

Minutes: November 25, 2024  
Circulated December 9, 2024  
Approved December 9, 2024

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs  
Monday, November 25, Time  
The hybrid meeting was in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

**In person Attendance:** Chair Rebekah Modrak, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, Prof. Vilma Mesa, Prof. Derek Peterson, Librarian Craig Smith, Prof. Melanie Tanielian, FSO Operations Lead Meghan Blanchard, FSO Coordinator Ann Marshall, Secretary Deirdre Spencer.

**Remote Attendance:** Vice Chair Heather O'Malley, Prof. Soumya Rangarajan, Prof. Alex Yi

**Absent:** Prof. Simon Cushing

**Press:**

Genevieve Monsma – *University Record*  
Abigail Harris and Halle Pratt – *Michigan Daily*

**3:00 Come to Order and Minutes Approval 3:01**

The minutes were approved by consent.

The chair introduced SACUA's newest member, Librarian Craig Smith to the group, through a round of introductions.

**3:05 Chair's Update**

- Faculty proposals for the Student Statement of Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR) have gone to SRAC with notes.
- There are concerns regarding UM Dearborn's College of Arts, Sciences and Letters. For Winter Term 2025, classes taught by lecturers are being canceled. Classes taught by the tenure track faculty will have significantly increased enrollment caps and there will be no teaching assistants. (Teach 90 and raise course caps with no TA.) The administration recommended reducing the number of assignments per student, so there would be less work per student, but which compromises student education. The firing of lecturers is of concern to the LEO leadership, and they have already sent a letter to regents and SACUA will do the same. A draft letter responding to the situation has been written and shared with the SACUA membership. SACUA agreed to an electronic vote to occur after the meeting on whether to approve the letter as coming from SACUA. Because the week is impacted by the Thanksgiving holiday, the vote will open after the meeting and close the next day early in the afternoon so the letter can be sent out before the break.

### **3:15 National Trends in Shared Governance in Higher Education**

(Discussion of Possible Future Senate Assembly Guest)

For the next Senate Assembly meeting, it was suggested to invite Todd Wolfson, the national AAUP chair to speak on shared governance in higher ed. He is free to come. Although the Senate Assembly agenda has not been approved yet, the chair asked if SACUA would approve inviting him so that he could be confirmed. Without objection, SACUA approved inviting Todd Wolfson to attend the next Senate Assembly meeting.

The FSO is helping the RPP committee in comparing the UM Faculty Senate to the senates at peer institutions, including regarding differences in the role of the senate at other universities. This work will result in a report to be shared with SACUA later in the year.

### **3:30 Discussion of Senate Secretary Role**

The current Senate Secretary, Deirdre Spencer, was recently elected to be the next Senate Parliamentarian, with a term beginning in January. A new Senate Secretary was also going to be elected, but there were no candidates available and interested in starting in January, despite multiple calls for nominees sent to the Faculty Senate and, additionally, to the Senate Assembly. The FSO received feedback that starting a term as Secretary in January is difficult, due to the weekly meeting obligations of SACUA and the Senate Assembly, and that it would be easier to take on such a responsibility in May. The Secretary election will be re-run in the winter term for a term to start in May.

Because the current Secretary has been elected to be the Parliamentarian, with a term to start in January, this leaves three potential options for addressing the Secretary role:

- Secretary Spencer temporarily fulfills both roles
- SACUA appoints an interim Secretary, per the Senate Rules, to fill the position until a faculty member is elected
- Per the Senate Rules, SACUA delegates minute taking to the staff of the Faculty Senate Office until an interim or elected Secretary assumes the role.

SACUA decided against Secretary Spencer performing both roles in order to maintain the independence of the Parliamentarian, which does not generally attend SACUA meetings.

SACUA questioned being able to find an interim faculty member before January. Therefore, without objection, SACUA approved delegating minute taking to the FSO staff, pending the appointment of an interim Secretary or the election of a new Secretary.

### **3:45 Support for DEI (partial Executive Session)**

On Dec 2, 12-1, there will be a rally in support of DEI. On Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Regents meeting, and DEI is expected to be an important topic. There is also an open letter in support of DEI that is being circulated. The rest of this discussion was in executive session.

**4:30 Matters Arising / New Business / Agenda Building**

SACUA discussed the Dearborn issue more and SACUA's relationship with the Regents.

**4:45 Adjourn – 4:52**

**ADDENDUM**

SACUA Actions

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

- On October 17<sup>th</sup>, SACUA approved the following slate of candidates to run for election to the Police Department Oversight Committee:
  - Golfo Tzilos Wernette, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Medical School
  - Nick Camp, Assistant Professor of Organizational Studies, Assistant Professor of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Faculty Associate, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research
  - Pamela Smock, Professor of Sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Research Professor, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research
  - Erica Campagnaro, Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Medical School
  - David Tindle, Clinical Associate Professor of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine, School of Dentistry
  - Michael Hickok, Lecturer I in History, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
  - Kathleen Kruse, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Director of Nyman Unit, Medical School
  - Ajjai Alva, Maisel Research Professor of Translational/Clinical Oncology and Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine, Medical School
  - Victor Hong, Clinical Associate Professor, Medical Director of Psychiatry Emergency Services (PES), Associate Director of Adult Psychiatry Hospital Services
  - Nancy Khalil, Assistant Professor of American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
- On November 8, 2024, SACUA nominated the following individuals to a VP of Research and Innovation Search Advisory Committee:
  - Alex Yi, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UM-Dearborn
  - Dylan Miner, Professor of Art and Design
- On November 14, 2024 SACUA nominated the following individuals to an “Inclusive History Project Honorifics Task Force”:
  - Maren Oberman, Clinical Assistant Professor of Education
  - Terry McDonald, Arthur F Thurnau Professor and Professor of History
  - Vance Jackson, Lecturer I in Social Work

- On November 15, 2024, SACUA nominated the following faculty to the Medical School Dean Search Committee:
  - Lindsay Admon, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
  - John Magee, Jeremiah and Claire Turcotte Professor of Transplantation Surgery, Professor of Internal Medicine, Professor of Pediatrics and Professor of Surgery

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."