

To: SACUA

From: Luke McCarthy, Director, Faculty Senate Office

Subject: Director's Report on Faculty Senate Office Activities

Dates: September 12, 2022

### Faculty Senate Office Activities

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

- Ann and I have been working through an enormous amount of committee scheduling and event planning tasks, including for a year of meetings for 18 different committees, a committee chair luncheon, a committee member luncheon, a Regents' Candidate Forum, and the SACUA Retreat. I would be lost without the support of Ann's hard work.
- We completed interviewing candidates for the FSO Faculty Governance Coordinator position and speaking with references. We are excited to announce that we have hired Eric Vandenberghe, who will be joining us from MIT. Eric has a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, a Masters of Jurisprudence in Legal Doctrine and Analysis, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. His work at MIT involved coordinating with faculty and building supervisors regarding building shutdowns for repairs, maintenance, and emergencies, and he also coordinated with the faculty of the department of chemistry regarding seminars and a chemistry journal. His prior service includes assisting a human trafficking research institute and a modern abolitionist legal society. We are very excited that he will be joining our team mid-October.
- I had previously reached out to Rob Ernst regarding placing SACUA representatives on the Michigan committee that he chairs that works on university health policies. Rob was hesitant to do so because they have a committee that is in the midst of ongoing work, and he was concerned about changing the composition at this time. However, he recognizes the value of faculty input, and so he suggested a smaller working group to meet periodically. That working group will consist of Rob Ernst, his chief of staff Dyan Jenkins-Ali, Vice Chair Singer, SACUA member Tom Braun, Christine Gerdes, and myself. For want of a name, Silvia and I have been calling it the "Public Health Working Group." We are looking for SACUA member ideas for our members to consider so that we can craft an agenda of constructive work that capitalizes on this opportunity.
- I met with Executive Director Tami Strickman of the new ECRT to discuss a number of issues:
  - In the past, SACUA had negotiated with the leadership of the ECRT's predecessor, the OIE, to have a two-meeting process for meeting with Respondents at the start of a case. The reason is that responding to these allegations can be overwhelming. Having an initial meeting in which no response is necessary can be helpful so the Respondent can first get a better sense of the process. However, the ECRT received feedback from Respondents that this two-meeting process was unduly burdensome. Now, they again often only have one meeting, but they are also happy to meet with Respondents over as many meetings as the Respondents feel doing so is needed. The language of the email sent to Respondents at the start of this case could be improved a bit, I think, to better convey to Respondents that flexibility. Executive Director Strickman said they would do

so by adding more information about meeting flexibility, which is something they have already been telling Respondents orally.

- I have reached out to the director of the ECRT's new Prevention & Education (PEAR) department, Kaaren Williamsen. PEAR will be rolling out educational workshops and other resources over the coming year. I will be meeting with her to try to brainstorm possible areas of collaboration. How can faculty assist in the rollout of this educational programming, for instance? Are there ideas for possible workshops that the Faculty Senate might somehow support? How can we assist in a successful start of this new department?
- I have individuals periodically contact me regarding issues related to grievance and ECRT investigations. I feel I need to develop myself and the resources the FSO can provide so as to be of better service to the faculty. Therefore, I will be doing some training with the ECRT, including by participating in a mock ECRT investigation so I can better understand the experience of going through the process.
- I met with Vice President and General Counsel Tim Lynch to build my relationship with him and his office. We spoke at length about the value of artistic expression, and I also began a dialogue between us regarding the need for an independent compliance office.
- I met with Student Life Associate Vice President Connie Tingson Gatuz to build my relationship with Student Life. She is very interested in finding joint faculty/Student Life initiatives. One example suggestion of hers is establishing an award to spotlight faculty contributions to student lives *outside* of the classroom.
- I met with Erik Matilla, the U-M Clery Act Compliance Manager regarding the available information being sent to faculty and staff regarding mandatory crime reporting. A faculty member was concerned by the requirements and could not find the kind of detailed information they needed in order meet their obligations. Erik Matilla was very supportive of improving communications and is happy to do so. Revising the information on their website is a project for this year. I will be providing feedback to assist in improving that available information.
- I have received a faculty concern about there not being a planned separate locker room space for faculty in the planned new recreational center, which is an issue given ongoing efforts to structure the campus environment to minimize the risk of misconduct. I will be following up with U-M Facilities and Operations to see what the current plans are.
- We are in the process of soliciting questions for the Regent Candidate Forum.
- I am working on various ongoing work related to adding the clinical faculty to the University Senate, establishing an independent Ethics, Integrity, and Compliance Office, and improving the grievance system.
- I have been continuing various financial training related to running the FSO.
- I updated a PowerPoint presentation for the SMTD SA members to use in an upcoming fall meeting.
- Chair Pedraza, Ann, and I did a mock Senate Assembly meeting with the Ruthven IT and Parliamentarian Fossum to help us prepare.