

Minutes December 11, 2023  
Circulated January 23, 2024  
Approved January 29, 2024

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

The hybrid meeting was held in 2000 Ruthven University Hall, and via Zoom

**Virtual attendees:** Yasser Aboelkassem (nonvoting), Amal Alhosban (nonvoting), Mark Allison, Sue Bell, Audrey Bennett, Halil Bisgin (nonvoting), Amanda Brown, Helen Burgess, Jade Burns, Allen Burton, Jesse Capecelatro, Amy Cheng, Clifford Suhyun Cho, Chase Condron (nonvoting), Simon Cushing, Robert Duncan, Allison Earl, Ada Eban-Rothschild (nonvoting), Wessam Elmeligi, Thiago Ferreira (nonvoting), Anouck Girard, Brendan Haug, Yihe Huang, Muzammil Hussain (nonvoting), Raffi Indjejikian, Stefanus Jasin, Inderjit Kaur, Leila Kawar (nonvoting), Shake Ketefian (nonvoting), Evyn Kropf (nonvoting), Carolyn Kuranz, Yongqing Li, Rebekah Modrak, Rima Mohammad (nonvoting), Karin Muraszko, Mojtaba Navvab, Mukesh Nyati, Heather O'Malley, Phillip Palmbo, Damani Partridge, Jessica Pasquale, Pamela Pennock, Nicholson Price, Kaitlin Raimi, James Rampton, Harmony Reppond, Alexander Rickard, Mark Rosentraub, Gideon Rothschild (nonvoting), Ana Sabau (nonvoting), Kimberly Saks, Joel Scheuher, Sara Soderstrom, Deirdre Spencer (nonvoting, Secretary), Matthew Spradling (nonvoting), Quentin Stout, Zahid Syed (nonvoting), Charlotte Tang (nonvoting), Melanie Tanielian, Kentaro Toyama, John Traynor, Stephen Turner (nonvoting), Suleyman Uludag (nonvoting), Elizabeth Viglianti, Sarah Vordenberg, Daniel Weissman (nonvoting), Craig Wilkins, Alex Yasha Yi, Jason Young, Bradley Zebrack, Robert Ziff, Paul Zimmerman.

**In-person attendees:** J. Sybil Biermann, Tom Braun, Jonathan Brennan, Rogerio Castilho, Meghan Courtney, Paul Fossum (nonvoting, parliamentarian), Christine Gerdes (nonvoting), Sarah Hawley, Ann Marshall (nonvoting, FSO), Luke McCarthy (nonvoting, FSO), Vilma Mesa, Silvia Pedraza, Derek Peterson, Gabriel Rauterberg, Carina Ray (nonvoting), Andre Monteiro Da Rocha, Eric Vandenberghe (nonvoting, FSO).

**Press**

Katherine Kelton, *University Record*

Invited Guest:

Laurie K. McCauley, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**3:15 – Call to Order --** The chair called the meeting to order at 3:17. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

**3:20 -- SACUA Chair Updates.**

1. Provost McCauley visits today.
2. We formalized a nominating committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> year members. The committee will begin work in January and will choose a chair.
3. Regarding UM freedom of thought, General Counsel Tim Lynch is incorporating the feedback that we submitted into the statement.
4. UM Senate Assembly asks that the university publicly clarify our financial investments in Israel.



5. The Chair and Vice Chair of SACUA will hood the honorary doctoral degree recipients at Winter Commencement. The recipients are David Brooks, Thomas Haas, and Thomas Zurbuchen.
6. The DMN lecture is now available for viewing and the message resonates now, more than ever.
7. The chair and vice chair met with VP Tabbye Chavous and Dean Ann Curzan in support of the letter for Professor Abdul Kahbeer.
8. Dean Curzan and the SACUA Chair attended the local AAUP chapter meeting to discuss online and external threats to faculty. There was a task force last year to look at external harassment recommendations and share them with the provost's office. The provost has been made aware of the issues and they are being handled by Dean Curzan.

