

Minutes: August 26, 2024

Circulated September 6, 2024

Approved September 9, 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs

Monday, August 26, 2024, 3:00pm

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

In person attendance: Chair Rebekah Modrak, Prof. Tom Braun, FSO Director Lucas McCarthy, Prof. Vilma Mesa, Prof. Derek Peterson, FSO Co-Ordinator Eric Vandenberghe, Secretary Deirdre Spencer

Remote Attendance: Vice Chair Heather O'Malley, Prof. Simon Cushing, Prof. Soumya Rangarajan, Prof. Melanie Tanielian, Prof. Alex Yi

Press: Katie Kelton, *University Record - Remote*
Edith Pendell, *Michigan Daily*

3:02 Come to Order

Approval of Minutes-- Postpone approval until 4:30

3:05

SACUA Chair Updates

Summer Initiatives Update:

- **Ethical Investment Committee:** Ethical investments committee includes SACUA members Prof. Vilma Mesa and Prof. Sonya Rangarajan. The final committee meeting will be at the end of September. Committee members researched the landscape of ethical investments across the country. They are developing a proposal for metrics on how people can voice their opinions regarding university investments. We will invite committee chair Sarah Soderstrom to visit SACUA. We can decide how the work moves forward, perhaps with the Financial Affairs Advisory Committee. We might give a presentation to one of the executive officers or to the regents.
- **Retiree Health Benefits:** This summer we had a focus group with 20 UM retirees and some current UM faculty who are close to retirement. They had many concerns around Medicare Advantage. A transcript was created around the 2 hour long focus group. They will whittle it down to an interview type Q & A document. Two months were spent going through the document to ensure accuracy. The Benefits team and others looked at a document to ensure the concerns of the focus group were addressed. The document will be distributed to all faculty on September 3rd.

Sonya Rangarajan asked for an advanced copy of the document to be able to answer questions.

- **Faculty Grievance System** – The SACUA Chair and FSO Director have been compiling incoming information from various sources regarding the faculty grievance

policy including SACUA and the Committee on Oversight and Administrative Action, and faculty members who have been through the grievance process.

There are 25 pages of recommendations to improve the grievance process. The document will highlight key points of the many substantive recommendations. SACUA will have 2 weeks to review it as a Google Doc. The provost has the draft document, and she wants to see the final version after SACUA has reviewed it.

- **Faculty Representation in Regent Meetings** – This summer SACUA sent a proposal to John Kinsey, the new Secretary of the University, to allow the SACUA Chair to have a standing spot at the Regents meeting. John Kinsey will reach out to regents. We have not yet heard. According to FSO Director, we will be hearing something shortly.
- **Faculty Engagement** – There are various upcoming events (see below) aimed toward supporting and connecting faculty.
- **Political Speech and The Public Square**
1. How do we ensure political speech on the Diag? 2. How do we provide a forum for voicing concerns up to the elections? We worked with the Ginsburg Center, the Michigan in Washington (MIW) program, and the team for U-M's "Year of Democracy, Civic Empowerment, and Global Engagement." We will launch a series called Political Speech on the Public Square, with 4 events on Tuesdays leading up to the election. Speakers will have two minutes to address this question: "What's at stake for Me in the 2024 election?" Each event will focus on a topic, with the first event, on September 10th, focusing on climate policy. The other 3 issues will be determined via a poll with participation from students, staff, and faculty. More information is on the Faculty Senate website and will be shared by email. SACUA members can help by distributing information about these events.

Upcoming Faculty Senate Events:

- **Political Speech and The Public Square (see above)**
- **Faculty Mixer** – September 25, 5-6:00pm, Michigan Room of the League. There will be drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The Department of Film and Media has assisted with this event. The SACUA chair will address faculty at the new faculty orientation and will invite them to this mixer. All faculty in the University Senate will be emailed information about this event from the SACUA chair, with a link to RSVP.
- **Faculty Work Retreats** – Faculty mini-work retreats allow for faculty to have time to commit to writing. Each of the retreats are 2 hours long, from 10-12, then hot lunch from 12-1, with the first two being in the University Library. The rest are in the Michigan League. There will be 35 spots per session. The Provost has generously agreed to providing funding support for these events.

