



## **Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP)**

Minutes of Meeting: 12/6/24

Circulated: 1/2/25

Approved: 1/7/25

Present: Neil Marsh, Bruce Maxim, Heather O'Malley (SACUA Liaison), Dinesh Pal, James Gulvas, Howard Bromberg, Lynette Hoelter, Sun-Yung Bak, Jonathan Brennan, David Potter

Absent: Audrey Bennett, Michela Russo, Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe, Luke McCarthy

**2:01pm-2:02pm:** Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the September and October RPP meeting were approved.

**2:02pm-2:19pm: Final review of rule recommendations**

Summary: The committee's draft changes to the University Senate Rules are shared with the committee. There are a few pending items that require further discussion before the recommendations can be submitted to SACUA. Discussion ensues on the possibility of expanding SACUA. Should SACUA be expanded to 13 members, instead of the current 9 member board? In terms of a recommendation from this committee, a member suggests submitting a range. Members discuss the immense benefit to have members from the Dearborn and Flint campuses on SACUA. This representation can ensure that the interests of faculty of those two campuses have a voice on SACUA. A member brings up the issue of getting a sufficient number of suitable candidates running for SACUA each cycle. Recent SACUA elections are discussed. A member indicates that primary difficulties lie in finding interested candidates to become Chair of SACUA. Discussion concludes with the committee determining that their recommendation will be to expand SACUA to 11 members, which will include a mandatory inclusion of one member from UM-Flint and one from UM-Dearborn.

A member suggests that acquisition editors should be added to the Faculty Senate. They have roles similar to faculty. Membership agrees that the acquisition editors should be treated on par with regular faculty and be added to the senate. This is a change that will require an update to the Regent's bylaws. This will also require approval from the Faculty Senate.

Action: Discussion

**2:19pm-2:54pm: Discussion to develop recommendations for the current and future organization and operation of U-M's Senate**

Summary: The Chair initiates a broad conversation on the power dynamics between the administration and faculty governance at UM. The Faculty Senate Office has worked on comparing faculty governance structures at peer institutions. The models at UC Berkley and



the University of Washington are highlighted and discussed. There are institutions that have more influence than UM.

Discussion ensues on how the influence of faculty at UM can be improved. A member indicates that there is significant faculty governance at the unit level. Discussion takes place on if university-wide faculty governance should have closer interaction with unit-level executive councils.

The Faculty Senate Director discusses the faculty governance dynamics at Michigan State University. Their faculty governance leadership has much more interaction with top leadership.

A member indicates the importance of having faculty voices heard by UM administration.

The Faculty Senate Office and Chair of the committee will continue work on the peer institution comparison project. This subject will continue in future meetings.

Action: Discussion

**2:54pm:** Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe  
Faculty Governance Coordinator  
Faculty Senate Office