

To: SACUA

From: Luke McCarthy, Director, Faculty Senate Office

Subject: Director's Report on Faculty Senate Office Activities

Date: August 22, 2025

### Faculty Senate Office Activities

Since the last report on May 15, 2025, the FSO enjoyed some vacation but still continues to be productive:

- Assisted 18 committee chairs and the SACUA chair with organizing for the year ahead, including addressing roster issues, holding meetings to develop committee charges, and scheduling for the year ahead.
- Provided logistical support for a number of upcoming events being developed, including the following:
  - “The Next UM President: A Town Hall” on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm in 1010 Weiser Hall
  - Faculty On-Campus Work Retreats, with sponsorship from Provost McCauley. Work retreats will be scheduled about twice per month throughout the academic year.
  - A faculty mixer at the Detroit Observatory at 4:30 pm on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - “Political Speech and the Public Square”: a lunchtime series on the Diag with faculty, staff, and student speakers to address important topics. This fall, there will be the following events:
    - What Do I Want in a New U-M President? (September 23, 2025. 12-1pm)
    - Artificial Intelligence: Is It a Good Thing? (October 21, 2025. 12-1pm)
    - Surveillance: Does It Make Us Safer? (November 18, 2025. 12-1pm)
    - Free Speech: Should There Be Limits? (December 2, 2025. 12-1pm)
  - Innovate Brew: a program that randomly pairs faculty for one-on-one coffee meetups.
  - The annual DMN lecture to take place on November 6, 2025, with Ruth Ben Ghiat, Professor of History and Italian Studies, New York University.
  - More events are being developed, with an event listing to be maintained at <https://facultysenate.umich.edu/faculty-events/>.
- Maintained the Faculty Senate website.
- With the Office of the General Counsel, organized with the Ruthven Wellness Committee a class for Ruthven staff this fall: “Stretch & Strengthening,” led by an MHealthy instructor.
- Assisted a group of faculty with efforts to assist UM community members impacted by federal immigration issues.

- Periodically revised the Senate Assembly membership to reflect unit Senate Assembly representative elections.
- Supported a lunch meeting in Plymouth, MI between the SACUA Chair, the Chair of the UM-Flint Faculty Senate Council, and the Chair of the UM-Dearborn Faculty Senate.
- Attended the New Faculty Orientation to provide information about the Faculty Senate.
- Visited WCBN to learn more about the Ann Arbor campus's student radio station.
- Assisted SACUA with obtaining and sharing season football tickets, with parking passes and access to the Regents' Guest Area at the stadium.
- Sent a number of thank you notes to faculty rolling off committees and the Senate Assembly. Also thanked EOs and campus partners for their collaboration over the prior year.
- Assisted SACUA with determining SACUA committee liaison assignments for the year.
- Processed stipends for five faculty awards and for SACUA members.
- Assisted with organizing a task force to address a new policy requiring all university employees to use Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP).

#### FSO Director Activities

- Assisted the SACUA Chair with committee charge discussions with chairs and EOs.
- Began assisting the Librarian, Archivist, and Curator faculty with running an election to select a new Senate Assembly representative.
- Performed annual FSO staff evaluations.
- Discussed with HR how to better provide Faculty Senate membership data to the FSO that permits including faculty out on leave.
- Assisted SACUA with concluding its review and submitting its report for a 5.09 matter.
- For the annual AEC survey of administrators, initiated efforts to add a few new quality checks intended to help address issues that arise due to inaccurate HR data.
- With the SACUA Chair, continued efforts to address a multitude of topics, including but not limited to the following:
  - Improving the faculty grievance system
  - Addressing faculty concerns regarding Work Connections
  - Political/governmental pressures on higher education
  - Cuts to research funds
  - Pressures on faculty to self-sensor
  - Efforts to address gender-based violence on campus and support survivors
  - Federal impacts on international faculty, staff, and students
  - Student accommodations
  - OSCR student disciplinary proceedings
  - Closing of CSCAR
- Assisted the SACUA Chair in various meetings, including the following:
  - Meetings with the President and the Provost
  - Meetings with the CSG leadership
- Assisted the Faculty Senate chair with a number of communications to the Faculty Senate.

- Assisted the SACUA chair and the movants of [Motion 4](#) from the fall 2024 University Senate meeting with discussions with the ECRT about gender-based violence, including with UM survivors of abuse.
- Began discussions with Development about launching gift fund drives, including supporting the annual DMN lecture series.
- Addressed various financial / budgetary matters to prepare for the year ahead.

