

Minutes April 3, 2023  
Circulated April 7, 2023  
Approved April 10, 2023

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

In Person Attendance: Chair Liu, Vice Chair Braun, Professor Pedraza, FSO Director McCarthy, FSO Coordinator Marshall, Secretary Spencer

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

In-Person Guests: Rackham Dean Mike Solomon, Special Counsel to Provost Christine Gerdes

Remote Guests:

Press: Jeff Bleiler, *University Record*

Ryan Kersten, *Michigan Daily*

Professor O'Malley, incoming SACUA member

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm. The minutes of the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved by consent. In response to the chair's request, Professors Partridge and Pedraza stated they will run for SACUA vice chair, and Professor Braun will run for SACUA chair. The election will take place at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

SACUA Chair Update: --

Last Friday the chair attended the Big Ten Academic Alliance Senate Leadership meeting via Zoom. He asked about shared governance in dean searches and whether other institutions have rules on senate meeting attendance. Penn State, Northwestern, and Purdue all have specific rules regarding attendance expectations.

The chair has a one-on-one meeting scheduled with President Ono on Wednesday April 5.

Association of Chinese Professors reported that Yale University faculty are pushing to revise the faculty handbook to protect faculty for possible future federal investigation by the government. They would like support from the administration during federal investigations. The chair is asking RAC, GCAC, and AAAC to consider this topic within their committees.

FSO Director's Report: Director McCarthy attended a National Council of Faculty Senates webinar entitled "Higher Education in the Crosshairs." Faculty in Texas fear the elimination of tenure and DEI.

This report spurred conversation among the members that was further discussed at the end of the meeting during the Academic Freedom Strategy Session.

Faculty Awards Description Recommendations – A unanimous vote was taken to approve recommending that the current language for the Regents’ Award for Distinguished Public Service be revised. SACUA approved the draft language that was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting with changes in the last example.

5. *co-creation with community members and groups at large in the development of knowledge, creative projects, and scholarship.*

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Guest presentation by Rackham Dean Mike Solomon and Special Counsel Christine Gerdes. — Executive Session

Faculty Senate Restructuring – Executive Session

## OPEN SESSION

Academic Freedom Strategy Session –

(1) SACUA will develop a statement in support of academic freedom, tenure, and DEI, with the initial draft to be written by Professor Modrak.

(2) For next year we have considered legislative outreach through GRAC and Chris Kolb. We will talk to President Ono. Discussion took place regarding how Michigan can assume leadership in support of academic freedom, tenure, and DEI from a multi-level perspective. This includes hosting a conference with workshops and panels which support faculty at the grassroots level. We also discussed strategies where we could apply leverage to schools by impacting accreditation and working with professional organizations such as AAUP and others.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Matters Arising: GEO negotiations -- Executive Session

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:15

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre D. Spencer  
Secretary

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 policies 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."