

Minutes 4-24-2023
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, April 24th 3:00

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and virtually via Zoom

In person attendance: Chair Liu, Vice Chair Braun, Professor Cushing, Professor Modrak, Professor Pedraza, FSO Director McCarthy, FSO Coordinator Marshall, Secretary Spencer

Remote attendance: Professor Admon, Professor Partridge, Professor Toyama.
Absent: Professor Villalobos

Remote Guests:

Press – Katie Kelton – University Record
Abigail Vandermolen – Michigan Daily

In Person Guests – Professor Julie Boland of AAUP

3:02 The meeting was called to order at 3:02 – The minutes of the April 10th meeting were approved by consent.

SACUA Chair Updates:

The Faculty Senate restructuring amendments that were approved:

- Amendment 1: A 2/3 vote will be required for *future* changes of the Senate's membership. (76% Yes vs. 24% No)
- Amendment 2: The resolution's voting restrictions on Clinical Professors, Archivists, and Curators were removed while *retaining* the restriction that only tenure-track faculty may vote on tenure-related issues. (53% Yes vs. 47% No)
- Amendment 4: A non-exhaustive list of "tenure-related issues" was added to the resolution. (65% Yes vs. 35% No)

The amendment that was not approved:

- Amendment 3: Would have eliminated the restriction that only tenure-track faculty may vote on tenure-related issues. (71% No vs. 29% Yes)
- The implementing resolution on senate expansion was approved at (69% Yes vs. 31% No)

As requested by faculty and GEO, the chair shared information about an open letter condemning the administration's actions related to the GEO strike and negotiation and the open GEO negotiation information to take place on April 28 with the Senate Assembly. SACUA members are encouraged to attend the day-long negotiations if they are interested and available.

The chair has reached out to Regent Hubbard and Regent Brown about attending a SACUA meeting in May, and both have expressed an interest in doing so.

A Faculty Perspective article written by CAR Chair Dinesh Pal, and South Asian Studies colleagues Manan Desai, Madhumita Lahiri, and Matthew Hull, on the inclusion of caste in U-M's non-discrimination policy was published today.

FSO Director Updates: FSO Coordinators Ann Marshall and Eric Vandenberg are assisting committee chairs with writing annual reports for the 18 Senate Assembly committees. The FSO is now accepting award nominations until May 9th. Nominations are good for 3 years, but there have been few nominations received so far this year. Former nominations can be updated. The next SACUA meeting will be held in the University Hall conference room on the 2nd floor of Ruthven, to celebrate the onboarding of new SACUA members.

3:30 Professor Julie Boland of AAUP met with SACUA to discuss the formation of a joint task force to address the harassment and trolling of university professors for their course content. Targeted faculty are identified on sites such as ProfessorWatchList.org. SACUA recommends the task force membership to include one faculty member each from AAUP, SACUA, medical school, humanities, one faculty whose scholarship and/or teaching is DEI-related, and one faculty whose identity may be a target of external threat, and Jack Bernard from the OGC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3:41 -- Salary Study

4:13 -- GEO

4:27 -- Faculty Senate Restructuring

OPEN SESSION

4:34 – Matters Arising and Parting Remarks from Professors Liu and Toyama who were concluding their terms of service. Professor Villalobos was absent and not available for remarks. Professor Liu will stay on as the Immediate Past Chair (a non-voting member).

4:55 – The meeting adjourned at 4:55

A small reception followed the meeting.

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."