

Minutes: December 18, 2023
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, December 18, 2023, 3:00
The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

In person: Chair Tom Braun, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, Prof. Heather O'Malley,
Prof. Silvia Pedraza FSO Coordinator Ann Marshall

Remote: Vice Chair Damani Partridge, Prof. Simon Cushing, Prof. Allen Liu, Prof. Vilma
Mesa, Prof. Rebekah Modrak, Prof. Alex Yi, Secretary Deirdre Spencer

Absent: Prof. Anouck Girard,

Guests:

Provost McCauley
Christine Gerdes

Press:

Katie Kelton – *University Record*

3:00 Come to Order 3:01 Minutes approved by consent.

3:05 Chair Updates

1. Chair Braun and Vice Chair Partridge hooded journalist David Brooks, Pulitzer Prize winning poet Robert Haas, and NASA scientist Thomas H. Zurbuchen who were each awarded honorary doctorates at the UM Winter graduation ceremony.
2. FSO Director thanked SACUA for our work this year as we look forward to the winter term.

3:10 Discussion: Agenda Construction and Chair's Newsletter

1. The Chair provided a link for collecting ideas for the agenda.
2. A member approved of extending the Matters Arising section of the meeting but would like for SACUA to vote on the existence of the agenda planning committee, while another member thought that we should continue the planning meetings as presently configured.
3. The chair and the FSO regularly receive direct communications which could require an adjustment to the meeting agenda.
4. It was suggested that subcommittees could be created and that SACUA members would serve on them to advance the work of the group. The reaction was that members were already overburdened and could not take on additional committee assignments.
5. There were comments and questions regarding the list of potential guests.
6. We were reminded that at the retreat we prioritized certain concerns, perhaps too

many to do within the year.

At the retreat we decided to prioritize (1) the faculty grievance system and sanctions and (2) outlining what tenure means and what guarantees faculty members are given when they are granted tenure.

3:30 Guests: Provost McCauley and Christine Gerdes, Special Counsel to the Provost –
Executive Session

4:00 Guest Debrief Executive Session

4:15 Matters Arising

1. Vote on statement regarding UM-Flint tenure at Monday January 8th, SACUA meeting.
2. Prepare to sponsor an event for discussion around Israel-Palestine conflict. We might reach out to organizers from Dearborn.
 - a. Our Middle Eastern Studies faculty could consult with us, but we don't want to overburden our faculty.
 - b. UMD thought of having a Rabbi and Imam. Might we consider a religious, faith-based dialogue?
 - c. Faculty are feeling unsafe regarding what the guardrails are.
 - d. Compile and distribute the notes from the SA breakout groups.
 - e. Potential questions to address: Compassion and friendship? Violence on both sides? Caring for our students, faculty, staff, and the transformative aspects of caring for each other and stopping the cycles of violence? How can we work together?
 - f. Who is our audience? We could make it a faculty, student, and staff affair, perhaps a little smaller than the Wallenburg lecture.
 - g. Attendance for students could be required and they could receive course credit. People could sign up for enrollment.
 - h. This could be a panel and keep our focus on the well-being of our faculty, students, and staff.
 - i. We could ask the Provost's office for refreshments.
 - j. Two people and a moderator would be good.

4:45 Adjourned A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:57.

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 policies 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."