

Minutes December 2, 2024
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, December 2, 2024, 3:00
The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven

In-person Attendance: Chair Rebekah Modrak, Vice Chair Heather O'Malley, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, Prof. Derek Peterson, Prof. Soumya Rangarajan, Librarian Craig Smith, FSO Co-Ordinator Eric Vandenberghe, Secretary Deirdre Spencer

Remote Attendance: Prof. Simon Cushing, Prof. Alex Yi, Prof. Vilma Mesa, Prof. Melanie Tanielian

Guests: Provost Laurie McCauley
Special Council Christine Gerdes

Press:
Grace Park and Isabella Yatooma -- *Michigan Daily*
Genevieve Monsma – *University Record*

3:00 Come to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:03. Approval of the minutes from the November 25th meeting was postponed until the next SACUA meeting.

3:05 Chair's Update

1. The rally in support of DEI on the Diag today was excellent. It was well attended. The chair thanked Craig Smith and FSO Office for their roles in planning, organizing, and publicizing the rally. SACUA member Derek Peterson's was among several good speeches and Prop 2 was mentioned.
2. Many members of the press were in attendance including the Detroit papers and the *New York Times*. The chair forwarded an op-ed written by a co-chair of the Black Student Union for the *NYT*. Hundreds of people attended the rally but the event was not officially recorded.
3. The chair reported that faculty received letters from Dearborn Chancellor Grasso, informing them, among other things, of \$1000 bonuses. Due to the fiscal problems experienced by UM Dearborn, exemplified by the cancellation of classes by lecturers and raised caps on classes taught by tenure track faculty, some Dearborn faculty are alarmed that money is being spent on bonuses.
4. The chair and the FSO director asked SACUA about holding a town hall for Dearborn faculty. There are 4 colleges: College of Arts, Sciences, & Letters; College of Business; College of Engineering and Computer Science; College of Education Health and Human Services. CASL is where the cuts seem most

drastic, but caps are being raised for all classes. Faculty bylaws are being ignored. Alex Yi can share the SACUA, LEO and other letters with faculty at Dearborn.

5. There is a class action lawsuit related to faculty salaries.

received many emails from faculty regarding this lawsuit, even though it was initiated without our involvement. The lawsuit involves 9-month appointments as paid over 12 months. Within each fiscal year, a faculty member's raise is reflected in only 10 of the 12 months, when it should be included in all 12 months or otherwise paid to avoid faculty losing two months of their raise. The university will not pay faculty for arrears but will fix the payment schedule/appointment discrepancy going forward in 2025.

The issue was brought up to AAAC and the Senate Assembly in 2023/24. A Senate Assembly motion requested back pay but was ignored by the administration. A faculty member announced that the SACUA minutes from April of 2024 reflected an interest in full reimbursement.

3:15 SOP Draft: FSO Partnerships First read; approval to be considered at the 12/9 SACUA meeting.

The FSO Director noted that over the prior year, the Faculty Senate Office has collaborated with many offices and groups, including the Provost's Office, the Library, the Ginsberg Center, the CEW+, and the Ford School among others. Cross-campus collaboration often leads to more impactful events that are of higher quality through the assistance of other campus partners. However, SACUA does not have any rules in place regarding how the FSO's collaborations relate to SACUA, and the FSO Director believes a framework should be established to ensure transparency and support SACUA oversight. Toward this end, the FSO Director is asking SACUA to consider adopting a new Standard Operating Procedure that would provide a general framework for the FSO to operate within. Example elements of the framework include requiring SACUA Chair approval, the approval of a committee chair if the collaboration is in support of a committee, and an annual summary of collaborations reported to SACUA in support of transparency. Other elements include maintaining support for the University's mission and values and for the role of faculty governance as well as abiding by University and Faculty Senate policies and procedures. The FSO director requested feedback before the next SACUA meeting on the 9th of December. This effort is part of a long-term general effort to make more explicit how the Faculty Senate operates.

Executive Session

3:30 Guests:

Provost Laurie McCauley and Special Counsel to the Provost Christine Gerdes,

4:00 Support for DEI

SACUA discussed the possibility that the Board of Regents may cut support for DEI, even though diversity, equity, and inclusion are three of the University's core values. There were concerns raised that the Board may be too quickly preparing to surrender university values to appease the incoming US presidential administration, rather than exemplifying UM's history of leadership in DEI. Various groups on campus, including

community members of color, LGBTQIA2S+ community members, and international faculty and students who expect to be targeted due to coming to UM from certain countries, such as China, are concerned about the Board's perceived readiness to capitulate to a new political administration. The Board will meet on Thursday (12/5/24), and DEI is expected to be an important issue impacting that meeting. The SACUA Chair and the FSO Director will attend the meeting.

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

SACUA discussed meetings with President Ono, and the importance of engaging pedagogically with those with whom we disagree. Co-teaching with those on opposite sides of an issue was suggested, however there are limits to how feasible or helpful this would be. How do we model this discourse? Consulting CRLT could be a possibility.

4:45 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:50

ADDENDUM

SACUA Actions

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

- On November 26, 2024, SACUA approved sending as a letter from SACUA a letter regarding the cancellation of courses and increasing of course caps in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters on the UM-Dearborn campus. The letter was sent to President Ono and the Regents.

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.”