

To: SACUA

From: Luke McCarthy, Director, Faculty Senate Office

Subject: Director's Report on Faculty Senate Office Activities

Dates: August 26, 2022

Faculty Senate Office Activities

The FSO continues to be productive. Examples of the activities the FSO has been engaged in include the following:

- Performed a preliminary review of multiple peer institutions to gather information about whether they have an independent office of ethics and compliance and what the responsibilities of those offices were. This information is intended to be used as part of a future summary supporting efforts to create a similar office at U-M.
- Distributed the Syllabus Insert in multiple ways: on our website, through an email to all the members of the University Senate on all the campuses, and in person by the Chair and the Director at the New Faculty Orientation Information Fair. We also tried to obtain time in the orientation for a presentation on the Insert, but there was not time in this year's already set schedule. To get on the schedule next year, we need to reach about this early in the Winter term.
- Regarding COVID issues, the FSO Director has done the following:
 - Reached out to Rob Ernst about getting SACUA representation on the Campus Public Health Infection Prevention and Response Advisory Committee, with that request currently pending.
 - Filed a service ticket with the IT team that manages the ResponsiBLUE app regarding getting an app notice recommending to wear a mask whenever the COVID risk for our area is high. The team appreciated the suggestion and are looking into feasibility.
 - Had a conversation with Brian Vasher, the Senior Director of the U-M Benefits Office to get his sense of coverage difficulties related to long COVID.
 - During that conversation, he informed me of the following which I am reporting to SACUA:
 - The Benefits Office has not yet received any complaints from individuals whose benefits have been unable to cover long COVID;
 - U-M benefits cover traditional medical treatment for COVID and all its variants;
 - U-M benefits also cover symptoms, regardless of whether those symptoms are diagnosed as constituting as COVID, provided that these symptoms are being treated through traditional medical care;
 - He is aware of a national conversation now occurring about long COVID, but his sense at this moment was that the issue depends less on coverage and more on whether individuals are obtaining a medical diagnosis of long COVID or are able to be medically approved for treatment for various symptoms (whether or not diagnosed as long COVID).

- Brian was quite interested in being of help and made himself available for continued assistance, but so far he is not aware, as of yet, of anyone at U-M having coverage difficulties related to long COVID.
- Chair Pedraza sent a request to the Provost for the Work Connections report, which the Provost has agreed to share after their review.
- The FSO has been working with the 18 committee chairs on scheduling meetings and reviewing committee charges. This is a large undertaking that is currently using most of the FSO's "bandwidth" until completed.
- Planning for the following events continues: a committee chair luncheon, a committee member luncheon, a Regents' Candidate Forum, and a SACUA Retreat.
- Interviews of two candidates for the Faculty Governance Coordinator position occurred (a third candidate withdrew), and their references are currently being checked.
- We are working on planning multiple agendas ahead to help better assist in meeting coordination.
- The FSO's work related to the grievance system continues.