

Minutes January 29, 2024
Circulated February 15, 2024
Approved February 19, 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Assembly
Monday January 29, 2024, 3:15
The hybrid meeting was held in University Hall, Ruthven 2000 and via Zoom

In-person attendees: Tom Braun, Jonathan Brennan, William Calvo-Quiros, Paul Fossum (nonvoting, parliamentarian), Ann Marshall (nonvoting, FSO), Luke McCarthy (nonvoting, FSO), Heather O'Malley, Silvia Pedraza, Andre Monteiro Da Rocha, Sara Soderstrom, Deirdre Spencer (nonvoting, Secretary), Melanie Tanielian, Eric Vandenberghe (nonvoting, FSO), and approximately eighty-one non-voting guests.

Virtual attendees: Lindsay Admon, Mark Allison, Sue Anne Bell, Christina Aplin-Snider, Audrey Bennett, J Sybil Biermann, Amanda Brown, Helen Burgess, Jade Burns, Allen Burton, Deepa Butoliya, Jesse Capecelatro, Rogerio Castilho, Geoff Chatas (nonvoting, invited speaker), Amy I-Lin Cheng, Clifford Suhyun Cho, Robert Duncan, Allison Earl (alternate), Wessam Elmeligi, Terri Friedline, Anouck Girard, Gideon Goodrich (alternate), Seth Guikema, Brendan Haug, Sarah Hawley, Ingrid Hendy, Yihe Huang, Inderjit Kaur, Brad Killaly (alternate), Carolyn Kuranz, Yongqing Li, Brian Love, Erik Lundberg (nonvoting, invited guest), Vilma Mesa, Shahzad Mian, Rebekah Modrak, Mojtaba Navvab, Mukesh Nyati, Phillip Palmbo, Damani Partridge, Jessica Pasquale, Pamela Pennock, Derek Peterson, Nicholson Price, Kaitlin Raimi, Alexander Rickard, Mark Rosentraub, Joel Scheuher, Suzanne Selig, Quentin Stout, Kentaro Toyama, John Traynor, Elizabeth Viglianti, Sarah Vordenberg, Craig Wilkins, Alex Yasha Yi, Jason Young, Bradley Zebrack, Robert Ziff, Paul Zimmerman, and approximately ninety-nine non-voting guests.

Press:

Katie Kelton, *University Record*
Miles Anderson, *Michigan Daily*
Grace Beal, *Michigan Daily*
Sneha Dhandapani, *Michigan Daily*

Invited Guests:

Geoff Chatas, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President
Erik Lundberg, Chief Investment Officer

Prior to the meeting, the student guests were asked to sit at tables rather than the floor; any overflow attendance was directed to the rotunda.

Quorum was determined via vote, in order to distinguish Assembly members from numerous non-Assembly members who attended the meeting. A sufficient number of members for a quorum was found to be present.

3:15 Call to Order, Minutes, and Announcements

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:20. He asked for comments or corrections to

the minutes. As there were none, the minutes were approved by consent.

3:20 SACUA Chair Update

There was no chair update in order to save time for discussion. He detailed the ground rules for the meeting.

3:30 Resolution: CSG Vote Cancellation Response

The professor who sponsored resolution 121123-1 gave a slide presentation on Central Student Government resolutions 13.025 and 13.026, which were both related to the Israel/Gaza conflict. The voting on both CSG resolutions was cancelled by the University in November. Senate Assembly resolution 121123-1 would rebuke the administration for the cancellation of those CSG votes.

3:30-3:50: SA Member Discussion of Resolution 121123-1

Assembly members discussed resolution 121123-1.

3:50-4:00: Vote

The Senate Assembly voted on and approved resolution 121123-1.

The results of the vote were:

50 yes
5 No
2 Abstentions

4:00 Resolution: U-M Divestment

4:00-4:05: Presentation by the faculty member who sponsored the resolution.

The professor who sponsored resolution 121123-2 gave a slide presentation about the Israel/Gaza conflict. Resolution 121123-2 would call on the university to “divest from its financial holdings in companies that profit from Israel’s ongoing military campaign in Gaza.”

4:05-4:10 Presentation by EVP Geoff Chatas, Chief Financial Officer

Authority to decide whether the university should divest lies with the Board of Regents. The Board generally tries to shield the endowment from political issues. The Board recently decided not to take up this issue of divestment at this time.

4:10-4:30: SA Member Questions and Discussion of Resolution as Written

The Senate Assembly membership discussed resolution 121123-2. During the discussion, a Senate Assembly member made a motion, and it was seconded, to refer the resolution to the Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC) for further consideration. The motion to refer had been distributed to the membership in advance of the meeting. There was discussion for and against moving the issue to FAAC. After discussion, the membership voted and the motion failed.

The results of the vote were:

35 No
22 Yes
3 Abstentions

After the referral motion failed, discussion on the main resolution continued. A motion

was made, and seconded, to amend the resolution to address “companies that invest . . .” rather than “companies that profit . . .” After discussion of the motion to amend, the membership voted and the motion to amend was approved, changing the resolution clause to be the following:

“Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate Assembly calls upon the University’s leadership to divest from its financial holdings in companies that invest in Israel’s ongoing military campaign in Gaza.”

The results of the vote were:

37 Yes

16 No

5 Abstentions

Discussion of the main resolution continued. A motion was made and seconded to further clarify that the words “University leadership” included the Board of Regents. After discussion, no member voiced an objection to the amendment, and the resolution was amended by unanimous consent, changing the resolution clause to the following:

“Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate Assembly calls upon the University’s leadership, including the Board of Regents, to divest from its financial holdings in companies that invest in Israel’s ongoing military campaign in Gaza.”

Discussion of the main resolution continued. A motion was made and seconded to add a second resolution clause that would clarify the resolution’s impact on the university’s partnership with Israel universities. This motion to amend had been distributed to the membership in advance of the meeting. After discussion of the amendment, no member voiced any objection to the amendment, and the resolution was amended by unanimous consent to add the following resolution clause:

“Be it further resolved that this Senate Assembly call for divestment is not a request to end support, academically or financially, for any of U-M’s partnerships with Israeli colleges or universities or to otherwise imply ending any assistance provided to faculty and students in support of research and education in Israel.”

After more discussion of the resolution, the resolution as amended was voted upon and approved.

The results of the vote were:

38 Yes

17 No

5 Abstentions

4:40 SACUA Nominating Committee -- We have a nominating committee composed of six third year SACUA and Senate Assembly members that will approve this year’s slate of SACUA candidates. There will be a Senate Assembly electronic vote after the meeting to approve the six faculty on this nominating committee.

4:50 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5:00 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:55

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."