

Minutes March 6, 2023
Circulated March 10, 2023
Approved March 13, 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, March 6, 2023, 3:00pm
The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

In Person Attendance: Chair Allen Liu, Vice Chair Tom Braun, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, FSO Coordinator Ann Marshall, Professor Kentaro Toyama, Secretary Deirdre Spencer

Remote Attendance: Professor Admon, Professor Cushing, Professor Modrak, Professor Partridge, Professor Pedraza, Professor Villalobos

Guest:

Katie Kelton: *University Record*
No representation from the *Michigan Daily*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:01 – the minutes from the February 20th meeting approved by consent.

Chair Update: Chair Liu will participate in President Ono's inauguration. As chair of the faculty, he will lead the procession, carry the mace, and open the ceremony, and has a 90-second statement. Livestreaming will be available.

ECRT added anti-caste discrimination language to its website and provided an explanation regarding which box to check in order to report caste discrimination. The language to the Regents' Bylaws will not be changed, as it is already covered under standard language. This is a success for the Committee on Anti-Racism.

The chair met last week with Jenny Faust, who just came to U-M after serving at the Associate VP for Strategic Initiatives at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Jenny Faust is leading the project team for the President's strategic visioning process. The meeting was also with Christine Gerdes, Special Counsel to the Provost, and Luke McCarthy, FSO Director. The meeting was regarding the strategic initiatives leading to President Ono's visioning process.

SACUA was asked to run faculty focus groups with SACUA, Senate Assembly, and University Senate. On April 14 at the Michigan League Ballroom, there will be six topics for discussion. Coffee and bagels will be served at 9:00am prior to the 9:30 meeting.

A specialist from PEAR and Allison Alexy from ISR (the Institute of Social Research) wants to interview faculty regarding women and gender issues, as well as sexually based misconduct and prevention, and Chair Liu has agreed to an interview with them.

Chair Liu is part of a 14-member consortium of academic institutions who are committed to freedom of speech, free expression, and complaint resolution systems. Carnegie Mellon and UC Berkeley are included in this forum. Georgetown has a speech and campus working group. Georgetown is addressing speech and campus culture. Carnegie Mellon is addressing similar issues as UC Berkeley through their principles.

The University of Chicago has a group dealing with online threats. They have also published the Kalven Report since 1967 covering political speech and social action. The University of Chicago has a forum for academic freedom and free expression.

The question was asked what teeth these measures have in light of the moves of Governor DeSantis against education, free speech, and the promotion of censorship. The chair suggested that a joint statement be made across institutions. (We could hold a meeting with [Regent Brown in May regarding a statement.]) Professor Villalobos mentioned that the American Comparative Literature Association is issuing a statement regarding the situation in Florida, and that we could do something similar.

Vice Chair Update: Vice Chair Braun, along with FSO Director McCarthy, met with Diane Jenk-Ali, Dr. Robert Ernst, and Christine Gerdes to discuss COVID plans and public health as part of SACUA's Working Group on Public Health. Legally the former plan was unenforceable, so we needed a more focused approach. More control could be exercised over higher risk environments such as dormitories. There is a large influx of new students and infections each year. Flint and Dearborn are doing away with mandatory vaccination plans. There are a variety of plans, for instance vaccines for polio, diphtheria, etc. are required by the Big Ten.

Information on CAPS was provided. Students are allowed six online visits with their You Well Program.

Only one GEO member complained about the change in policy, however Professor Modrak said that she has heard from several faculty who are dissatisfied with the policy.

FSO Director Updates: The Directors written report was received. The Director sent a slate of SACUA candidates out on time, pursuant to the Senate Rules, for the March election.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

SACUA Conflict of Interest Statement VOTE – Executive Session

After discussion, there was a unanimous vote to approve the attached Conflicts of Interest rule entitled “Specific Rule: SACUA Membership While Holding Certain University Leadership Positions.” The rule requires SACUA members to inform the chair ASAP if they accept an administrative leadership position as described in the statement. It is understood that the person would immediately resign from SACUA.

Faculty Senate Restructuring VOTE – Executive Session

A vote of 7 to 2 passed in favor of submitting, as a package, four Senate Restructuring proposals, provided that Director McCarthy performs after the meeting some final editing to add some headcount numbers, to add to every proposal a provision about creating a new library SA unit, and to make a last pass to check for clarity.

Processing for Moving Programs – Executive Session – This matter was removed from the agenda for consideration at a later meeting.

Matters Arising: The Vice Chair mentioned a positive article about the Center for Innovation in Detroit initiative in the *Record*. He also referenced an article in the *Journal Nature* with positive mentions of President Ono.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:56

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre D. Spencer
Secretary

Addendum:

SACUA Actions

Between meetings, SACUA has performed the following actions that should be included in the SACUA minutes:

- On February 23rd, SACUA approved the following process for moving forward with the Senate restructuring issue in the Senate Assembly:
 - We will hold two votes with the Senate Assembly (SA). Among the various models of restructuring, SA will first vote by ranked choice to decide on the most favorable model, with abstention as an

option. The second vote, on a separate date, will then be a Yes/No/Abstention vote on the most favorable model.

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:

Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

Sec. 4.01 The University Senate

"...[t]he Senate is authorized to consider any subject pertaining to the interests of the university, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in regard thereto. Decisions of the University Senate with respect to matters within its jurisdiction shall constitute the binding action of the university faculties. Jurisdiction over academic polices shall reside in the faculties of the various schools and colleges, but insofar as actions by the several faculties affect university policy as a whole, or schools and colleges other than the one in which they originate, they shall be brought before the University Senate."

Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs:

Senate: "In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed."

Assembly: "The Assembly may adopt rules for the transaction of its business. In appropriate cases not covered by rules of the Assembly, the rules of the University Senate shall apply."

SACUA: "The committee may adopt rules for the transaction of its business."