeting on Oct. 24 showed our progress towards this end. SACUA's Working Group on the Clinical Faculty is considering the possible inclusion of the Clinical Faculty and the Lecturers in the University Senate. At this meeting, we presented the Senate Assembly with a PowerPoint explaining the possible inclusion of the Clinical Faculty and/or the Lecturers into the University Senate. Next time we plan to divide the Senate Assembly faculty into breakout rooms where the difficult issues can be

better discussed in a small setting. At a future meeting we will vote on this issue but so far we are just acquainting the faculty with the issues at hand.

- Also at this Oct. 24 meeting SACUA presented the Senate Assembly faculty with a PowerPoint that resulted from the work of Chair Pedraza and Director McCarthy on the faculty's various routes that are available to solve conflicts and disputes within the university, without seeking external legal recourse. In preparation for this, this Fall both of them, as well as SACUA, met with 4 representatives of ECRT, as well as with Robert Ortega and Michelle Hanoosh as Ombuds. The three routes are: the Ombuds route (both university-wide and unit-specific Ombuds), the ECRT route, as well as the Faculty Grievance route. It is the first time that these various ways of addressing conflicts and disputes have been laid out clearly and simply for the faculty to see them as possible options for conflict resolution.

We are pleased that Provost Laurie McAuley will meet with the Senate Assembly on December 12.

### **3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:**

- Also at this Senate Assembly meeting we voted on approving all the various committees' charges. Now all the new charges have been approved for this 2022-23 year.
- Each of the SA Committees has 1 or sometimes 2 SACUA liaisons to convey information back and forth between SACUA and the particular Committee, so as to help the committee to achieve its goals. Each of the Senate Assembly Committees 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. Our new President Santa J. Ono will come to address the faculty on all 3 campuses via the Hybrid meeting. We look forward to getting to know him.

Since both our Provost and our President are new in their roles, we welcome their addressing the faculty at our meetings this Fall.

### **5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE:**

- Chair Pedraza has begun to work on the Presidential Inauguration Committee that will plan our new President's inauguration on March 7.

- Our two FSO Coordinators are working incredibly well in our office. We thank them for making all this work possible.
- At last we managed to hang up all the paintings we had to make the FSO look nice. Many are posters from past years' Davis, Markert, and Nickerson academic freedom lectures. Others are beautiful photos of favorite spots on campus. Both have made the FSO look welcoming, as we want it to be.

Submitted: November 2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Silvia Pedraza". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Silvia Pedraza, SACUA Chair