

To: SACUA

From: Dinesh Pal, Chair - Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP)

Subject: Report on Activities of the Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP) for 2024-2025

Members: Audrey Bennett, Jonathan Brennan, Howard Bromberg, James Gulvas, Lynette Hoelter, Neil Marsh, Bruce Maxim, David Potter, Michela Russo, Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott, Sun-Yung Bak

SACUA Liaison: Heather O'Malley

2024-2025 Meeting Dates:

Tues. 9/3 from 10-11am

Fri. 10/4 from 2-3pm

Fri. 12/6 from 2-3pm

Tues. 1/7 from 10-11am

Fri. 2/7 from 2-3pm

Fri. 4/4 from 2-3pm

Committee Charge

1. In collaboration with the Faculty Senate Office, perform a complete review of the existing Senate rules and recommend revisions, as needed, for SACUA consideration and approval.
2. Develop recommendations regarding whether to add more faculty groups as voting members in the Faculty Senate.
3. Perform a comparison of U-M's Senate with faculty senates at peer institutions to develop recommendations for the current and future organization and operation of U-M's Senate.

Committee Report

The committee held hour-long monthly meetings between September 2024 and April 2025. To maximize the participation and meet the availability of the committee members, the meetings were alternated between the first Tuesday and first Friday of consecutive months. Some of the committee discussions and business were also conducted over emails.

The following was accomplished during this academic year:

1. The revision of the Senate rules was completed. The suggested recommendations and changes were submitted to SACUA for consideration and approval.
2. The committee reviewed the need to add more faculty groups as voting members in the Faculty Senate and submitted recommendations to SACUA.
3. The committee compared the functioning of U-M's Senate with faculty senates at peer institutions. Based on our discussions, we **recommend** the creation of a faculty working group that will develop recommendations for the implementation of a shared governance model in which faculty input will be a critical component in administration's decision-making processes, particularly those pertaining to academic and faculty-related issues.

Last but not the least, I gratefully acknowledge the support from the faculty senate office. In particular, Dr. Lucas McCarthy's guidance and advice on all matters pertaining to faculty senate,

and Eric Vandenberghe's meticulous keeping of the minutes have been critical to the functioning of this committee. The work of this committee wouldn't be possible without active support from the Faculty Senate office.

Recommendation

The RPP recommends:

1. The creation of a ***faculty working group*** that will develop recommendations for the implementation of a shared governance model in which faculty input will be a critical component in administration's decision-making processes, particularly those pertaining to academic and faculty-related issues.
2. To ensure the widest possible representation, we recommend that this group be populated by the existing/incoming senate assembly members, one member from each unit. If that is not possible, then the Dean of that unit should be requested to appoint a member. The chair of the RPP will be an ex-officio member of this working group.
3. A comparative analysis of the faculty senate practices/participation at our peer institutions was compiled by the Faculty Senate office and attached here to serve as a guide to formulate the final working agenda by the faculty working group.
4. We also recommend that the faculty working group send their report/recommendations to the RPP. The RPP will review and forward the report, with any further recommendations, to SACUA.