



**To:** SACUA

**From:** John Pasquale, Chair, Secretary of the University Advisory Committee

**Subject:** Report on Activities of Secretary of the University Advisory Committee for 2023-2024

**Members:**

Joshua Ackerman  
Muhammad Nadeem Aslam  
Francine Dolins  
Melissa Levine  
John Pasquale  
Rashmi Rama  
Merle Rosenzweig  
Jonathan Shillingford  
Linda Zhu  
Charlie Keldsen  
Anne O'Brien

**SACUA Liaison:**

Vilma Mesa

**Meeting Dates:**

Mon. 10/30 from 11am-12pm  
Mon. 12/11 from 11am-12pm  
Mon. 2/5 from 11am-12pm  
Mon. 4/15 from 11am-12pm

**Committee Charge**

1. In collaboration with the SACUA, with the assistance of the Faculty Senate Office, receive and review suggestions from Faculty Senate members for strategic priorities for the University for possible communication to the Board of Regents, and select a subset of those submissions.
2. In conjunction with SACUA, pursue having an event during the winter term with the Board of Regents in which the SAC can communicate the strategic priorities solicited from the Faculty Senate leadership during the academic year—with the Faculty Senate Office assisting with the logistics for the event.



3. Keep aware of Board of Regent meetings and decisions, and communicate them to faculty through a new section in the Faculty Senate newsletter, focusing on “need to know” developments that may affect the daily lives of faculty.
  
4. Consider emergent issues or topics brought forward by SAC committee members or the Secretary of the University for discussion over the course of the year. While coordinating with the Faculty Senate Office to help avoid duplicating work that SACUA has now referred to itself or to another committee, the committee may also continue discussing any issues or topics raised in the committee's most recent annual committee report.

### **Committee Actions**

At each of the SAC meetings, VP Churchill provided a report on activities of the Regents, as well as the President. The committee asked questions and offered feedback based on the content of the report. The committee brought up timely and pertinent topics during the meetings that VP Churchill would then bring to the Regents and President as necessary.

At the October meeting, the committee reviewed the Charge, and made introductions. VP Churchill provided her report, and the committee brainstormed specific topics that they wished to discuss in-depth at future meetings.

During the December meeting, discussion and feedback was provided on the administration’s response to the ongoing conflict in Gaza, as well as their response to the resulting campus climate. Feedback was also provided by the committee regarding the administration’s actions regarding Central Student Government resolutions, AR 13-025 and AR 13-026.

At the February meeting, the Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression were discussed at length. Broad discussion and input regarding freedom of speech took place. The challenges of enforcing these principles evenly across campus, given the decentralized nature of the University, were raised. The committee also offered feedback regarding the recent changes to retiree healthcare benefits.

During the April meeting, the committee offered feedback on the draft proposal of the Disruptive Activity Policy, and the process for gathering community feedback on the draft. The committee discussed the proposed Disruptive Action Policy at length and there were various concerns raised about its broad context and applicability, vague language, and it superseding conflicting University policies. While discussing revisions to bylaws, the committee made clear that revisions should be guided by clear principles that underlie the main goals behind a document. The committee thanked VP Churchill for her service to the University as she transitions from her current role to a new role as special adviser to the president.

### **Information Obtained**

At the October meeting, VP Churchill shared with the committee that information regarding the strategic visioning 2034 and campus planning 2050. The committee was updated on various capital projects currently underway, including a new residence hall on Central Campus. The

University of Michigan Center for Innovation in Detroit was discussed, as well the statement of principles on diversity of thought and free speech that would eventually be adopted by the Regents at the special January meeting.

During the December meeting, the committee was updated on the administration's response to the campus climate related to the ongoing conflict in Gaza. An overview and timeline of the cancellation of Central Student Government resolutions, AR 13-025 and AR 13-026 was provided.

In February, the committee met and was updated on changes to retiree healthcare benefits, as well as the recently passed Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression.

During the April meeting, the committee was informed of a project that VP Churchill will work on in the next academic year as part of her role as special adviser to the president. VP Churchill will be reviewing the University's bylaws, and working on making recommendations for any alterations deemed necessary. This work will include gaining input from key stakeholders, and comparing the University's bylaws to those of other peer institutions.

### **Recommendations**

- Establish a working relationship with the new Secretary of the University.
- Work on having an event during the winter 2025 term with the Board of Regents in which the SAC can communicate the strategic priorities solicited from the Faculty Senate leadership during the academic year.
- Continue to voice topics of interest, and opinions to the new Secretary of the University, so that they may be passed on directly to the Regents and President