

Minutes: March 20, 2023
Circulated April 12, 2023
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Assembly
Monday, March 20th, 3:15

The hybrid meeting was held in Great Lakes North, Palmer Commons and virtually via Zoom

Virtual Attendees: Lindsay Admon, Jonathan Brennan, Jennifer Bridwell-Rabb, Amanda Brown, Ji Hoon Choi (nonvoting, Michigan Daily), Simon Cushing, Ivo Dinov, Zora Djuric (nonvoting, SACUA candidate), Francine Dolins, Aviva Batya Dorfman, Daniel Drake, Margherita Fontana, Christopher Friese, Anouck Girard, Seth Guikema, Daniel Hertz, Min-Hui Huang, Shanna Kattari (nonvoting, SACUA candidate), Inderjit Kaur, Ella Kazerooni, Katherine Kelton (nonvoting, University Record), Shake Ketefian (nonvoting), Frederick Korley, Susan Lepri, Donald Likosky (nonvoting, SACUA candidate), Suresh Vasu Madathilparambil, Ishani Maitra, Emmanuelle Marquis (alternate), Bruce Maxim, Karin Muraszko, Mojtaba Navvab, Phillip Palmbos, Damani Partridge, Derek Peterson, Nicholson Price, Perry Samson, Suzanne Selig (nonvoting), Quentin Stout, Kentaro Toyama, John Traynor, Alex Yasha Yi, Bradley Zebrack.

In-person Attendees: Tom Braun, Allen Burton, Mihai Burzo, Reed Dunnick (nonvoting, SACUA candidate), Steve Erickson, Paul Fossum (nonvoting, parliamentarian), Chris Friese, James Gulvas (nonvoting, SACUA candidate), Gary Hammer, Ingrid Hendy, Luke Hyde, Carolyn Kuranz, Allen Liu, Ann Marshall (nonvoting, FSO), Luke McCarthy (nonvoting, FSO), Vilma Mesa, Rebekah Modrak, Heather O'Malley (nonvoting, SACUA candidate), Dinesh Pal, Jessica Pasquale, Silvia Pedraza, Rogerio Pinto, Harmony Reppond, Alex Rickard, Tom Schwartz (nonvoting), Sara Soderstrom, Deirdre Spencer (nonvoting, secretary), Eric Vandenberghe (nonvoting, FSO), Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott.

Invited guest: President Santa Ono

Press:

Ji Hoon Choi -- *Michigan Daily*

Katie Kelton -- *University Record*

3:15 The meeting was called to order at 3:16 pm. The minutes of the February 13th meeting were approved by consent.

Chair Announcements:

Academic freedom will be addressed in Senate Assembly, AAAC, GCAC as well as SACUA.

The Faculty Senate will address Vision 2034 and publicize their events.

After the Senate Assembly voted to approve language on anti-caste discrimination earlier this academic year, Senate efforts to address this issue continued. As a result, the ECRT now references anti-caste discrimination on their website and has provided guidance for reporting instances of caste discrimination. An article is forthcoming in the *University Record's* Faculty Perspectives section addressing caste discrimination.

The chair would like to see at least 50% participation in the AEC Survey which evaluates administrators. The chair will send letters to units and the survey will be available for one month.

3:20 SACUA Election: Nominations from the Floor – The chair called for nominations from the floor to run for the 3 SACUA vacancies. There were no nominations to add to the 11 already declared candidates.

3:30 Guest: President Santa J. Ono – There were 3 faculty presentations. The first was by Professor Rebekah Modrak, Stamps School, Ann Arbor who addressed the importance of shared governance and the increased role of the faculty. Professor Alex Yi, Engineering, Dearborn addressed faculty hiring, retention, pay equity and improvements in work environments. Professor Seth Guikema, Engineering, Ann Arbor addressed the issue of affordable childcare.

President Ono thanked the faculty presenters and expressed his support for their topics of concern. He also requested Professor Yi's slide deck to be forwarded to him. President Ono announced the formation of the President's Cabinet which will provide faculty, students and staff a seat at the governing table by elected representatives.

He answered a series of non-scripted questions from faculty including his vision for the university. His responses included accounts of meetings at UM Flint in collaboration with the Mott Foundation. He recently spent time in Washington DC advocating for UM with state and federal government representatives as well as meeting with VP for Government Relations, Chris Kolb. He stated his vision for tri-campus unity and connection by including the regional campuses in the visioning process. He has already visited the regional campuses more than his predecessor. A faculty member stated concern for freedom of research and the need for protection of faculty whose physical safety is threatened. The president encouraged faculty who are threatened to contact him directly.

SACUA Election Candidate Statements and Vote – There were 11 candidates who made brief presentations in support of their candidacy. Presentations by Reed Dunnick, James Gulvas, Vilma Mesa and Heather O'Malley were in person, while Zora Djuric, Shanna Kattari, Donald Likosky, Quintin Stout, Alex Yasha Li were presented remotely via Zoom. Niko Kaciroti, and Merle Rosenzweig were unable to attend. The opportunity to vote for 4 of the 11 SACUA candidates will begin at 5:30pm and the top three candidates would be reported in 72 hours.

Faculty Senate Restructuring Vote: The ranked choice voting process was explained, and a preferred model would be implemented. A faculty member commented that some schools would lose half of their votes by including clinical faculty at the expense of tenure track. There were some questions regarding why only tenure track faculty should be able to address issues which affect tenure track faculty. One faculty member disliked all the models. Protection of tenure track faculty is important. The regional campuses have their own faculty governance structures. A Senate Assembly member from the medical school denied that the Medical School will be bringing in thousands of new faculty members.

Matters Arising: We must address Florida and the CRT restrictions. Actions will be coming from SACUA in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Addendum

Senate Assembly Actions

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

- On March 22nd, the Senate Assembly voted on four restructuring proposals in order to identify one of them as the preferred model to serve as the framework for a subsequent implementing resolution. The four models were identified as “PROPOSAL #1: Representatives”; “PROPOSAL #2: Senate Expansion”; “PROPOSAL #3: Senate Expansion with Restructuring”; and “PROPOSAL #4: A Multi-Branch Collective Senate (aka the ‘Super Senate’)”. The Senate Assembly used ranked-choice voting, resulting in “PROPOSAL #2: Senate Expansion” being selected as the most-favored model.
- On March 22nd, the Senate Assembly voted on the slate of SACUA candidates for the 2023 SACUA election, with three new SACUA members to be elected. Pursuant to that vote, the following two individuals were elected to SACUA: Vilma Mesa and Alex Y. Yi. There was a tie for the third SACUA seat between Heather O'Malley and Shanna Kattari. To break that tie, the Senate Assembly voted on March 24th between the two of them, with Heather O'Malley being thereby elected to SACUA. Vilma Mesa, Alex Y. Yi, and Heather O'Malley will begin their three-year terms on SACUA starting May 1st.

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."