

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

Faculty Senate Newsletter

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**October 2023**  
**Tom Braun, Faculty Senate Chair**

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**Remarks from the Chair**

It is hard to believe that we are far enough along in the semester to begin discussion of midterm exams and the fall break!

# Senate Assembly Update

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.

## SACUA Update

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

## November 9th DMN Lecture

2023 Davis, Market, and Nicholson (DMN) lecture:

**Jonathan Friedman**

*[Academic Freedom 2024: Educational Gag Orders, State Censorship,  
and the Fight for Higher Education](#)*

**Thursday, November 9, 4-5:30 pm**

U-M Law School, Honigman Auditorium, 100 Hutchins Hall  
and [via livestream](#)

**[Register to Attend](#)**

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# October 25th Lecture & Panel

Faculty Senate sponsored event:

**Jennifer Freyd**

[\*Addressing Gender Violence with Institutional Courage\*](#)

followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Fatma Müge Göçek

Jennifer Freyd • NiCole Buchanan • Nicole Bedera

**Wednesday, October 25, 2-4:30 pm**

Lecture at 2 pm

Panel at 3:30 pm

Michigan League, Koessler Room

and via [livestream](#)

[Register to Attend](#)

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## **Nominate an Assistant Faculty Grievance Monitor**

Under the Faculty Grievance Procedures approved by the Ann Arbor campus Schools and Colleges, SACUA appoints a tenured faculty member annually as a Faculty Grievance Monitor (FGM) to monitor all grievances and participate in the administration of all grievances with Academic Human Resources. Due to the demands of the position and the need to expand the pool of knowledgeable faculty who understand faculty grievances, SACUA will be appointing four tenured faculty members from the Ann Arbor campus as assistants to the FGM.

The term will be from as soon as SACUA makes the appointments until April 30, 2025.

**Call for Nominations**

Please nominate [here](#) yourself or another faculty member as a candidate for SACUA to consider. The Faculty Senate Office will then verify eligibility and interest. Candidates will be asked to submit a short statement for SACUA to consider. Candidates must be tenured faculty members of the Ann Arbor campus.

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## Contact Us

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 Senate Assembly roster can be found [here](#).

## Senate in the News

[SACUA seeking nominations for temporary member](#), by Katie Kelton, *University Record*, September 12, 2023.

[SACUA discusses AI in classrooms, new plans for the Faculty Grievance Monitor](#), by Ji Hoon Choi, *Michigan Daily*, September 25, 2023.

[Anouck Girard elected temporary SACUA member](#), by Katie Kelton, *University Record*, October 6, 2023.

[SACUA talks tenure, committee assignments](#), by Matthew Shanbom, *Michigan Daily*, October 3, 2023.

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**SACUA at All-day Retreat**

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From left, Alex Yasha Yi, Luke McCarthy (FSO Director), Allen Liu (Immediate Past Chair), Simon Cushing, Lindsay Admon, Tom Braun (Chair), Vilma Mesa, Paul Fossum (Parliamentarian), Silvia Pedraza, Deirdre Spencer (Secretary), Rebekah Modrak, and Damani Partridge (Vice Chair) at the SACUA Retreat, Michigan League, September 15, 2023.

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