

Minutes October 21, 2024
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, October 21, 2024, 3:00 pm

The Hybrid Meeting was held in Ruthven, Room 1100 and remotely via Zoom

In Person Attendance: Chair Rebekah Modrak, Vice Chair Heather O'Malley, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, FSO Coordinator Ann Marshall, Prof. Melanie Tanielian, Prof. Derek Peterson, Secretary Deirdre Spencer.

Remote Attendance: Prof. Vilma Mesa, Dr. Soumya Rangarajan, Prof. Alex Yi
Absent – Prof. Simon Cushing

Press: *Michigan Daily* -- Halle Pratt
University Record -- Jeffrey Bleiler
Caleb Rosenblum – photographer – *Michigan Daily*

Agenda Items

3:00 Come to Order and Minutes Approval – 3:04, minutes approved by consent

3:05 Chair's Update

1. The Senate Assembly meeting is next week. The chair would like to introduce the members of SACUA at the beginning of the meeting.
2. The chair has been hearing about how sanctions against students due to protesting are impacting their access to campus and their employment at U-M. Faculty are reporting challenges in continuing to support continued student educational progress when, for example, a student cannot come to campus.
3. The chair will be meeting with the Provost to understand the relationship between the Provost's office, HR, General Counsel, and Student life. She will ask if they are working in concert or individually on addressing student conduct issues.
4. The chair reported on efforts to improve protections for faculty on campus, using an ad hoc committee called CARE (Committee on Accountability Rights Equity and Safety). SACUA will be looking at a draft charge for this committee in a future meeting.
5. The question was asked about protocols for forming ad hoc committees. An SOP on this could be created, but ultimately SACUA can and has created ad hoc committees in the past. For example, an ad hoc committee of clinical faculty was created during the Senate expansion discussions a couple years ago in order to obtain their perspective.
6. An exploration indicates that the MSU faculty senate has a different relation with the university than UM. We should explore how the faculty senates at other universities compare to UM's.

3:10 PDOC Election Process -- Approval

The FSO Director reported that there is a robust interest in the position, with ten candidates. Because of the size of the field, he presented different options for voting to elect a candidate. After discussion, SACUA approved running the election as a ranked choice vote, with voters ranking up to their top five candidates. The Faculty Senate members of the Ann Arbor campus will vote electronically for a period of one week, starting on October 23, 2024.

3:20 Resolution Discussion Executive Session

3:50 Secretary and Parliamentarian Elections Executive Session

Secretary Spencer recused herself from the room for this discussion.

During the executive session, SACUA approved that SACUA could act as the nominations committee for this election, with the Faculty Senate Office soliciting nominations and the slate expected to consist of all eligible and interested nominees.

4:00

Revision of SA Resolution about Pausing the SSRR Changes Approval

On September 23rd, the Senate Assembly had approved a motion calling for the pause of various changes made to the Statement of Student's Rights and Responsibilities during the summer by the Regents, outside the normal amendment process. The Senate Assembly motion was approved with the following language:

The Senate Assembly calls upon the University's administration to pause the implementation of the revised Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and asks that the Administration would respect the collaborative role of students, staff and faculty in formulating changes to this policy, following the process now under way under the leadership of the Student Relations Advisory Committee.

In order to provide more context, it was suggested that the motion be augmented, with a new motion including a number of "whereas" clauses. Doing so would help provide understanding to readers unfamiliar with what had occurred. The augmented motion would then need to go to Senate Assembly or Faculty Senate for approval.

After discussion, SACUA decided to submit the motion to the full University Senate, not just the Senate Assembly. Since the deadline to submit motions is today for the upcoming University Senate meeting on November 4th, SACUA approved the following by unanimous consent:

- The language of a revised version of the motion to be submitted to the University Senate;
- A window of until 8pm for SACUA to review the draft and provide any final suggested changes;
- Approval for those suggestions to be resolved after the meeting, with the final draft to be submitted to the Faculty Senate Secretary before midnight;
- An opportunity for any SACUA member to raise concerns about the final draft language by Wednesday;
- Approval for the resulting draft, if no concerns are raised by a SACUA member, to then be included on the University Senate agenda as being submitted by SACUA.

4:20 SA Agenda Approval -- There are no objections to the draft agenda. It was approved.

4:30 Matters Arising / New Business / Agenda Building

There were no matters arising and there was no new business. We were reminded of the agenda building meeting on Tuesday.

4:45 Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 4:51

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."