

Minutes August 28, 2023
Circulated September 15, 2023
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, August 28th, 3:00
The virtual meeting was held via Zoom

In attendance: Chair Tom Braun, Vice Chair Damani Partridge, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, Prof. Lindsey Admon, Prof. Simon Cushing, Prof. Allen Liu, Prof. Vilma Mesa, Prof. Rebekah Modrak, Prof. Heather O'Malley, Prof. Silvia Pedraza, Prof. Alex Yi, FSO Coordinator Eric Vandenberghe, Secretary Deirdre Spencer

Press: Katherine Kelton – *The University Record*

Guests: President Ono

Call to order / Minutes / Announcements

3:10 The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm.

The minutes of the August 14th meeting were approved by consent.

Announcements:

Thanks to FSO Director McCarthy, for scheduling Flint Interim Chancellor Donna Frey to visit SACUA on September 18th.

3:15 SACUA Chair Updates

The chair received a message from Chancellor Dutta stating that UM-Flint overall enrollment has increased for the first time in many years. This is based on the continued increased enrollment numbers of new students.

IRWG (Institute for Research on Women and Gender) will be undertaking the issue of faculty burnout and mental health. They will sponsor an online workshop on September 20th from 2-3:30pm, by Margaret Sallee from the University of Buffalo who will be presenting "From Exhaustion to Empowerment: Individual and Organizational Solutions to Address Burnout in Higher Education". SACUA will publicize this event as well as IRWG.

LS&A has a working group to address external threats and harassment of faculty. This group has prepared a report which is not quite in its final version but has been seen by the president of the local chapter of AAUP but not yet by the SACUA Chair. The Chair, AAUP and Provost will meet to discuss external threats (as we experience external hacking.)

The Chair came across a SACUA document from 1994 on "What Is Tenure". This document is no longer linked to the Faculty Senate website, but the issue is germane to what we have encountered in addressing faculty grievance issues. We will begin conversations with AAUP regarding tenure and what it protects? Perhaps we and AAUP can comprise a document that defines the meaning of tenure which we can support.

ADVANCE produced a report in 2023 which covers tenure track faculty on the Ann Arbor campus. There are several bar charts and information. We are increasing the numbers of women and minorities within the tenure track ranks compared to the numbers of white men. Recruitment is improving, but retention, however is still an issue, and women and non-white faculty have higher rates of departure than white men.

There is a new law in the state of Michigan which makes it a criminal offence for a person in a position of authority to “prevent or attempt to prevent” a person in a lower status from filing a Title IX report. So for instance, if you wanted to inform a student of what would go on in the reporting process, would that be impeding them? The language is vague, and the punishment as a misdemeanor is unclear.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3:20 Discussion: Current Grievance Process and the Procedures Involved in Faculty Sanctions.

The FSO Director expressed gratitude to FSO Coordinator Ann Marshall for sharing her internet router and for SACUA members onsite using their mobile phone “hotspots” so that our Zoom meeting could proceed. He shared a slide presentation outlining proposed steps for SACUA to clarify and streamline the grievance process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3:30: Guest: President Ono

4:10 Post-Visit Discussion

SACUA leadership met two candidates for Director of Ethics Integrity and Compliance Office

VOTE—

4:10 Approve Senate Assembly Agenda

SACUA voted to approve the agenda for the upcoming Senate Assembly meeting on September 11th.

VOTE

4:20 Approval of SACUA Vacancy Process

A draft vacancy process to fill the seat of SACUA member Lindsay Admon while she is on leave was distributed to members in advance of the meeting. There was discussion regarding the process of how the vacancy would be filled. For instance, should there be a “run off,” or should there be a vote for up to 50% of the nominees or ranked choice voting? Roberts Rules of Order would permit SACUA approving a process it deems best for the situation. The submitted process asks Senate Assembly members to vote for 1 candidate, and the highest vote getter gets the seat. After discussion, SACUA approved the submitted draft vacancy process, without changes.

4:30 Discuss Committee Reports, Charges, and Rosters –
Vote After Meeting

The committee chair assignments are completed except for one. We are not voting on all the issues today, but they must be voted on prior to the SA meeting.

Some chairs are still reviewing charges and meeting with executive officers. Votes will take place after Labor Day, probably from Wednesday through Friday. We will be notified if chairs have changes prior to SACUA's vote, and SACUA members are encouraged to contact the Chair and FSO if they have any concerns about any of the charges.

SACUA members will be contacted shortly for their preferences on committees to serve on as a SACUA liaison. Liaisons are non-voting and do not run the meetings, but rather serve as conduits of communication between SACUA and the committee.

The SACUA Vice Chair is traditionally the liaison for AAAC.

The committee membership is on the Faculty Senate website for viewing.

Also, two former SACUA members from last year have agreed to continue providing service to the Faculty Senate. Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott was the SACUA liaison to the RPP last year, and he will now be serving as a RPP member this year. Prof. Kentaro Toyama will be returning to the Senate Assembly.

4:40 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

4:44 Meeting Adjourned

Addendum

SACUA Actions

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

- Following a request from the Provost's Office for SACUA to submit three nominations to serve on a search advisory committee for a new Vice Provost of Sustainability, on August 17, 2023, SACUA approved nominating the following faculty:
 - Stephanie Preston, Professor of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Faculty Ombuds, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - Joe Trumpey, Associate Professor of Art, Penny W Stamps School of Art and Design, Associate Professor of Natural Resources, School for Environment and Sustainability and Associate Professor of Program in the Environment, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - Allen Burton, Professor of Environment and Sustainability, School for Environment and Sustainability
- Following receiving nominations from the Deans and Executive Committees of the Ann Arbor campus, SACUA appointed three faculty members to the Library Council:
 - Stuart Kirsch, Professor of Anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - Madhumita Lahiri, Associate Professor of English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - Ella August, Clinical Associate Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health

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."