

Minutes: March 4, 2024
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, March 4, 2024, 3:00

The hybrid meeting was in 1100 Ruthven and virtually via Zoom LOCATION

In-Person Attendees: Chair Tom Braun, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, Professor Vilma Mesa, Professor Heather O'Malley, Professor Silvia Pedraza, FSO Coordinator Eric Vandenberghe, Secretary Deirdre Spencer

Remote Attendees: Vice Chair Damani Partridge, Professor Lindsay Admon, Professor Simon Cushing, Professor Allen Liu, Professor Rebekah Modrak, Professor Alex Yi

Guests: President Santa J. Ono

Press: Katie Kelton – *The University Record*
Grace Lim – *The Michigan Daily*

3:00: Come to Order and Minutes Approval

3:02: The meeting was called to order at 3:02.

Upon condition of a minor correction, the minutes were approved by consent.

3:05: SACUA Chair Update

1. The offices of the President and Provost launched a campus climate survey concerning gender and sexual harassment. It was sent to a random sample of campus faculty, students and staff.
2. On February 21st, the DMN Committee sponsored “The Palestine Exception” event on academic freedom regarding the conflict in Gaza. There were approximately 50-60 in attendance and about 130 who attended virtually.
3. On March 25th an event sponsored by the DMN Committee and FSO will take place at Weiser Hall, from 6-7:30 on the China Initiative and its aftermath. There will be four panelists, with three from outside the university, to explore the topic.
4. The Provost has identified two faculty members, Professor Basit Zafar and Professor Linda Tesar from the Economics department to work on the salary study. An advisory board will be led by Professor Lori Pierce and Chair Braun will be a member of the advisory board.
5. Chair Braun forwarded our letter regarding faculty sanctions to the Provost and President. The Secretary of the University Sally Churchill forwarded the letter to the Regents. The Provost acknowledged receipt of the letter.
6. A faculty committee to address freedom of speech appeared in today's

University Record. Members include present and past SACUA chairs:
Chair Braun and Professors Colleen Conway and Allen Liu

7. The list of nominees to run for three SACUA seats has been distributed. The candidates will give a short presentation at the March Senate Assembly meeting, and there will be pictures and statements in the *University Record*. The vote will take place for 48 hours after the Senate Assembly meeting.
8. The chair and vice chair of SACUA for next year will be voted on in April. If you are eligible to run, please reach out to Chair Tom Braun or FSO Director Luke McCarthy.

3:10: Statement: Flint Flex Modality Executive Session

3:30: Guest: President Ono Executive Session

4:00: Guest Debrief Executive Session

4:15 Matters Arising:

1. There was a brief discussion of the definition of “woke”, since conservative lawmakers use the term pejoratively to describe DEI.
2. There is concern about divestment from Israel.
3. We discussed the pros and cons of having the full Faculty Senate meeting in April rather than October. This would give the membership more items to discuss and for the chair to practice running an extremely large hybrid meeting.
4. One faculty member felt that April was too late in the academic year, as everyone has one foot out the door by April, but the meeting should be held after October. Some would prefer January to April. Further discussion suggested that February may be an option to consider, due to the calendar challenges of January. Now that we have clinical and research faculty, will people be more apt to attend the meeting before the break?
5. There are challenges to planning SA meetings as we cannot meet the same week that the regents meet. We need to find a meeting time to avoid holidays, breaks and regents' meetings.
6. What will be the scope of the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Integrity?

Adjourned at 4:45 – The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Addendum

SACUA Actions

Between meetings, SACUA has performed the following actions that should be included in the SACUA minutes:

- On February 20, 2024, SACUA approved a letter to Provost McCauley, President Ono, and the Members of the Board of Regents regarding the need for more sanctions of faculty to be processed as 5.09 demotion cases.

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."