

**M** | **FACULTY SENATE**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Faculty Senate Newsletter

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September 2023  
Tom Braun, Faculty Senate Chair

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Remarks from the Chair

I hope that everyone had a summer that was somewhat productive, somewhat relaxing, and brought some renewed energy for the new academic year. One of my roles as Senate Assembly Chair is leading the faculty procession at the New Student Convocation, and it was really an excellent start to my semester to experience the nervous and excited energy that our new students brought with them on August 27! After Senate Assembly and Regental approval, the Faculty Senate now includes a much larger number of individuals, and I hope

we are all prepared to address the opportunities and challenges that come with this expansion.

## SACUA June & July Update

SACUA tends to meet infrequently during the summer months, although two informal meetings did occur. Several members of SACUA met with Graduate Employee Organization (GEO) leaders in June to hear GEOs perspective on the contract negotiations. SACUA also met in July to discuss the occurrence of faculty sanctions applied by unit administrators through means that appear to lack formal process or documentation. SACUA summarized its opinions and a set of action plans in a letter that I sent to the UM Provost, President, and Regents.

During the summer, some additional efforts were underway. I, along with SACUA Vice Chair Damani Partridge and Faculty Senate Office Director Luke McCarthy, met with members of the Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX (ECRT) Office to develop a stronger connection between ECRT and faculty governance. Of note, we were informed that there is a [new Michigan law](#) that 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. There are concerns about how this new law, even if well intentioned, may impact faculty approached for advice.

Luke McCarthy and I also summarized the findings of each of our eighteen Senate Assembly committees into a list of potential action items for SACUA and Senate Assembly, as well as worked on filling the rosters of the eighteen Senate Assembly Committees and developing their charges for the upcoming year.

## SACUA August Update

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### SACUA Vacancy

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There will be a vacancy on SACUA from October 9th to January 22nd due to a maternity leave. Nominations are open through October 2nd. From October 3rd

to October 6th, the Senate Assembly will vote to fill the position. Pursuant to the vacancy replacement process approved in the Senate Assembly, nominees must be current [Senate Assembly members](#).

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## Working Group to Address External Threats

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LS&A has a working group to address external threats and harassment of faculty and has produced a report of recommendations. I, Julie Boland, president of our local chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), and the Provost will be meeting to discuss how the recommendations might be implemented.

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## SACUA Meeting with President Ono

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President Ono met with SACUA on August 28 and discussed a number of issues posed by SACUA, including the search for a new UM-Flint Chancellor, an update on the status of the new Ethics, Integrity, and Compliance Office (EICO), and building a stronger connection between Senate Assembly and the President.

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## Faculty Grievance Procedures

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Outlining the vast number of improvements that could be made to existing faculty grievance procedures, as well as prioritizing those improvements into “quick fixes” and those that will take much more time and effort to implement.

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## Contact Us

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Please contact [Faculty Senate Chair](#) Tom Braun or the [FSO](#) with any issues you would like to discuss. Also, please feel free to reach out to your Senate Assembly representatives if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback! The [roster](#) can be found on the Faculty Senate Office website.

The Davis, Markert, and Nickerson (DMN) Lecture is scheduled for Thursday November 9, 2023. The guest speaker will be Jonathan Friedman, Director of Free Expression and Education Programs for Pen America.

## Senate in the News

[Q&A: SACUA Chair Tom Braun considers the coming year](#), by Katie Kelton, *University Record*, August 28, 2023.

[Regents Roundup -- July 2023: Regents revise bylaws to expand Faculty Senate](#), by Katie Kelton, *University Record*, July 20, 2023.

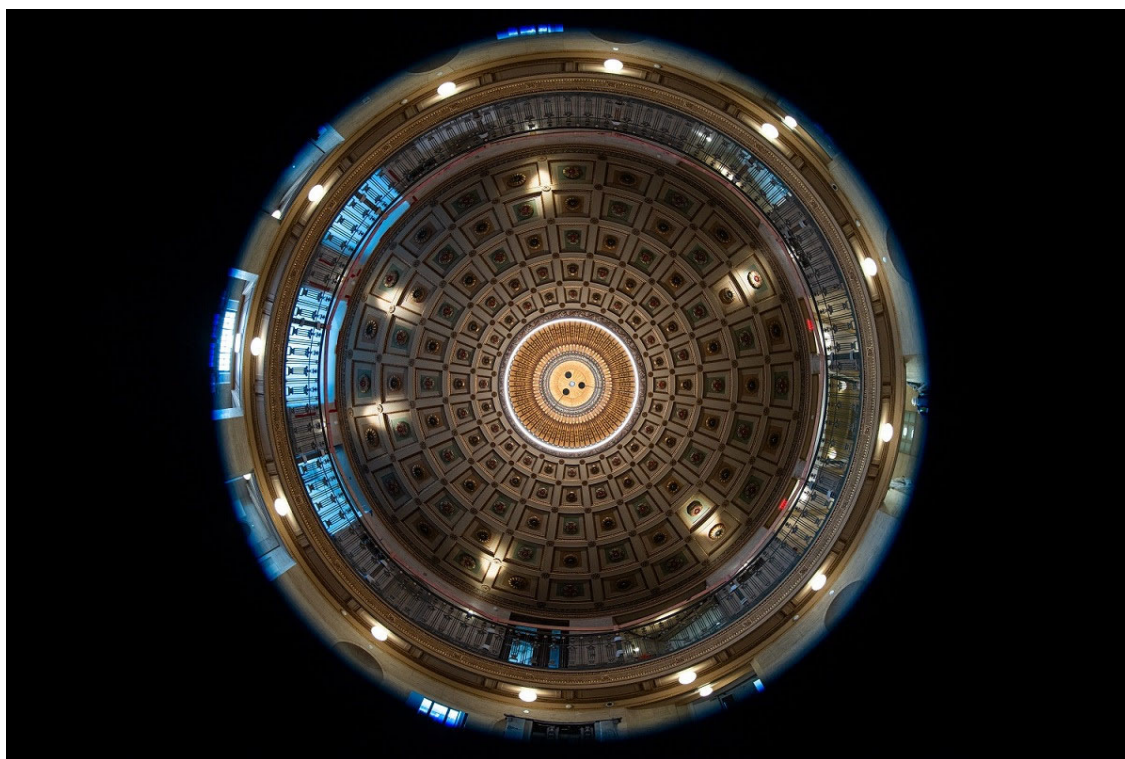
[SACUA presents objectives for 2023-24 academic year, discusses additional committees](#), by Eilene Koo, *Michigan Daily*, August 14, 2023.

[Regents to consider bylaws change expanding Faculty Senate](#), *University Record*, July 5, 2023.

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### Ruthven Building Rotunda

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A view of the [Ruthven Building](#) rotunda. The Faculty Senate Office is located on the first floor of Ruthven, in suite 1120. The Senate Assembly and University Senate

typically meet in Ruthven 2000, University Hall.

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Newsletter of the [Chair of SACUA](#) and the [Faculty Senate Office](#).  
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