

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION  
Items for Information  
Hybrid Meeting held in Ruthven 1120 and on Videoconference**

**SUBJECT: July 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:**

- SACUA met on June 13. Thereafter, SACUA communicated via email. Its next formal meeting will be on July 25.
- At its **June 13** meeting, Chair Silvia Pedraza gave an update on the search for a new Faculty Senate Office Director. The SACUA leadership team (composed of the Chair, Past Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary) evaluated the applications, guided by Jaime Zawistowski, Business Manager, Academic and Faculty Affairs. They interviewed the finalists via videoconference. After narrowing it down to a couple of candidates, all SACUA members met with them via videoconference. The choice of Lucas J. McCarthy was unanimous and enthusiastic. McCarthy accepted our offer and began working with the Faculty Senate Office (with Chair Pedraza and Coordinator Ann Marshall) at the end of June.
- An article on McCarthy can be found in *The University Record*, June 27 th -- <https://record.umich.edu/articles/luke-mccarthy-named-director-of-faculty-senate-office>.

Interviewed by Ann Zaniewski, the article points out that Luke McCarthy is an attorney with a background in education. He earned his law degree from Florida State University and has M. A. and Ph. D. degrees in English literature from Western Michigan University. He worked for a couple of law firms during which he represented the boards of municipalities, businesses, and homeowners' associations. Chair Pedraza said that it was precisely his unique combination of J. D. and Ph. D. degrees that made him a terrific candidate. McCarthy has experience as a lawyer and loves academia, especially the humanities and political philosophy.

- Chair Pedraza met with the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA) at a May 26 th meeting held in Keen Arena. Warde Manuel, Director of Athletics, presented a PowerPoint on the success of many student athletic groups despite the hardships the pandemic brought about, including not allowing the teams to actually play. The pandemic also resulted in an enormous loss of revenue. Chair Pedraza also spoke at length with Stephen Connelly, Assistant Director, who also heads the Intercollegiate Athletic Academic Success Program. The meeting ended with lunch from several food trucks on Ferry Field – a treat.

SACUA members discussed their goals for the future and a couple of important issues that its members have already been working on. One working group on sexual misconduct worked on developing a syllabus insert. In the syllabus insert, a group of faculty (Rebekah Modrak and David Potter) together with undergraduate students who were victims of sexual harassment made an effort to delineate the boundaries of conduct that faculty and students should both observe to protect our students. The syllabus insert will be distributed to the Provost and Deans as a best

practice for the faculty. Another working group has begun to consider the possible restructuring of the Faculty Senate to include faculty that are presently not included – Lecturers and Clinical Faculty. SACUA members together with members of the Senate Assembly's Rules, Policies, and Procedures (RPP) Committee will focus on this important issue early in the Fall. Senate Assembly members on the Working Group are: Silvia Pedraza (SACUA Chair), Durga Singer (SACUA Vice-Chair), Allen Liu (SACUA Past Chair), Kentaro Toyama (SACUA), Simon Cushing (SACUA UM-Fllint), Bill Schultz (Senate Assembly RPP), and Ella Kazerooni (Senate Assembly RPP).

- On June 8, Chair Pedraza and Coordinator Marshall joined other staff at Ruthven on their Peonies' Walk at the arboretum, when the peonies were beautifully in bloom – a nice introduction to others in the new building.
- SACUA will be holding a Retreat for its members on October 21 at the Matthei Botanical Gardens. Planning for the Retreat is now underway.
- Former SACUA members – Colleen Conway, former SACUA Chair, and David Potter, former SACUA Chair and former Secretary of SACUA – wrote an article for the *Faculty Perspectives* page of *The University Record*, with SACUA's imprimatur. It was also discussed with Tami Strickman, Director of the Office of Institutional Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX (ECRT). The article was published on June 6. They stressed the need for U of M to have a central Office for Ethics, Integrity and Compliance with a reporting line to the Regents to avoid the sexual misconduct problems in the past. It can be found at: <https://record.umich.edu/articles/faculty-perspective-request-for-office-of-ethics-and-compliance/>
- Together, Chair Pedraza and FSO Director McCarthy will look at how to improve the voting process via videoconference or in person for members of the Faculty Senate.

## 2. SENATE ASSEMBLY:

- The Senate Assembly held its last meeting of the year on April 25 th, under Chair Allen Liu.

## 3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:

- Senate Assembly committees began to turn in their yearly Reports, which are approved by SACUA. Chair Pedraza worked on appointing the new Chairs to begin their work in the Fall.

## 4. FACULTY SENATE:

- SACUA chose the faculty who will receive the Faculty Governance Awards at the October 3 rd celebration:

The Distinguished Faculty Governance Award went to both David Potter, Professor of Greek and Latin, Department of Classical Studies, former SACUA Chair, and Neil Marsh, Professor of Chemistry and Biological Chemistry; former SACUA Chair.

The Regents' Award for Distinguished Public Service went to A. Ovetta Fuller, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical School, and the African Studies Center, International Institute.

The Jackie Lawson Memorial Faculty Governance Award went to Caitlin Finlayson, Associate Professor of English Literature, Culture, and the Arts, University of Michigan-Dearborn; former SACUA Vice-Chair.

**5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE:**

The Faculty Senate Office welcomes Lucas J. McCarthy, the new Faculty Senate Office Director.

Submitted: July 2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Silvia Pedraza". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Silvia Pedraza, SACUA Chair