

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Items for Information**

SUBJECT: June 2024 Faculty Governance Update

The Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) is the executive arm of the University (Faculty) Senate and the Senate Assembly. The nine members of SACUA meet regularly throughout the academic year to represent faculty interests.

Three new members were elected to SACUA for the 2024-25 year. We introduce and welcome Derek Peterson, Professor of History and of Afroamerican and African Studies; Soumya Rangarajan, Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine; and Melanie Tanielian, Associate Professor of History.

Regents Join SACUA Meetings

SACUA had constructive conversations with three Regents in our final meetings of the 2023-24 year (April 22, with Regent Denise Ilitch; April 30, with Regent Paul Brown; and May 20, with Regent Ron Weiser). We look forward to building relationships with Regents over the next year. Regent Weiser agreed that it would be useful for the SACUA Chair to offer a regular presentation by the faculty at Regents' meetings, acknowledging that it would be helpful for the faculty to provide an oral report focusing on important issues that might be otherwise lost in the deluge of email communications. Central Student Government has a regular report that's been helpful to inform the Regents and the University community of student perspectives, and we respectfully request that the faculty are afforded a regular, planned time at the podium.

Statement to President Ono Concerning His Summons to Washington

On Tuesday, May 28, the University of Michigan Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) voted 7-1 to approve the following "SACUA Statement Concerning President Ono's Summons to Washington."

The statement calls upon President Ono to "(1) defend the University's mission of scholarship, research, and teaching and uphold its commitment to intellectual and academic freedom; (2) object to the House Committee's unduly expansive definition of antisemitism, which is being used to stifle criticism of Israeli military operations in Gaza; and (3) bear in mind our university's mistakes of the 1950s before acquiescing to pressure from legislators, donors, and alums that would misalign us with the university's values."

The statement notes that "The activism of the more than 100 students who were until recently encamped on the University's Diag stands within a distinguished history of political action here at the University....Early in the morning on May 21, police outfitted in riot gear descended on the encampment and, on short notice, broke it up....By using force, rather than engaging in discussion leading to resolution, your administration has undermined the mission of the

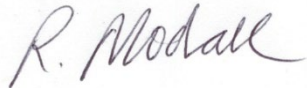
university and the trust of our community. The students will make mistakes in their struggles to protest this war, but faculty and administrators must be held to a higher standard.... We call upon you to commit to dialogue with the student protesters and to defend our common mission: to enable vigorous and meaningful dialogue about the most controversial matters in public life.”

The full statement can be read [here](#).

Senate Assembly Committees

Every year, 18 Senate Assembly Committees advise executive officers and/or address issues within the university. For example, this year, under the leadership of Professor Adam Burak, the Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action (COAA) examined issues with the grievance system and developed a set of recommendations to strengthen this process; COAA also drafted a set of best practices for units to develop bylaws that clearly outline rules and guidelines for fair and equitable working conditions. SACUA acknowledges the work of the 18 Chairs and the dozens of faculty members who served on these committees. We also thank the Senate Assembly Nomination Committee that worked to populate these committees with new members for the 2024-25 year and look forward to working with these new Chairs and members in the upcoming year.

Submitted: June 11, 2024



Rebekah Modrak
SACUA Chair