- **Innovate Brew** – Faculty will be given the opportunity to sign up to be randomly connected with another faculty member to meet for coffee/tea and get to know each other. Innovate Brew is a renewal of an initiative created by Prof. Bill Lovejoy, from Ross school of business. The event died during pandemic. Faculty who sign up will be connected with another faculty member for 30-minute coffee meetings, once per month for six months. The sign-up deadline is Sept. 23rd. A former faculty participant has said, “It was the best thing they had ever done at the university.”
- **Regents’ Candidate Forum** – This year it will be hosted on Tuesday, Oct. 22 in the Michigan Theater Screening Room which seats 179. Tickets will become available on September 1st. There are 30 tickets reserved for SACUA, so SACUA members can come and bring a guest without getting a ticket through the ticket office. SACUA members should let the Faculty Senate Office know if they cannot attend so tickets can be released for others to use. An email will go out the faculty with information about the event, and the event is listed on the Faculty Senate website. The event will be live-streamed and recorded. The panel will be moderated by Prof. Pauline Jones from the Department of Political Science and the Director of the Michigan in Washington Programs. Questions may be submitted ahead of time.
- **Committee Chair Luncheon** – This Friday for chairs of Senate Assembly committee meetings.
- **DMN Lecture and Ancillary Event** – This year’s DMN Lecture speaker will be Judith Butler, Distinguished Professor in the Graduate School, UC-Berkeley. The DMN lecture will be on November 14th. Prior to the DMN lecture on Nov. 13th, there will be an additional event related to Judith Butler’s most recent book, *Who’s Afraid of Gender?* Leading up to that event, the CEW+ will host some book club events to discuss the book. On November 13th, people who have read the book will be able to speak to the author and ask questions. SACUA members are encouraged to read the book prior to these events, and the Faculty Senate Office will obtain copies. After the DMN lecture on the 14th, there will be a dinner with Judith Bulter. Members of SACUA and the DMN Committee will be invited to attend, with a guest.
- **University Senate Meeting** – November 4th. SACUA will need to begin planning for this meeting. At the retreat, SACUA can work on developing an agenda.
- **Possible Event Related to Gaza and Israel.** A proposal was sent in June to the Regents regarding an event in which UM experts could explore the economic ramifications of the continuing violence in Gaza and Israel, but we have not yet heard back.

FSO Director’s Report:

Wonderful working with Prof. Modrak this summer. Hiring the extra person in May has made a big difference in opening the complexity of what we are able to do.

3:25

Reminder/Introduction of Various Upcoming SACUA Tasks: FSO Director – SACUA will soon need to work on the following:

1. **Senate Elections** – Obtain nominations for Secretary and Parliamentarian.
2. **Charges** – Committees are working on charges. They will be sent to us soon. SACUA will approve by September 16th.
3. **Standing Judicial Committee** – Upcoming call for tenure track faculty to join standing judicial committee. We are trying to have a large pool in place. More people are needed.
4. **SACUA Retreat** – The SACUA Retreat will be on Friday, September 13th. The agenda will come out soon.
5. **Committee Recommendations** – SACUA must review various recommendations from committees, including from the COAA (the Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action), CESWF (Committee on the Economic and Social Well-being of the Faculty), and AAAC (the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee).
6. **Military Officer Education Committee** – We will be looking for nominations for that committee.
7. **Police Department Oversight Committee** – we will be electing faculty representation to this committee. This committee deals with complaints against DPSS among other issues. Prior to the Senate expansion, there was one seat on this committee for a non-Senate member and one seat for a senate member. Now, virtually all faculty with at least a 50% appointment are Senate members. The Faculty Senate should explore what this should mean for the faculty representation on the committee. Now, the two faculty seats will be split between people with a 50% appointment as a faculty member and people with less than a 50% appointment.
8. **Expected RPP Senate Rules Recommendations** – RPP met all of last year reviewing the rules for the Senate. The director integrated all their feedback into a new draft for the rules. They will offer recommendations to SACUA.
9. **Senate Assembly Agenda** – The September 23rd Senate Assembly Meeting agenda must be approved by SACUA on September 16th, along with the committee charges.

3:35 General Discussion of Proposal for Agenda Planning Over the Year

Ahead – The Chair notes that the custom in SACUA for many years was to allow meeting agendas to be developed by the entire committee, rather than just a few people planning the meetings. The custom of having the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Director plan the agenda is recent (the past three years) and wasn't the result of a vote.

Involving all of SACUA would engage more members.

SACUA has been re-active rather than pro-active, for example, the statement on student's rights and responsibilities. We should identify long-term goals and projects which should be on the agenda every other week. We also have lots of guests, for instance Prof. Sarah Soderstrum will come and speak on behalf of the Investments committee. SACUA meetings can alternate between weeks focusing on guests and week working on the long-term project. SACUA can discuss what that long-term project will be at the retreat.

