

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Items for Information**

SUBJECT: October 2023 Faculty Governance Update

Overview of items discussed:

1. SACUA
2. Senate Assembly

1. SACUA:

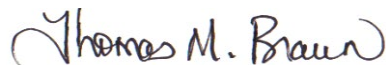
- SACUA had an all-day retreat on September 15, 2023. The first task was to discuss numerous Standards of Practice for both SACUA and Senate Assembly in efforts to document and standardize many of the procedures followed by those groups. SACUA then narrowed down the nearly 30 potential topics of interest down to two top-priority topics for the coming year: (1) examining and developing changes to the Faculty Grievance Process, and (2) developing a definition of tenure and demotions in response to a lack of those definitions appearing in Regents' Bylaw 5.09, which leaves faculty open to demotions by administrators that fall outside this bylaw.
- On September 18, 2023, SACUA had its first meeting of the academic year. In this meeting, SACUA discussed more details about a faculty salary study and the verbal support from both the Provost and President to make such a report happen. SACUA then met with the interim UM-Flint Chancellor, Dr. Donna Fry, to welcome her to her new position and to discuss her vision for the ongoing Strategic Transformation plan developed for UM-Flint. The meeting concluded with a discussion of Faculty Grievance Monitors and SACUA's role in their selection.
- On September 25, 2023, SACUA began with a deeper discussion of how to increase faculty engagement in involvement with Senate Assembly and the Senate Assembly committees. Numerous ideas were presented, including greater outreach by SACUA members to individual units and a potential future article in the *University Record*. SACUA then discussed and voted 7-2 in favor of a Standard of Practice to formalize selection of a Faculty Grievance Monitor (FGMs) and several Assistant FGMs. Chair Braun then presented a document approved by the Faculty Senate in 1994 entitled "Toward a Definition of Tenure" and led a discussion of questions raised in that document that are relevant to the contemporary experience of faculty. The meeting concluded with a discussion of work by the Committee on Administrative Action (COAA) to better understand and clarify the process used by the Provost to evaluate Deans.
- On October 2, 2023, Chair Braun first updated SACUA on the recent lunch meeting he had with chairs of the Senate Assembly Committees. The meeting then began with an update of a committee organized to develop plans for a new annual ECRT report focused on reported cases involving race- and nationality-based harassment. SACUA then discussed a new resolution focused on modifying the annual procedure used for nominating and selecting the members

and chairs for the Senate Assembly committees. SACUA members then spent time brainstorming further on how to define tenure and demotions in relation to Regents' Bylaw 5.09, and concluded with a discussion of how to identify potential faculty to serve as Assistant Faculty Grievance Monitors.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY:

- The Senate Assembly had its first meeting of the academic year on September 11, 2023. Chair Braun began the meeting with a short introduction for new members about the interaction of SACUA, Senate Assembly, and the University Senate, and summarized the work of the eighteen Senate Assembly committees. The meeting then proceeded with a discussion of the 2023-2024 charges and rosters developed for the eighteen Senate Assembly committees. During the discussion, it was brought up that the rosters of some committees lacked balanced representation. Chair Braun explained that it is difficult enough to fill the rosters each year, making balanced membership nearly impossible across all committees. The Senate Assembly then approved both the rosters and the charges.
- The Senate Assembly then approved a process to temporarily fill the upcoming vacancy in SACUA, and concluded the meeting with a discussion of priority topics for Senate Assembly and SACUA to address in the coming year.

Submitted: October 2023



Tom Braun, SACUA Chair
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