**3:30 - Guest: Provost Laurie McCauley –**

1. She mentioned the success of the recent Generative AI event held by the Provost's Office She and Ravi Pendse, V.P. for Information Technology, regularly attend a taskforce together to see what tools and infrastructure we need and to identify ethical and legal implications.
2. She has attended Generative AI events at other institutions, and we are leaders among our peers in this area, with U-MChatGPT4.0.
3. Maizey allows the UM community to use UMChatGPT. Statistical info for U-M indicates an accuracy rate of 94% for Maizey vs. 70% accuracy results for non-Maizey tools. Maizey could be a way for faculty to reduce the mundane aspects of teaching. Available to help students 24/7
4. She then entertained comments and questions from Senate Assembly members:
  - a. An LSA faculty member expressed concern regarding the accuracy of these tools.
  - b. There are some concerns regarding risks and rewards of Gen AI. Provost McCauley has heard from faculty concerned that students would not learn how to write well. Sweetland, CRLT and Academic Innovation have been tasked with his question.
  - c. There was concern that the technology has built in biases.
  - d. A faculty member asked Chat the same question repeatedly and personal info was revealed. Provost McCauley responded that UM Chat GPT should protect info but may not be 100 % secure yet.
5. The Provost shared an update on our student success initiative.
  - a. Graduation outcomes reveal the graduation rate for students who matriculated from 4-6 years is 93% for 6 year graduation.
  - b. ASSET has looked at students from certain groups like Pell Grant recipients, first gens, etc. and can help with undergraduate issues.
  - c. Dr. Angela Dillard will be the first Vice President for Undergraduate Education. She was Associate Dean in LSA and is now moving to the provost's office.
  - d. The new VP will also partner with the Admissions Office.
  - e. Suggested issues for her to tackle include: in person transition for classes, student satisfaction with Zoom classes? Student success is a question: are students thriving?
6. SACUA leadership has discussed with the Provost the possibility of an event focused on the conflict in the Middle East. She has met with provosts of the Big Ten, and our campus is not unique.
7. CRLT is looking for ways to address these challenging situations. Some faculty



- have spoken with students, but some faculty prefer not to discuss these issues with students. Which are the best practices?
8. A professor asked about the Central Student Government vote cancellation, stating that the pretext seemed to be slender and a bad reason. The resolutions Pres Ono shared on November 5<sup>th</sup> did more to spur discussion than to promote peace and safety. Provost McCauley responded that UM administration strongly felt the CSG resolutions did more to stoke fear and anxiety than education, which is the central mission of UM. Issue raised by Senate Assembly members included:
    - (a) Can the administration present guidelines to help faculty in the days and weeks to come? The university values freedom of expression without bullying and fear of intimidation.
    - (b) A faculty member expressed concern that while the university prioritizes the need to study in peace, the optics were poor, and sends a message that we will not talk about the issues of the Middle East. Safety and protection of education won out over free expression.
    - (c) It needs to be clear, when does Central Student Government cross the line over acceptable speech and where is the line drawn?
  9. The Provost is pleased that we moved back the beginning of winter term by a week. Chair Braun mentioned that he has heard that the longer break is good for international student travel.

**4:00 – Faculty Well-being –**  
SACUA Dependent Care  
SA Feedback on Student Accommodations

**Dependent Care Survey**

Chair Braun presented the results from a recent survey offered to all University Senate members regarding family care needs. These results have already been shared with both President Ono, EVP Geoff Chatas, and Provost McCauley.

**Accommodations for Students**

There was a discussion of accommodations, following up on a prior Senate Assembly meeting devoted to the issue. The Senate Assembly's feedback has been shared with SRAC, the committee that meets with the VP for Student Life.

**4:20 – Breakout Group Work: Suggestions for Discussing Middle East Conflict**

- What are faculty looking for?

**4:50 – Matters Arising**

Two resolutions were discussed that Derek Peterson brought forward:

1. The first motion was regarding the CSG (student government vote that was cancelled by the administration due to fears of potential unrest regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict). Pursuant to the motion, the Senate Assembly would express disapproval of the vote cancellation.
2. The second motion was a request for the University to divest from any “companies that profit from Israel’s ongoing military campaign in Gaza.”
3. There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether or not the issues should be considered separately or jointly, and should the vote on either one or both be postponed?
4. Some faculty felt that their units would not have had a chance to discuss the

- issue in preparation for a vote.
5. Family care issues became a concern as the meeting ran over time. It was suggested that this issue should have been placed earlier on the agenda to allow for more discussion.
  6. There was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. The voting results were 20 votes to adjourn, 14 not to adjourn, and 4 abstentions. Thus, a vote on both resolutions was postponed to the January meeting.

**5:00 – Adjourn--** The meeting Adjourned at 5:22.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre D. Spencer  
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."