### SACUA Actions

Between regular meetings, SACUA has performed the following actions that should be included in the SACUA minutes:

- On March 16, SACUA nominated the following faculty for a Nursing School Dean Search Advisory Committee being formed by the Provost's Office:
  - **Emily Dove-Medows**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing
  - **Kathleen Potempa**, Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing
  - **Shahzad Mian**, F. Bruce Fralick Professor of Ophthalmology, and Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School
- On March 19, SACUA nominated the following faculty for a Kinesiology School Dean Search Advisory Committee being formed by the Provost's Office:
  - **Stefan Szymanski**, Professor of Sport Management, School of Kinesiology
  - **Sara Soderstrom**, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of Organizational Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Associate Professor of Management and Organizations, Stephen M Ross School of Business, Director, Program in the Environment and Associate Professor of Environment, Program in the Environment, School for Environment and Sustainability
  - **Michele Bird**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, School of Kinesiology
- On March 19, SACUA selected the following faculty to receive a faculty award:
  - Distinguished Faculty Governance Award
    - **Michèle Hannoosh**, Professor of French, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
  - Regents' Award for Distinguished Public Service
    - **Lilia Cortina**, University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, Chair, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Professor of Psychology, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Professor of Management and Organizations, Stephen M Ross School of Business
    - **Stephen Ward**, Arthur F Thurnau Professor & Associate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Associate Professor & Director Academic Program, Semester in Detroit Program, Residential College

- On March 21, SACUA approved a “Statement of Principles Concerning the Upcoming Presidential Search” regarding the selection of a new U-M president, and approved a list of potential candidates for private submission to the Board of Regents.
- On March 21, SACUA nominated for the President’s consideration the following faculty for the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics:
  - **Seth Guikema**, Professor of Industrial and Operations Engineering and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering
  - **Doo Jae Park**, Lecturer III in Kinesiology, School of Kinesiology and Lecturer I in American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
  - **Kate Wroblewski**, Lecturer IV in History, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
  - **Sara Soderstrom**, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of Organizational Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Associate Professor of Management and Organizations, Stephen M Ross School of Business, Director, Program in the Environment and Associate Professor of Environment, Program in the Environment, School for Environment and Sustainability
- On March 30, SACUA nominated the following faculty for a School of Public Health Dean Search Advisory Committee being formed by the Provost’s Office:
  - **Aubree Gordon**, Professor of Epidemiology and Professor of Global Public Health, School of Public Health
  - **Caren Goldberg**, Ruth H Strang M.D. Research Professor of Pediatrics, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Clinical Professor of Cardiac Surgery, Medical School
  - **Jon Zelnor**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health
- On March 30, SACUA nominated the following faculty for a Director of the Life Sciences Institute (LSI) Search Advisory Committee being formed by the Provost’s Office:
  - **Phyllis Hanson**, Minor J Coon Collegiate Professor of Biological Chemistry, Chair, Department of Biological Chemistry, Professor of Biological Chemistry, Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology and Professor of Neurology, Medical School
  - **Connie Wu**, Research Assistant Professor, Life Sciences Institute, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering and Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy
  - **Shyamal Mosalaganti**, Assistant Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology and Assistant Professor of Biological Chemistry, Medical School and Research Assistant Professor, Life Sciences Institute, Assistant Professor of Biophysics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
- On June 6, SACUA approved its written report for a pending 5.09 proceeding, pursuant to a vote of the tenured members of SACUA.
- On June 18, SACUA approved a “Statement Concerning Surveillance on the University of Michigan Campus.”

- On June 24, SACUA approved a statement concerning the new travel policy requiring that all University of Michigan employees book flights for university-related travel exclusively through Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP).
- On June 30, the Librarian Achievement Award selection committee selected this year's award recipient:
  - **Karen Downing**, Librarian, Education Liaison, Library Research, Social Sciences and Clark Library, University Library
- On June 30, the University Librarian Recognition Award selection committee selected this year's award recipient:
  - **Maggie Vanderford**, Librarian for Instruction and Engagement, William L. Clements Library
- On July 17, SACUA approved the roster for the Senate Assembly's Information Technology Committee (ITC).
- On July 23, upon the decision of the SACUA Chair, the Chair of the UM-Flint Faculty Council, and the Chair of the UM-Dearborn Faculty Senate, Jackie Lawson Memorial Faculty Governance Award was granted to the following faculty member:
  - **Bruce Maxim**, Narasimhamurthi "Nattu" Natarajan Collegiate Professor of Engineering, Professor of Computer and Information Science, College of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan-Dearborn
- On August 1, SACUA voted to remove a member from the GCAC roster.
- On August 18, SACUA appointed the following faculty nominated by the deans of their respective academic units to the Library Council for three-year terms beginning on September 1, 2025:
  - **Enrique García Santo-Tomás**, Frank P Casa Collegiate Professor of Spanish and Professor of Spanish, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
  - **Lynda Oswald**, Louis and Myrtle Moskowitz Research Professor of Business and Law and Professor of Business Law, Stephen M Ross School of Business
  - **Claire Pettersen**, Assistant Professor of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering, College of Engineering

### University Senate Actions

Between regular meetings, the University Senate has performed the following actions that should be included in the Senate minutes:

- As University Senate Secretary, for a term ending on April 30, 2028, the Senate elected on March 16, 2025, the following faculty member:
  - **Rogério Pinto**, University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, Berit Ingersoll-Dayton Collegiate Professor of Social Work, Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work, Professor of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance and Professor of Art and Design, Penny W Stamps School of Art and Design.