

Minutes: September 11, 2023

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Senate Assembly**  
**Monday, September 11, 2023, 3:15**

The hybrid meeting was held in 2000 Ruthven and via Zoom

**Virtual Attendees:** Lindsay Admon, Sue Anne Bell, Audrey Bennett, J. Sybil Biermann, Amanda Brown, Helen Burgess, Jade Burns, Allen Burton, Amy Cheng, Clifford Sunyun Cho, Meghan Courtney, Simon Cushing, Keith Duncan, Allison Earl, Wessam Elmeligi, Terri Friedline, Anouck Girard, Ingrid Hendy, Raffi Indjejikian, Inderjit Kaur, Shake Ketefian (Retiree, nonvoting), Carolyn Kuranz, Brian Love, Rebekah Modrak, Andre Monteiro da Rocha, Gunalan Nadarajan, Heather O'Malley, Phillip Palmbos, Jessica Pasquale, Silvia Pedraza, Pamela Pennock, Derek Peterson, Nicholson Price, James Rampton, Harmony Reppond, Alex Rickard, Joel Scheuher, Sara Soderstrom, Quentin Stout, Kentaro Toyama, John Traynor, Elizabeth Viglianti, Craig Wilkins, Alex Yasha Yi, Jason Young, Brad Zebrack, Paul Zimmerman.

**In-person Attendees:** Tom Braun, Jon Brennan, Jesse Capecelatro, Rogerio Castilho, Paul Fossum (parliamentarian, nonvoting), Brendan Haug, Corey Lester, Yongqing Li, Ann Marshall (FSO, nonvoting), Luke McCarthy (FSO, nonvoting), Vilma Mesa, Damani Partridge, Deirdre Spencer (Secretary, nonvoting), John Valadez (alternate), Eric Vandenberghe (FSO, nonvoting), Dean Yang.

Press:

Katherine Kelton, University Record

Ji Hoon Choi, Michigan Daily

Ashley Gray, Michigan Daily

**3:15 Call to order / Minutes / Announcements.** The chair called the meeting to order at 3:15. The minutes from the April 17, 2023, meeting were approved by consent. He welcomed Senate Assembly to the first meeting of the new academic year, and especially extended a welcome to new members. He proceeded to provide an onboarding overview of what Senate Assembly members do. Also, in honor of the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup> he asked people to take a moment for personal reflection.

**3:20 Academic Year Welcome / Onboarding of Senate Assembly Members –**

It was explained how Senate Assembly fits into faculty organizations on campus using a slide presentation. He explained that the Faculty Senate (aka) the University Senate has 7,000 voting members from the Ann Arbor and regional campuses. This body meets once a year. The Senate Assembly now consists of 77 members (up from 75 members) since we have expanded the membership to include the new unit of librarians, archivists, and curators as well as clinical and research faculty. Members are encouraged to speak with colleagues in their units and share the information that they learn. Some committees are advisory to university vice presidents, and others are not. The FSO has

difficulty filling the committees with members and chairs. Please consider volunteering to serve on one or serving as a chair.

Three members will be rotating off SACUA at the end of the year, and the Senate Assembly will elect their replacements.

The new president and provost want input from faculty to effect meaningful change.

Senate Assembly meetings occur on Mondays; all are hybrid and are open to the public. We will send meeting documents to members, as close to a week in advance as possible. If members are unable to attend, they are asked to appoint an alternate.

We would like more people to attend meetings in person and abide by the following rules. If attending in-person, raise your hand or use the raised hand function if attending via Zoom. We won't use Zoom chat as it is not accessible for in-person attendees. Use the chat function only for emergencies.

Please send suggestions for future agenda items to the FSO Director or Chair. Allow at least one week for suggestions to possibly make it onto an upcoming agenda. A month in advance is preferable, since Senate Assembly agendas are approved by SACUA at least a week in advance. Matters arising is the portion of the meeting, allowed for suggestions from the floor.

The Senate Assembly, University Senate, and SACUA are governed by Regent's bylaws and our Faculty Senate rules. While we are an advisory body, we do have some power and we do help to inform policy. The secretary keeps records of what occurs at our meetings. The test vote prior to today's actual voting went well.

### **3:40 Approve Charges and Rosters**

The committee chairs roll off after a year, and the members roll off after 3 years. The SACUA Chair, SACUA, and the FSO worked to fill the membership of the 18 committees. In consultation with committee chairs, the SACUA Chair, SACUA, and executive officers, charges were developed.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on the committee charges and rosters. A faculty member suggested that Arts and Humanities faculty members be added to the Research Advisory Committee which currently consists of medical and Engineering faculty members. The rosters can be amended after they are voted on, so that suggestion was taken under advisement for later action.

The Senate Assembly then proceeded to vote on approving the charges and rosters as distributed in advance of the meeting.

**Voting Results – 51 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain**

### **4:00 SACUA Vacancy Election Process VOTE**

Today we will also vote on the process to temporarily replace a SACUA member away while on maternity leave.

Self-nominations are encouraged. Current Senate Assembly members are eligible.

Send emails between 09-12-2023 and 10-02-2023 to the Faculty Senate Office.

The term of service will be from 10-09, 2023 and 01-22-2024. Ineligible are faculty from

the Stamps School, Flint and Dearborn campuses, School of Public Health, or LSA. Everything else is OK. Please send a letter of intent. The Secretary will announce the vote on October 6<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made and seconded to vote on the vacancy election process.

**Voting results -- Yes 53 -- No 0 -- Abstentions 0**

**4:20 Call for SACUA Vacancy Nominations from the Floor** -- There were no nominations from the floor.

**4:30 Overview of upcoming tasks, plus a call for agenda item suggestions**

Jessica Pasquale, chair of SRAC would like to hear from faculty regarding in-class student accommodations which provide undue hardship on faculty.

Martino Harmon, VP for Student relations is interested in this topic for the advisory committee.

Secretary of the University Committee (SAC), is advisory to V.P. Sally Churchill. This committee has been tasked with how we can interact more directly with the regents. The fact that we have difficulty getting people to serve on committees may be related to faculty burnout. We may have FAFSCO to come and present to the group.

We may have VP Ravi Pendse address our group for transparency regarding the recent internet interruption. It was asked if this the VP for Finance was involved? There may be an ongoing legal battle with the recent networking issues, but we do not have much understanding of what happened. The Chair will reach out to VP Ravi Pendse.

Another suggestion was to address deans applying sanctions to faculty members without due process. When faculty receive punitive actions from deans, how does this come about and what changes are possible? The chair seconds this as important topic.

Another suggestion was research faculty review. What are conditions to effect changes in the time frame for professors to be promoted from assistant research faculty to tenure track professors.

**4:20 Matters Arising** – MSU football coach involved in alleged sexual misconduct.

Gov. Whitmer made it legal to sell alcohol at sporting events. All Big Ten Schools are doing this. Our regents have not yet ruled. It will probably happen. It would be good to have data for further discussion. The Chair will be meeting with Faculty Senate chairs from other universities and the topic will probably arise.

Increased concern for student housing. Can we get a status report? Where do we stand on the Fingerle property, etc.?

Chair Braun is temporarily chairing the GRAC (Government Relations Advisory Committee) until someone else can be found to do so.

4:27 Meeting Adjourned early at 4:27

Respectfully Submitted,  
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 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."