

### **Communications Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Minutes of Meeting: 3/13/25

Circulated: 4/24/25

Approved: 4/24/25

Present: Henry Seeger (Chair), Ellen Bauerle, Pat Herbst, Basit Zafar, Angelica Previero VP  
Richie Hunter, Jim Cranford, Talisha Reviere-Winston (OVPC), Paul Kileny, Nicole Boucher,  
Laura Beny, Lynda Pence, Kim Broekhuizen (OVPC)

Absent: William A. Calvo-Quirós, Stefanie Galban

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

**3:01pm-3:03pm:** Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the January CAC meeting were approved.

**3:03pm-3:13pm: Comments on the University Record**

Summary: The Chair initiates this topic, which is a continuation of a topic from the last meeting. The member who brought up the topic follows up on the editorial board suggestion that was posed last time. VP Hunter indicates that OVPC is working on a digital transformation and that editorial boards are part of this plan but have not been implemented as of yet.

The member indicates the need for balanced news coverage coming from the University Administration. Discussion ensues on this.

A member suggests that the University Record should provide the community with talking points regarding issues affecting the university community. The role the University Record plays is discussed. VP Hunter points to OVPC's key issues page.

Action: Discussion

**3:13pm-3:54pm: Comments on balanced university communication/the CAIR complaint**

Summary: The Chair introduces the topic and turns it over to the member who brought the topic to the committee. The member suggests that university communications have not been balanced when reporting on pro-Palestine activity. All groups should be treated equally. VP Hunter acknowledges that this concern has been brought up by several in the community. This is discussed. VP Hunter indicates that she and OVPC works hard that what we say is truthful, recognizing all communities.

The committee member brings up the recent comments made to the Anti-Defamation League by President Ono. The committee proceeds to discuss the Institutional Neutrality Policy regent bylaw, and how it should be interpreted related to this situation. The

Wallenberg Center is discussed.

A member indicates that the UM administration is in a difficult position and that they should be given some grace. Another member indicates the need for checks and balances.

The conversation touched on topics of discriminatory sentiment including anti-black racism, islamophobia, and antisemitism. Concerns were voiced that the discussion was minimizing antisemitism. Others disagreed; voicing concerns the statement was unfair. The conversation became disputative. Further discussion is offered that contains varying viewpoints on this topic.

A member discusses a recent speaker at an event at the Wallenberg Center. The speaker indicated that there is a need for coalition building.

Action: Discussion

**3:58pm-4:10pm: Comments of popular perception of the value of public knowledge and the role of R1 universities**

Summary: A discussion begins on the messaging that the public receives related to the research and innovation conducted at UM. How are we educating the public on the practical benefits of the work that is done at UM?

A point is made that often medical research is cited as the primary benefit UM provides to the community. Although that is one of the benefits, there are many more. These other benefits need to be conveyed to the community effectively. Given the start time of this topic, this conversation will be continued at a later date.

Members indicate a desire to invite VP Kolb and Interim VP Lupia to a future meeting. VP Hunter indicates that she will invite them to a future meeting.

Action: Discussion

**4:10pm:** Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe  
Faculty Governance Coordinator  
Faculty Senate Office