

Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 4/3/25

Circulated: 9/5/25

Approved: 9/8/25

Present: John Tropman (Chair), VP Jon Kinsey, Francine Dolins, Curtiss Engstrom, Barbara Klein, Vilma Mesa (SACUA Liaison), Rashmi Rama, Beth Wilensky, Jay Winkler

Absent: Samantha Kreklau, John Pasquale, Jonathan Shillingford

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

1:00pm-1:01pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the February and March SAC meetings were approved.

1:01pm-1:05pm: Update from VP Kinsey's Office

Summary: VP Kinsey provided updates to the committee on the work of the Board of Regents, and the UM administration. This included meetings and planning being done in response to the changes implemented by the federal government.

Action: Updates

1:05pm-1:27pm: ICE

Summary: The Chair introduces the topic, which had been suggested by a member of the committee. Articles had been shared prior to the meeting with the committee that involved instances of ICE deporting individuals: [Kilmer Armado Abrego Garcia](#), [Rumeysa Ozturk](#), and [others](#).

A student provides their perspective. Students feel uneasy at this time due to the uncertainty of their status in this country.

A member asks if the federal government has requested any information on specific students. No such requests are known at this time. Members of the Board of Regents met with members of Central Student Government earlier this week, and this matter was one of the primary topics of discussion. Membership advises that Central Administration provide UM community members with tools and guidance on what their rights are, what resources are available to them, how the University will support them, how to react to an interaction with federal agent, etc. It is further recommended that these communications be shared in regular intervals to keep the information at the top of mind, should it be needed.

The nature of specific cases of students having their visas revoked and deported are discussed. Discussion on some of the resources available are shared. The International Center provides resources related to these types of cases. VP Kinsey indicates that UM



administration and the Board of Regents want to do everything possible to ensure the safety of the UM community.

Action: Discussion

1:27pm-1:35pm: The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) and the Office for Health Equity and Inclusion (OHEI) Office Closures

Summary: The Chair introduces the next topic, discussing the closures of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) and the Office for Health Equity and Inclusion (OHEI). A member asks why this decision was made at this time.

VP Kinsey indicates that this was a very challenging decision. This has been contemplated for some time. One question asked is “are we getting the most value for our efforts?” The communication sent regarding the closure of these offices also included information on increasing funds to support student facing initiatives. VP Kinsey has been, and will continue, to go to faculty meetings and meeting with student groups to hear their thoughts on these decisions.

A question is asked about what happened to the employees in the affected offices.

Further discussion follows on this subject.

Action: Discussion

1:35pm-1:48pm: Columbia University

Summary: The member who suggested this topic begins the discussion on the [actions taken by the administration at Columbia University](#) in the wake of having their federal funding frozen.

A member indicates that the demands made by the federal government for the university’s administration to place the Middle Eastern studies department under receivership constitute a critical attack on academic freedom. Committee members indicated that the UM administration should defend academic freedom unequivocally and not give in to any similar pressures. VP Kinsey indicates support voiced by President Ono at earlier Regent meetings, and that he has since voiced. Faculty voice the need for protection of faculty.

Discussion takes place on the actions of UM administration in the face of federal actions. Members indicate the need for joining with other universities to defend the values of higher education. VP Kinsey indicates that President Ono is in near constant contact with leadership at other universities. He highlights some of the actions taken. A member would like more communication from Central Administration regarding the efforts that are being done. Another member indicates that the Flint and Dearborn campuses should receive direct communication from President Ono on these matters.

Action: Discussion



1:48pm-1:54pm: UHS/Mental Health resources

Summary: The Chair introduces this topic. It is suggested that University Health Services requires more resources, and a new space that can better accommodate the growing UM community. Context is provided for these requests. Mental health issues require serious attention, and providing proper funding and resources is critical to having a healthy community. A member voices support for more resources available on North Campus. Resources on the Flint and Dearborn campuses are discussed as also requiring review.

Action: Discussion

1:54pm-2:00pm: Matters Arising

Summary: A committee member brings up the grants that are being terminated as a result of federal action. Bridge funding is available, and the member suggests extending the bridge funding that is available for students and faculty affected. A member suggests that UM administration share instances where the bridge funding has been utilized as a means of showing the UM community that they will have support should they be affected.

Action: Discussion

2:00pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office