



Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP)

Minutes of Meeting: 1/7/25

Circulated: 1/31/25

Approved: 2/7/25

Present: Audrey Bennett, Heather O'Malley (SACUA Liaison), Dinesh Pal (Chair), Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott, David Potter, Jonathan Brennan, Howard Bromberg, Neil Marsh, Bruce Maxim

Absent: James Gulvas, Lynette Hoelter, Michela Russo, Sun-Yung Bak

Guests: Demetri Morgan, Associate Professor of Education

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe, Luke McCarthy

10:00am-10:03am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the December RPP meeting were approved pending a few additions articulated by the Chair.

10:03am-11:08am: Review and discussion of models of faculty governance

Summary: Professor Morgan presented to the committee on faculty governance structures, and how they function. The purpose of this presentation is to inform the discussions the committee has regarding the big picture framework desired for faculty governance to function at the University of Michigan. Professor Morgan explores and provides a framework of how faculty can engage in mutual understanding to best meet their goals.

Professor Morgan acknowledges barriers to mutual understanding between faculty governance and identifies three obstacles. The complicated nature of governing boards, necessity of strategy to find partnership, and uncertainty and cross-purposes are noted as the primary issues.

Basic tenets of governing boards are reviewed, along with specifics for the University of Michigan. Stakeholders and their relation to the governing board are reviewed.

The question is posed as to how to best partner with boards. It is acknowledged that there are no perfect examples. An ideal partnership is described as one being high capacity, proactive, and including sustained collaborations. Examples of representation of faculty on governing boards at peer institutions are shared.

The guest is thanked for the presentation. The current relationship between faculty governance and the Board of Regents is discussed. The current structure is not good enough for the faculty at the University of Michigan. Faculty desire representation and accountability. How can this be fixed moving forward? The RPP will spend time thinking about this.



A concern is raised by a member about how to make progress on our own. A question is asked to how to engage with the regents, when they are seemingly not interested in engaging with faculty governance. Professor Morgan offers suggestions of interest convergence. What are shared projects that can be accomplished? How can we engage on this? An example is given. Engaging with Vision 2034 is suggested. A point is made by a member that the relational aspect needs to be improved. Structure can only get so far.

Power imbalance is discussed. Is there recourse outside of soft relationships? What happens when it seems that the Board of Regents is not following the Constitution? Examples are given regarding this.

The level of onboarding that governing board leadership receive is lacking across the board. Examples are given. The recent Regent's meeting included comments from VP Kolb regarding the recent federal election's effect on the University of Michigan. These are discussed.

Professor Morgan is asked for an example of relations between a board and faculty governance improving. An example is provided. This improvement was in response to a series of crises.

Different approaches to faculty governance are discussed. A suggestion is made to make a strategic plan that is publicly available. Further discussion ensues.

Action: Discussion

11:08am: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office