

Dear Faculty Senate colleagues,

This newsletter contains information about:

- a **call to action** after the **Special Faculty Senate Meeting vote** on four motions.
- the **DEI mass march** starts on the Diag at 5pm today (Tuesday, April 22)
- ACLU @ MLaw **open letter about surveillance cameras** on campus.
- **open letter** objecting to the **politically motivated terminations** of valued students and staff
- historians offer **models of resistance to authoritarianism** on Wednesday, April 23
- a **report from SACUA's visit to the UM-Dearborn** campus to meet with faculty leaders
- advice from U-M doctors about **faculty measles vaccinations**.

FACULTY SENATE VOTE RESULTS AND CALL TO ACTION

With overwhelming majorities, the Faculty Senate of the University of Michigan passed four resolutions defending the University and its people from the federal administration's political interference this week. The Senate, the 7600-member body that includes all faculty as well as research scientists, librarians, archivists, and curators, debated the motions on Thursday, April 17th; the electronic vote closed on Sunday, April 20th. 3088 senate members voted, an unprecedented level of participation.

[Motion 1](#) (adopted with 92.8% of the vote) urges the university administration to enter into a mutual defense pact with the members of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA). [Motion 2](#) (95.1%) adopted the "Statement in Support of the Core Missions and Values of Higher Education in the United States of America," drafted by a group of BTAA faculty leaders to protect academic freedom and free speech. [Motion 3](#) (78.7%) asks that all legally compliant DEI initiatives be continued or reinstated at the university, and [Motion 4](#) (93.1%) urges the administration to protect international faculty, students, and staff members from unwarranted ICE detention.

The overwhelming margins of the vote reveal that we faculty are a remarkably

unified voice, a unanimity that is a source of great strength at this moment. I presented the vote results to the President and Regents yesterday, and urged them to act on the faculty's recommendations.

What you can do.

Members of the Strategic Organizing Committee of the UM Chapter of American Association of University Professors (AAUP) [provided recommendations that faculty can take to support the resolutions, and a template for a letter that you could send to the administration.](#)

DEI MASS MARCH TODAY ON DIAG

There will be a mass march in support of DEI at the University of Michigan today, Tuesday, April 22. The march will begin on the Diag at 5 pm, near the steps of the Hatcher Graduate Library. Beginning with a couple of brief remarks, the group will, in silence, march to the President's House and, after a brief stop, proceed to Ruthven. The march will conclude back at the Diag with a few final words.

ACLU OPEN LETTER ABOUT SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS ON CAMPUS

The Michigan Law ACLU asks faculty concerned with civil liberties to consider signing onto this [letter](#) about the threats to civil liberties posed by the [high-power surveillance cameras](#) recently installed to monitor the Diag and the Law Quad. They're concerned about the technology's impact on free speech and expression, its possible use by the government to revoke international students' visas, and the threat it poses to the privacy rights of Lawyers Club residents. The letter begins:

We, the undersigned members of the University of Michigan community, ask the University of Michigan to remove the surveillance cameras that have recently been installed in the Diag and the Law Quad. The University has failed to provide notice to community members that they are under surveillance, where the surveillance cameras are located, the purpose of the cameras, whether they are being monitored in real time, or under what circumstances surveillance video is viewed. We believe the surveillance cameras pose a threat to civil liberties at this public university, violate stated University values, violate the University's own policy on "Oversight and Governance" of cameras,

and violate the privacy rights of students whose domiciles border the Law Quad.

Read the letter here: <https://shorturl.at/n3o9t>

Use this form to sign the letter: <https://shorturl.at/d32jo>

OPEN LETTER IN SUPPORT OF UNJUSTLY TERMINATED EMPLOYEES

In the last Chair newsletter, I shared concerns about the termination of five employees, four of them current students and one staff member, by University Human Resources for lawful protest, eleven months after the event and with no SSRR or legal charges. Hundreds of staff, faculty and students joined the work-in last Tuesday to protest the firings. HR has since admitted that the suspensions were not related to work performance in any way.

SACUA wrote a letter urging the Associate Director of University HR to reverse the suspensions and terminations, which mark an unprecedented and dangerous escalation in workplace repression at U-M at a time when our campus should be pulling together to protect its community members from political attacks.

An open letter is now circulating, calling upon the University to reinstate the five unjustly fired employees. You [can sign the letter here](#).

AAUP / SACUA EVENT ON RESISTANCE

The final Resistance and Reality Checks event will be this Wednesday, April 23 from 1-2pm in North Quad, Room 2435. Historian Geoff Eley will describe models of resistance to fascism during World War II. Art historian Megan Flattley will offer creative models of resistance that provide inspiration in a time of authoritarianism.

The event is co-sponsored by SACUA and the Ann Arbor Chapter of the AAUP. We hope you can come in person but, if not, there's a zoom option:

<https://umich.zoom.us/j/95071330316>

SACUA VISIT TO UM-DEARBORN FACULTY GOVERNANCE AND CAMPUS

On March 21, SACUA had the pleasure of visiting the University of Michigan-Dearborn, a beautiful campus with highly engaged faculty who are deeply invested in student success.

During the visit, we viewed a beautiful exhibition at the Mardigian Library, talked with students automating a golf cart to compete in a national race, and were dazzled by the geode collection. We met with Dearborn Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Maxim, Emily Luxon—the President of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) UM-Dearborn Chapter, and other members of faculty governance who shared the issues and concerns that faculty are addressing.

These include issues such as the implementation of bylaws, increased competition with the Ann Arbor campus as the Go Blue Guarantee expands, the lack of an AI policy on a campus that has encouraged a shift to more online courses, an increased competitiveness amongst the four colleges that's not benefitting the university as a whole, an increase in the number of students per class that compromises pedagogy and the university's promise of low student-instructor ratios.

[You can read our full report here.](#)

ADVICE FROM U-M DOCTORS ABOUT MEASLES VACCINATIONS

In light of the significant increase in measles cases in the U.S. in recent months and the several confirmed cases (mostly in young children) in Michigan, U-M doctors in Infection Prevent & Epidemiology shared recommendations for faculty. They advise that two doses of MMR vaccine are 97% effective at preventing measles. If you're not sure about your vaccination status, check with your healthcare provider. If you don't have a record of getting two doses previously, your healthcare provider can either test your immunity or will recommend that you get vaccinated.

If you're not vaccinated, get vaccinated as soon as possible. The MMR vaccine is widely available, including at retail pharmacies. At this time, if you've already received 2 doses of MMR vaccine, a booster dose is not recommended.

Anyone with suspected measles should be isolated immediately and kept away from public spaces including waiting rooms. Symptoms that raise concerns for measles are a high fever (potentially above 104°F), a cough, a runny nose, red and watery eyes, and a rash that starts on the face and spreads down the body. If someone is not immunized and develops these symptoms, they should call a healthcare provider and not go to public spaces until receiving instructions from the healthcare institution.

The [CDC Measles page](#) offers specific information on the disease, and this FAQ has additional information from UM:

<https://healthresponse.umich.edu/faqs/#measles-basics-and-vaccination>.

Best,

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