

To: SACUA

From: Luke McCarthy, Director, Faculty Senate Office

Subject: Director's Report on Faculty Senate Office Activities

Date: September 6, 2024

Faculty Senate Office Activities

The FSO continues to be productive:

- Assisted committee chairs with the following:
 - Draft committee charges
 - Meeting scheduling for the year ahead
 - Prep meetings with the SACUA Chair and FSO Director (and EO's for advisory committees)
 - Planning meetings of the committee to discuss plans for the year
- Assisted the SACUA chair in organizing a luncheon with committee chairs held on August 30th.
- Worked on the logistics of a large number of upcoming events, including the following:
 - The annual DMN lecture
 - The annual SACUA retreat
 - [Political Speech and The Public Square](#) events on the diag.
 - A [faculty mixer](#) to welcome faculty back to campus and introduce new faculty to their colleagues.
 - A series of faculty on-campus "[work retreats](#)" to provide faculty an opportunity to focus on their work alongside faculty colleagues, with lunch provided.
 - The bi-annual [Regent Candidate Forum](#).
 - The annual full meeting of the [University Senate](#) on November 4th.
 - [Innovate Brew](#): an initiative to randomly match faculty with faculty colleagues from across the U-M system for coffee meetups.
- Invited this year's candidates for election to the Board of Regents to the upcoming Regent Candidate Forum.
- Continued assisting with the work of the Ethical Investment Committee.
- Began a new process for providing football tickets to SACUA members to attend home games, with passes to the Regents' guest area.
- Assisted the Librarian, Archivist, and Curator members of the Faculty Senate with running an election for a new Senate Assembly representative.
- Assisted units with continuing efforts to elect new representatives to the Senate Assembly.
- Began SACUA's process to obtain nominations for three committees:
 - A steering committee enhancing religious, spiritual & interfaith (SSR&I) diversity on campus.
 - A LGBTQIA2S+ Task Force
 - The Military Officer Education Committee

FSO Director Activities

- Assisted the RPP with continuing work on finalizing a set of recommended changes to the Senate Rules.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair in various meetings.
- Met with staff at the CEW+ to discuss a supplemental event related to this year's DMN speaker, Judith Butler.
- With the SACUA chair, visited the Diag during a student "die in" on August 28th to observe the student activism.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair and the Pauline Jones, the Director of the Michigan in Washington program, with planning for the September 10th [Political Speech and The Public Square](#) event focusing on climate policy.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair with various letters to the Faculty Senate:
 - A letter about upcoming Faculty Senate events
 - A letter with a Q & A about U-M's retiree Medicare Advantage plans
- Assisted SACUA with an urgent membership issue.

SACUA Actions

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

- On August 26, 2024, SACUA accepted the resignation of SACUA Member Tom Braun.
- On August 30, 2024, SACUA held a special meeting.
 - During the meeting, SACUA approved the content of a letter to be sent from SACUA to the University's leadership.
 - During the meeting, SACUA approved a statement calling on the University's leadership to respect and support student activism, with the statement to be added as a comment to an August 29, 2024 *Record* article: ["Four arrested for violating U-M policies during Festifall."](#) Because two SACUA members had to leave before the vote was held, SACUA approved holding an additional, short electronic vote after the meeting as a courtesy (in case the departed SACUA members might be able to vote as well), even though the vote of approval during the meeting still met quorum requirements. The second post-meeting vote did not change SACUA's approval and the statement was again approved by SACUA.