

Minutes: September 16, 2024
Circulated: September 27, 2024
Approved September 30, 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, September 16th, 3:00

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and remotely via Zoom

In-Person Attendance: Chair Rebekah Modrak, Vice Chair Heather O'Malley, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, Prof. Vilma Mesa, Prof. Soumya Rangarajan, Prof. Melanie Tanielian, FSO Coordinator Eric Vandenberghe, Secretary Deirdre Spencer

Remote Attendance: Prof. Simon Cushing, Prof. Derek Peterson, Prof. Alex Yi

Jeff Bleiler – *University Record*
Maddyn Shapiro – *Michigan Daily*
Caleb Rosenblum – Photographer – *Michigan Daily*

3:00 Come to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:02. The minutes were approved by consent.

3:05 Chair's Update

- We have received no response from the regents regarding postponement of the SSRR. (Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities)
- On Tuesday there is the annual Faculty Awards dinner, and the chair is excited to present the following awards to the recipients:
 - Distinguished Faculty Governance Award
 - Dinesh Pal, Associate professor of anesthesiology, and of molecular and integrative physiology, Medical School
 - Regents' Award for Distinguished Public Service
 - Tim Chupp, Professor of physics, LSA
 - Mary Jo Kietzman, Associate professor of English, UM-Flint
 - Jackie Lawson Memorial Faculty Governance Award
 - Jacob Lederman, Associate professor of sociology, UM-Flint
- Faculty will soon receive notices from FSO regarding two nomination processes:
 - Faculty nominations from the Ann Arbor campus for running for election to the DPSS oversight committee.
 - Faculty nominations for the standing judicial committee (Tenured faculty from all 3 campuses are eligible). These faculty are the pool of faculty used for forming 5.09 hearing committees.

Questions? We received a request to share an open letter with the Faculty Senate.

- It is not our policy to distribute communication that we did not originate.
- It is easier for us to maintain our blanket policy and we should formalize it. This will be a shorter SOP (If we didn't create it, we don't send it).
- SACUA has been asked to create a position statement on institutional neutrality.
- Instead of making a statement we will meet with VP Tabbye Chavous who is interested in co-sponsoring a panel with the Faculty Senate Office about

institutional neutrality.

- We will invite Tabbye to come and speak on neutrality and anything else she chooses. We would select speakers and go from there.

3:15 Committee Charges

Approval

Committee Charges were circulated in advance for discussion at today's meeting.

Seventeen of the eighteen committees and charges were discussed.

(The charge for the Communications Advisory Committee has been postponed while the new appointed chair begins work on the committee. He is a professor in the Communications Department and works in this field.)

SACUA members went through each of the committee charges, asking questions and identifying issues for clarification. We also identified issues which should perhaps be handled by another committee to eliminate duplication of efforts.

A motion was made for a vote to approve the seventeen charges after some changes were made to some of the committee charges. The motion passed and SACUA voted to approve all of the seventeen committee charges with the changes made.

The committee charges, with SACUA's approved revisions, will be sent to Senate Assembly members in advance of the next meeting to vote on whether to approve the charges at the next meeting scheduled for September 23rd.

3:45 SACUA Vacancy Election Process SOP

Approval

SACUA has a vacancy to fill, and SACUA is considering adoption of a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for filling such vacancies. The SOP was shared with SACUA members in advance of the meeting. The procedure standardizes prior practices for filling vacancies.

There would be a three-week period for nominations of Senate Assembly members to be made by Senate Assembly members. Candidates will be requested to provide a candidate statement of no more than 100 words. Candidates can also submit an optional video of no longer than two minutes. The FSO can help candidates with video or Zoom preparation. An electronic ballot would be available to Senate Assembly members for 72 hours.

A motion was made and seconded for SACUA to approve the process of electing members to fill temporary vacancies, and the motion was approved. The SOP will now go forward to the Senate Assembly for consideration.

4:05 Senate Assembly Agenda

Approval

A motion was moved and seconded to approve a Senate Assembly agenda for the September 23rd meeting. The draft Senate Assembly agenda was distributed to SACUA members in advance of the meeting. SACUA voted to approve the agenda.

4:15 Matters Arising / New Business / Agenda Building

- We have not yet heard from all the regents' candidates for the candidate's forum. We will follow up with them.
- There will be an agenda planning meeting on Tuesday at 4.00 where we will discuss how to implement the action items which were prioritized at the retreat.

4:45 Adjourned – The meeting adjourned two minutes early at 4:43.

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."