

Minutes of Meeting: 4/28/25

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Approved:

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs

Monday, April 28, 2025, 3:00

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

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

Absent: None

Guests: Kirsten Herold, SACUA-elect

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe, Luke McCarthy

Press:

Glenn Hedin -- Daily

Genevieve Monsma – Record

3:00pm-3:05pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the 4/14/25 meeting were approved.

3:05pm-3:22pm: Chair's Update

Summary:

- The Chair indicated that there is a group of faculty that have been regularly meeting to discuss immigration issues facing our community as a result of actions taken by the federal government. These take place weekly on Friday, and have included representation from USU and GEO. Action items include evaluating attorneys, as well as communications within units.
- The Chair and FSO Director had a meeting regarding the upcoming transition to a Virtual Parking Permit System that uses License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology. In the meeting, they learned that the cameras will not be retaining recordings, just the data. The data will be retained for approximately one year.
- In October 2024, the Regents approved a contract for a private security company. This company has provided the university with plain clothes security officers. There is a concern of increased use of surveillance.
- The Chair indicates that Medical School faculty have been informed that faculty candidates with "professionalism issues" will be deemed ineligible for election to the Senate Assembly. This was conveyed in a message from EVP Runge. Discussion

- ensues on this subject. The University Senate Rules are reviewed.
- On 4/17 the Senate Assembly Luncheon took place.
 - On 4/23 the final seminar in the “Resistance and Reality Checks” seminar took place. This seminar was titled “Models of Resistance” and included speakers Geoff Eley, Karl Pohrt Distinguished University Professor of Contemporary History, and Megan Flattley, Lecturer, History of Art.
 - The Senate Assembly Nominations Committee met earlier on 4/28. There are AEC Chair candidates that will be reviewed by SACUA imminently. SACUA approved an e-vote to select the next AEC chair, with the ballot to end by the end of the day on 4/30/25.

Action: Updates

3:22pm-4:10pm: Reports from SA Committee Liaisons

Summary: The SACUA Liaisons and FSO staff provided updates on the work committees they sit on have completed over the course of the past academic year.

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC): The liaison reported positive interactions with the Provost over the course of the year. The committee worked to address the 9-month salary issue that had been flagged the prior academic year. The liaison indicates that progress has been made on this front. Issues related to childcare and Work Connections are ongoing and will likely continue next year.

Communications Advisory Committee (CAC): This committee advised VP Hunter on subjects including the President’s communications to the University, as well as the Regent’s bylaw on institutional neutrality. An editorial board for the University Record is discussed as a possibility.

Development Advisory Committee (DAC): The committee advised VP Baird on a variety of topics. The committee met with a unit level fundraiser and discussed the experience faculty have. The Chair of this committee had suggested combining several committees. Discussion ensues on this with varying opinions given. A member suggests that the FSO needs a development officer.

Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC): This committee advised EVP Chatas on a variety of matters, including the endowment, as well as on issues related to the changes made by the federal government affecting higher education. The committee provided input to the Investment Values Committee proposal. The committee identified potential gaps in committee coverage, as there are other administrators that cover other financial aspects of the University that do not fall within the purview of EVP Chatas.

General Counsel’s Advisory Committee (GCAC): This committee engaged in conversations with VP Lynch. The liaison suggests that conversations on the work OGC is conducting should be more of a focus moving forward.

Government Relations Advisory Committee (GRAC): This committee advises VP Kolb and had a Chair replacement mid-year. This caused some issues. Conversations centered primarily on the changes coming from the federal government. It was suggested that it is a top

priority that the message that UM's work and research is benefitting everyone in the community be conveyed convincingly.

Information Technology Committee (ITC): This committee advises VP Pendse. The expected charge items included discussing issues of artificial intelligence, as well as cybersecurity.

Medical Affairs Advisory Committee (MAAC): The liaison indicated that this committee, which advises EVP Runge, was effective. Discussions included the restructuring of the leadership at the medical school, the clinical faculty track, and artificial intelligence as it relates to the medical school.

Research Advisory Committee (RAC): This committee advised Interim VP Lupia on issues including artificial intelligence and its role in higher education, the development of research track faculty, and research in the arts and humanities. In the winter term several conversations were held regarding the impact of changes to federal funding.

Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC): This committee advised VP Kinsey on internal and external issues facing UM. Issues included the ongoing revising of the Regent's bylaws, and the ongoing changes made by the federal government. The liaison indicates that with so many issues facing the University, there may be some benefit from focusing on a small number of issues.

Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC): In addition to advising VP Harmon, this committee completed the regularly scheduled review process of the Students Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR). This review process required an extensive number of meetings in which the committee carefully discussed and recommended various proposed changes to the document. In addition, the committee met with leaders responsible for the Spectrum Center, Maize and Blue Pantry, ECRT, among others to discuss their fields and how faculty can support students.

Administration Evaluation Committee (AEC): This committee coordinated the completion of the annual survey of faculty. The committee reviewed and improved the questions contained within the survey.

Committee on Anti-Racism (CAR): This committee held discussions related to the closure of the DEI office. The committee produced an article that will be sent to the Michigan Daily that indicates their stance on DEI. The Chair collaborated with the Chair of the CFEI, among others, to produce an article for the University Record indicating that we support and value members of minority populations at this university.

Committee on the Economic and Social Well-Being of the Faculty (CESWF): This committee discussed issues of faculty retention, as well as improvements that can be made to the next faculty salary survey.

Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion (CFEI): This committee discussed extensively the changes to the federal government, as well as the related closure of UM's DEI Office. The Chair collaborated with the Chair of the CFEI, among others, to produce an article for the University Record indicating that we support and value members of minority populations at this university.

Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action (COAA): The committee built upon their work during the prior academic year regarding the faculty grievance process. The committee produced an opinion piece published in the University Record that reiterated the suggested improvements to the process. The committee will focus on this issue, and issues of bylaws during the next academic year.

Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Committee (DMNC): This committee sponsored two events this year. The first was the primary lecture given this year in November by Judith Butler titled “Academic Freedom in a Time of Destruction: Reconsidering Extra-Mural Speech.” The second event was titled “The New McCarthyism: Authoritarianism and the Future of Academic Freedom” with panelists Isaac Kamola and Jason Stanley in March. Support is offered by the liaison for continuing the recent tradition of hosting at least one event each term.

Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP): This committee completed their review of the University Senate Rules and forwarded their suggestions on to SACUA. The committee also discussed faculty governance at UM within the broader scope of higher education, and where we would like to be a decade from now.

A member suggests possibly consolidating some committees. Discussion ensues on this with varying opinions shared.

Action: Discussion

4:10pm-4:21pm: Matters Arising / New Business / Agenda Building

Summary: A member flags an imminent change in which UM Flint and Dearborn community members will no longer have their parking passes work on the Ann Arbor campus. This is raised as an issue that goes against the three campuses, one university sentiment that UM promotes. Discussion ensues on this topic.

A motion is made to thank Chair Rebekah Modrak for her work as the Chair of SACUA this past year.

Motion: Derek Peterson

Second: Melanie Tanielian

The motion passes unanimously

Action: Discussion

4:21pm-4:35pm: Discussion of Recent U-M Administration and Regent Actions and Communications

Summary: This portion of the meeting was held in executive session.

Action: Discussion

4:35pm-4:55pm: Departing Member Celebration

Summary: Celebration ensues with gifts and well wishes provided to outgoing members and the outgoing leadership team.

Action: Celebration

4:55pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:
Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges

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."