



## Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 2-5-24

Circulated: 4-8-24

Approved: 4-15-24

Present: John Pasquale (Chair), Rashmi Rama, Merle Rosenzweig, Linda Zhu, Jonathan Shillingford, Melissa Levine, Sally Churchill (VP and Secretary of the University), Vilma Mesa (SACUA Liaison), Francine Dolins

Absent: Muhammad "Nadeem" Aslam, Joshua Ackerman, Charlie Keldsen, Anne O'Brien

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

**11:02am:** Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the December SAC meeting were approved.

### **VP Churchill's report**

#### Summary:

VP Churchill provided her report. The January 2024 Special Regents' Meeting is discussed. This is the meeting in which the [Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression](#) were adopted. The Board's recent strategic session in Washington D.C. was discussed briefly. The hiring of Sherrone Moore as the new head football coach was mentioned. The next Regents meeting is next Thursday (2/15).

### **Freedom of speech and its many complexities**

#### Summary:

The Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression are introduced. A brief summary on the timeline of adopting these principles is given. Considerable input from numerous individuals was provided. The complexities of free speech are discussed. Speech may not always make us comfortable. It is very important that it is protected, and that the University uphold as a core value. Now the work begins of making sure that these ideals are supported.

A point is made by a member of the committee that the Principles should be able to be updated as necessary, and that there should be a record of any changes.

A question is raised regarding who violations of these principles are reported to. This will depend on the nature of the speech, and would likely be multiple offices. Threatening/violent speech violates the Principles, and would need to be addressed accordingly.

There is support voiced by committee members for these Principles to be applied evenly



across the University. Challenges with this are discussed, particularly given the decentralized nature of the University.

A discussion on the representation of faculty in crafting the Principles takes place.

Action: Discussion

### **Health Benefits- Medicare Advantage**

Summary: The Chair introduced the topic and turned over the discussion to the committee member who suggested the topic. There are retirees who have taken issue with the recent changes to benefits provided by UM.

A point is made that this is part of faculty compensation.

The thought process behind the decision is discussed. There are changes to the plan every year.

A point is made that a lot of people retire and live outside of Michigan, some outside of the country, so the plan should reflect this. It is important to communicate any changes to the plan clearly and in a timely manner. Specific examples are shared.

Action: Discussion

### **Recent Wall Street Journal Opinion Piece**

The recent Wall Street Journal opinion piece “Welcome to Dearborn, America’s Jihad Capital” is brought up and condemned.

Action: Discussion

**12:01pm:** Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe  
Faculty Governance Coordinator  
Faculty Senate Office