Each SACUA meeting, there will be an opportunity for SACUA members to raise items to be included on a future agenda. On Tuesdays at 4, there will also be an agenda planning meeting open to everyone on SACUA. In this Tuesday meeting, the logistical details of upcoming agendas will be decided.

Prof. Braun requested that the agenda planning process be drafted as a standard operating procedure and approved by SACUA sometime this year.

3:55 SACUA Input on Upcoming Meeting with President Ono – Executive Session

4:05 Clarification and Discussion of SACUA Member Statement from Prior Meeting – Executive Session

Minutes Approved: The minutes from May 20, 2024, were approved with corrections to provide that Vice Chair Heather O'Malley, Prof. Vilma Mesa, and Prof. Melanie Tanielian were absent.

5:08 Matters Arising

5:08 Adjourn

ADDENDUM

SACUA Actions

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

- On May 28, 2024, SACUA approved via electronic vote a [“SACUA Statement Concerning President Ono’s Summons to Washington.”](#)
- On May 31, 2024, SACUA selected via electronic vote the following recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Governance Award:
 - Dinesh Pal, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Associate Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, Anesthesiology Department, Medical School
- On June 6, 2024, the Faculty Senate Office was notified that a recipient of the Librarian Achievement Award has been selected.
 - Pursuant to the regular Faculty Senate awards process, the prior two recipients of the award served as the selection committee.
 - The committee selected as this year’s recipient Fe Susan Go, University Library, Library Research

- Pursuant to the regular Faculty Senate awards process, Fe Susan Go has thereby been approved as this year's award recipient.
- On June 18, 2024, SACUA approved via electronic vote the following nominations to the Faculty Budget Engagement Committee, a committee created to invigorate communication about the U-M budget between the U-M Ann Arbor faculty and the Office of the Provost:
 - Erhan Bayraktar, Susan Meredith Smith Professor of Actuarial Sciences and Professor of Mathematics
 - Scott Schneider, Lecturer IV- LSA/ Mathematics
 - Eric Fretz, Lecturer II- LSA/ Psychology
- On June 19, 2024, SACUA approved via electronic vote the following nominations to the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA):
 - Henry Cowles, Associate Professor, LSA/History
 - Karen Downing, Education Librarian, Social Sciences and Clark Library
 - Chris Rider, Thomas C. Kinnear Professor and Associate Professor of Entrepreneurial Studies, Ross
 - Deirdre Spencer, Librarian for History of Art, University Library
- On June 19, 2024, the SACUA Chair, the UM-Flint Faculty Council Chair, and the UM-Dearborn Faculty Senate Vice Chair met to select a recipient of the Jackie Lawson Memorial Faculty Governance Award.
 - During the meeting, the three chairs selected Jacob Lederman, Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences and Education, University of Michigan-Flint.
 - Pursuant to the regular Faculty Senate awards process, Jacob Lederman has thereby been approved as this year's award recipient.
- On June 20, 2024, SACUA held a special meeting to review the recommendation of a 5.09 hearing committee regarding the dismissal of Professor Robert Stephenson, School of Nursing.
- On June 25, 2024, the Faculty Senate Office was notified that a recipient of the Librarian Recognition Award has been selected.
 - Pursuant to the regular Faculty Senate awards process, the prior two recipients of the award served as the selection committee.
 - The committee selected as this year's recipient Jesus Espinoza, Associate Librarian, Library Learning and Teaching, University Library.
 - Pursuant to the regular Faculty Senate awards process, Jesus Espinoza has thereby been approved as this year's award recipient.
- On June 26, 2024, SACUA approved via electronic vote its report affirming the recommendation of a 5.09 hearing committee that Dr. Robert Stephenson be dismissed from his tenured position as Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan.
- On July 16, 2024, SACUA approved via electronic vote an abbreviated version of its May 28th statement regarding President Ono's upcoming testimony in Congress for publication as a [Faculty Perspective article](#) in the *Record*.
- On August 14, 2024, SACUA held a special meeting to discuss [recent changes](#) approved by the Regents at their July 18, 2024 meeting to amend the [Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). During the meeting, SACUA approved the

drafting of a related letter to be approved between meetings for distribution to the Faculty Senate membership.

- On August 19, 2024, SACUA approved a letter for distribution to the Faculty Senate membership regarding the recent changes to the student Statement and the creation of [SPG 601.41](#), “Use of University of Michigan Facilities.”
- On August 22, 2024, SACUA appointed, from nominations received from Ann Arbor campus deans, the following faculty to the [Library Council](#):
 - Pamela Moss, John Dewey Collegiate Professor of Education and Professor of Education, Marsal Family School of Education
 - Ana Morcillo Pallarés, Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

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 polices 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."