

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Items for Information**

SUBJECT: February 2024 Faculty Governance Update

Overview of items discussed:

1. SACUA
2. Senate Assembly

1. SACUA:

- On December 4, 2023, SACUA began with a conversation over the cancellation of the Central Student Government (CSG) vote on two resolutions. Chair Braun provided some background information that was not yet widely known by faculty. SACUA then discussed and finalized their decision to overturn a decision made by a Grievance Hearing Board (GHB); this decision was in response to an appeal filed by a faculty member who had filed the grievance. SACUA then discussed concerns raised by faculty members at UM-Flint who question recent administrative decisions that may pose a threat to tenure.
- On December 18, 2023, SACUA discussed ways to improve transparency around agenda formation for SACUA meetings as well as the content for the chair newsletter. Provost McCauley and Special Counsel to the Provost Gerdes joined SACUA to discuss continuing topics, including a proposed study of tenure-track faculty salaries on the Ann Arbor Campus and recommendations from the External Threat Task Force.
- On January 8, 2024, SACUA finalized a statement sent to Interim Chancellor Fry in support of the UM-Flint faculty regarding recent statements made by Chancellor Fry that suggest the possibility of removal of tenure-track positions for financial reasons. SACUA then reviewed the hearing process outlined in Regents' Bylaw 5.09 to familiarize all SACUA members with a process that rarely occurs, but to prepare for the possibility of any 5.09 hearings that may occur before the end of the academic year. SACUA concluded the meetings with additional discussions of a draft document SACUA is developing to outline administrative actions that should be formally defined as demotions and therefore by subject to the rules outlined in Regents' Bylaw 5.09.
- On January 22, 2024, SACUA continued its conversation from last meeting regarding 5.09 hearings, including plans to update the membership in the Standing Judicial Committee, from which faculty are selected to participate in a 5.09 hearing and provide a summary decision. The list is out-of-date, with some members now retired or having left UM. SACUA then discussed the format of the next Senate Assembly meeting in which two resolutions would be debated and voted upon. The meeting concluded with continuing development of the document outlining demotions.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY:

- On December 11, 2023, the Senate Assembly was visited by Provost McCauley, who provided the Senate Assembly with the current activities in the Provost's Office. She then addressed questions raised by Senate Assembly members, including the recent cancellation of the Central Student Government (CSG) vote on two resolutions. Chair Braun then presented results from a recent survey given to University Senate members regarding the need for dependent care, which had already been shared with President Ono and Executive Vice President Chatas. Senate Assembly members were also supplied with the results from a previous meeting in which members, in small groups, discussed their experiences and challenges with student accommodation requests. The Senate Assembly then divided into small groups that discussed the current Israel-Gaza conflict and the issues it has raised on our campus. The meeting ended with two resolutions brought to the floor. Both resolutions were moved to the next meeting after the Senate Assembly voted to adjourn the meeting.
- On January 29, 2024, the Senate Assembly convened to debate and vote upon two resolutions that were originally proposed on December 11. The first resolution, Resolution #121123-1, regarding the decision to close a recent election held by the Central Student Government (CSG), and Resolution #121123-2, regarding UM divestment from its financial holdings in companies that invest in Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza. Discussion of Resolution #121123-1 was brief, and was passed with 50 members in support, 5 not in support, and 2 abstaining. Discussion of Resolution #121123-2 was much longer, including several amendments proposed and unanimously approved regarding language changes and additions. There was one motion to move this resolution to committee, but that motion was voted down. Resolution #121123-2 was passed with 37 members in support, 16 not in support, and 5 abstentions. It should be noted that the meeting was attended by a vast number of students, mostly who supported the resolution, which caused apprehension in many Senate Assembly members who chose to attend via Zoom or not attend altogether.

Submitted: February 5, 2024



Tom Braun, SACUA Chair
SACUA Regents Update February 2024