

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Minutes of Meeting: March 31, 2025

Circulated: April 4, 2025

Approved: April 7, 2025

Present: Rebekah Modrak (Chair), Simon Cushing, Ann Marshall (FSO), Luke McCarthy (FSO), Vilma Mesa, Heather O'Malley (Vice Chair), Craig Smith, Soumya Rangarajan, Derek Peterson, Melanie Tanielian, Alex Yasha Yi.

Press:

Genevieve Monsma – *University Record*

Sophia Coulter – *Michigan Daily*

Guests:

Santa Ono, President of the University of Michigan

Chris Kolb, Vice President for Government Relations

3:01 Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes

The March 24, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

3:02 Chair's Update

- Congratulations to the organizers of the U-M [Trans Day of Visibility](#) event with amazing speakers and turnout, even more so given the challenges of the current climate. Gratitude was expressed to SACUA member Craig Smith, who was one of the organizers. Many events are happening and yet U-M siloes remain, with a need for more centralized coalitions that will not be easily dismissed.
- A University Senate meeting is to be held on April 17, 1:30-3:30 pm. Pursuant to the rules of the Faculty Senate, over fifty signatures were needed to request the meeting, and, as of the SACUA meeting, 150+ signatures had been received, with 14 days made available for petitions to circulate. At least one motion is currently being circulated -- a statement from Rutgers that had been endorsed by their faculty and then was repurposed for U-M faculty to consider. The Rutgers statement was put forward as part of conversations with consortiums of faculty governance leaders both within Big Ten schools and across the nation.
- On Monday, April 7, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm, Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) managing attorney Rebecca Olszewski will offer an in-person/zoom session, "[Opportunity to Hear from and Ask Questions of an Immigration Attorney](#)," that is open to any member of the University of Michigan community. The event will address concerns and questions about work and student visas, travel, and legal issues related to deportation.
- On Tuesday, April 1, 7:30-8:30 pm, the Faculty Senate Assembly and the Central Student Government Assembly will hold their first joint assembly, to include

- presentations from both faculty and student representatives and time for discussion. Faculty speakers are to include Craig Smith, Susan Najita, and Pauline Jones.
- On Wednesday, April 2, 1-2 pm, “Federal Funding Threats and the Independence of Universities,” with speakers Demetri Morgan and Beth Berman, will be held in-person and via zoom. The seminar is the second of three [Resistance + Reality Checks](#) seminars that highlight the work of U-M scholars who offer alternative models and counter-analyses to the executive orders being issued from the Trump administration.
 - SACUA member Soumya Rangarajan announced two “Clinical Faculty Coffee Talks,” that being held for clinical faculty to hear from each other and to share their experiences with members of SACUA. The first event will be held on April 2, 3-4 pm, with Dr. Soumya Rangarajan and FSO Director Luke McCarthy. The second will be held on April 21, 10-11 am, with Dr. Soumya Rangarajan, SACUA Chair Rebekah Modrak, and FSO Director Luke McCarthy. Clinical faculty are a part of many units across the U-M campus (e.g. SMTD, Dentistry, and Pharmacy), with Michigan Medicine having 800+ clinical faculty.

3:15 Continued Conversation on Current Challenges in Higher Education

- This agenda item was in Executive Session and no minutes were taken.

3:30 Guest: Santa Ono, President of the University of Michigan

- President Ono was expected as guest but did not attend.
- This agenda item was in Executive Session and no minutes were taken.

4:00 Guest: Chris Kolb, Vice President for Government Relations

- This agenda item was in Executive Session and no minutes were taken.

4:40 Matters Arising / New Business / Agenda Building

- It was requested that the minutes reflect that President Ono did not attend the meeting as was expected.
- A SACUA member raised a problem with the AEC survey. The faculty member had been asked to evaluate the wrong chair for Educational Studies within the Marsal School of Education. The problem had been reported to the AEC IT team, but IT didn’t immediately have a way to fix the problem while the survey was live. The survey is constructed based upon the data that is received from HR and, as needed, from unit-specific HR departments. FSO will work with the AEC IT Team and AEC members to try to identify what went wrong and how the problem might be corrected going forward.

4:00 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marshall
Faculty Governance Coordinator, Faculty Senate Office

[University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:](#)

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."