
[Test] September 2022 Newsletter

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SACUA / Senate Assembly Newsletter

September 2022

Silvia Pedraza, Faculty Senate Chair

Dear Faculty Senate members,

Welcome! The new academic year brings many new changes to Ann Arbor. We welcome them. We want to update you on some of SACUA and Senate Assembly's recent activities and to encourage you to participate in faculty governance. Best wishes for a good semester!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Silvia Pedraza'.

Silvia Pedraza, SACUA Chair

SACUA & FSO In the News

Faculty Perspectives: Compliance

Former SACUA Chairs – Colleen Conway and David Potter, former Secretary of SACUA – wrote a [Faculty Perspectives article for the *The University Record*](#), with

FSO Welcomes New Director

In July, Chair Pedraza introduced SACUA to the new Director of the Faculty Senate Office (FSO), Lucas J. McCarthy. In an [University Record interview](#) with Directory McCarthy,

SACUA's imprimatur. Published on June 6, they stressed the need for U of M to have a central Office for Ethics, Integrity, and Compliance with a reporting line to the Regents to avoid the sexual misconduct problems in the past. It was also discussed with Tami Strickman, Director of the Office of Institutional Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX (ECRT).

Chair Pedraza said it was precisely Luke's combined background of a J.D. and Ph.D. degree that made him a perfect candidate for the position. Luke McCarthy earned his law degree from Florida State University and has M. A. and Ph. D. degrees in English literature from Western Michigan University. For six years, he worked as an attorney representing the boards of municipalities, businesses, and homeowners' associations.

Record Interview with Chair Pedraza

Interviewed by Jamie Iseler for a [University Record article](#), Silvia Pedraza points out that, resulting from the break in trust that the cases of Provost Martin Philbert and President Mark Schlissel entailed, an adversarial relationship resulted between the faculty and the leadership.

However, we are now at a crucial moment in the history of the university, with both a new President about to arrive and a new Provost at once. It is a chance for the faculty to establish a new relationship with them that could grow out of shared effort and new trust. We are hopeful.

Faculty Governance Update

SACUA Letter on Faculty Governance at UM-Flint

At one of its summer meetings, SACUA discussed the concerns generated at UM-Flint by the transfer of various departments housed under the College of Arts and Sciences (CSA) to the College of Innovation and Technology (CIT) without knowledge of the faculty or its input. As a result, SACUA wrote a letter to the Regents, the Provosts and the Chancellors on the three UM campuses, our interim President Mary Sue Coleman, and the newly chosen President Santa J. Ono. In that letter, SACUA decried the loss of mission clarity for both CIT and CAS faculty and the lack of input from the faculty on their campus regarding the direction the institution would take in the future as well as the

consequences for the departments left behind in CAS. SACUA continues to look at the situation in Flint closely.

SACUA SA & FSO Updates

SA Committees Begin a New Year

On September 12, Chair Pedraza and Director McCarthy held a Senate Assembly (SA) Committee Chairs (18 of them!) luncheon in Ruthven, University Hall. It was very well attended and an honest discussion regarding the challenges of our role was had. A second luncheon is planned for September 21 for all SA committee members. The [SA committees](#) each complete an annual report and post a charge for the upcoming year. These will be posted on the FSO website when finalized.

SACUA Welcomes New Provost

SACUA has met with our new Provost Laurie McCauley. Issues discussed included COVID-19, public health and possible mandates for the new academic year. SACUA looks forward to future meetings in 2022-2023.

Syllabus Insert

The Syllabus Insert is an effort endorsed by SACUA and led by SACUA members Rebekah Modrak and David Potter, together with students who survived sexual abuse by the faculty, in order to protect the students in the future. The Syllabus Insert is optional for faculty to add to their syllabus, specifying the boundaries of the student-faculty relationship outside of the classroom. The effort has meant a great deal to the students who have survived these damaging relationships.

New Faculty Orientation

On August 28, Chair Pedraza and Vice Chair Singer attended the New Faculty Orientation and shared a “University Senate: We Are the Voice of the Faculty” handout to attendees.

An Update on Voting for SA & Faculty Senate

With the help of the excellent staff of Executive IT, Chair Pedraza and FSO Director McCarthy are looking at how to improve the voting process at hybrid meetings for members of the Senate Assembly and the University Senate. As pointed out in her article in The University Record, the effort is to bring together

the new – the technologies of online meetings, videoconferencing – that have improved the participation of the faculty in its governance together with the old – arriving at the Senate decisions through a parliamentary process of deliberation. Our excellent IT staff in Ruthven are assisting us in the process.

Congratulations to our Awardees

The Distinguished Faculty Governance Award went to both David Potter, Professor of Greek and Latin, Department of Classical Studies, former SACUA Chair, and Neil Marsh, Professor of Chemistry and Biological Chemistry, former SACUA Chair.

The Regents' Award for Distinguished Public Service went to A. Ovetta Fuller, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical School, and the African Studies Center, International Institute.

The Jackie Lawson Memorial Faculty Governance Award went to Caitlin Finlayson, Associate Professor of English Literature, Culture, and the Arts, University of Michigan-Dearborn, former SACUA Vice-Chair.

The University Librarian Achievement Award went to Judy Smith, Informationist for Health Management and Policy at the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation and the University Librarian Recognition Award went to Callum Carr, Assistant Archivist at Flint Library.

FSO to Welcome New Coordinator

FSO Director McCarthy and Chair Pedraza are pleased to announce that a new Coordinator will soon be joining FSO to help with its many tasks. Eric Vandenberghe will be coming from MIT, where he worked in a similar position as Administrative and Financial Assistant in their Chemistry department. Eric has two Master's degrees – one from the University of Toledo, in Criminal Justice, and one in Jurisprudence in Legal Doctrine and Analysis, from Michigan State University College of Law. He is both capable and humble, a breath of fresh air. He will start at U of M in mid October. We look forward to welcoming him!

Upcoming Events

September 26th, Senate Assembly, 3:15-5:00 pm, Ruthven Building, University Hall: Open to the public. If you're not a Senate Assembly member and would like the zoom link, please RSVP here.

October 3rd, Regents Candidate Forum, 10-11:30 am, Ruthven Building, University Hall: Please send your questions to Luke McCarthy (Lukemcc) at [link](#) and join us on that day!

Put photo from Committee Chair Luncheon (on Silvia's phone) here with caption underneath.

A newsletter from the [Chair of the SACUA](#) and the [Faculty Senate Office](#).

September 2022

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