



FACULTY SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

From the Chair of the Faculty Senate

Dear colleagues:

The Fall semester is now at hand. We in faculty government have organized a number of activities that are meant to build community and lend coherence to the University's democratic culture. I am writing therefore to urge you to sign up for the events and opportunities outlined here.

The Next UM President: A Town Hall

As many of you have seen, [the Board of Regents has recently named a Presidential Search Committee](#). There is no representative of faculty government. Nonetheless, [we do look forward to working with the search committee to choose a president in a transparent and open process](#).

I call your attention to a town hall meeting organized by the Faculty Senate, Central Student Government, and the Ann Arbor chapter of the AAUP. [“The Next UM President: A Town Hall”](#) will provide an opportunity for members of the university community to lay out their views about the priorities that the next UM president must pursue. The event seeks to help build a UM community consensus and to elevate voices that would not otherwise be heard in the search process. It will include short presentations from leaders of student, faculty and staff government, along with statements from colleagues representing key interests on campus. We will also hear from [Judith Wilde](#), of George Mason University, whose work concerns presidential searches and how to run them.



[“The Next UM President: A Town Hall”](#) will occur on September 3, 2025 from 4-6pm in Weiser Hall, Room 1010 and online via Zoom. CART services will be provided. [Click here to register to attend “The Next UM President: A Town Hall” in person or online.](#) This event is part of the [2025 Academic Governance Series](#)—a series of panel discussions related to academic governance. More events for this series will be announced in due course.

Political Speech and the Public Square

The University of Michigan is home to diverse communities, and all of us hold specific interests and opinions. Last year [the Faculty Senate Office launched the series Political Speech and the Public Square](#) to provide a forum for members of the U-M community to present informed, fact-based perspectives, and to listen to and learn from each other. Our aim is to support the principles of academic freedom and to develop a campus climate comfortable with hearing divergent, well-informed points of view, even those counter to one’s own views.



The lunchtime series will take place on the Diag throughout Fall 2025. U-M Students, staff, and faculty will speak on select topics for 3-5 minutes:

- 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)

ASL interpreters will be present at all events. The [event page](#) will be updated throughout the fall term with more information, including about how to participate.

On Campus Work Retreats

The popular [Faculty On-Campus Work Retreats](#) will return next semester. These retreats are an opportunity to get through a piece of writing or research, meet colleagues, and discuss your work in a friendly and engaging atmosphere. And there is lunch! [Click here to sign up for a two-hour work session, followed by lunch with colleagues.](#)

The logo for Faculty On-Campus Work Retreats is a yellow square with the text 'FACULTY ON-CAMPUS WORK RETREATS' in blue and white. 'FACULTY' and 'WORK' are in blue, while 'ON-CAMPUS' and 'RETREATS' are in white.

These work retreats are generally located on Central Campus. The Faculty Senate Office is also planning further retreat that will take place on North Campus. More details about the North Campus retreat will be shared in the coming weeks.

Update on Disciplinary Proceedings against Student Protestors

As I indicated in my last newsletter, [the University is pursuing sanctions against eleven students](#) who have been involved in pro-Palestinian activism. The [process is being conducted using a version of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) that elevates administrators' role and deprives faculty of the power to review judgements and make recommendations. At their most recent hearing, the students were found guilty of several modest infractions. The punishments that the protestors face are life-altering: the University's prosecutor has asked for lifetime 'separation' for several of the students, meaning that they will not be allowed to pursue further studies at this institution. We will continue to monitor these proceedings. I urge those entrusted to adjudicate these cases to act with clemency.

Closure of CSCAR: Consulting for Statistics, Computing and Analytics Research

In his email newsletter of last week the Vice President for Research announced that CSCAR would soon close. For many of us, [CSCAR has been a vital help, aiding us to develop statistical tools for research and data visualization.](#) So it is no surprise that I have now heard from several colleagues who lament the withdrawal of the resources and expertise that CSCAR has offered.

I met recently with Vice President Lupia to relay faculty concerns about these matters. He is confident that, for many of us, the existing services that the University offers—through [the Michigan Institute of Clinical and Health Research](#), through [the Michigan Institute for Data and AI in Society](#) and other

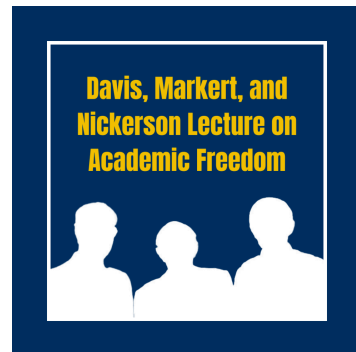
units—will address many of our data analysis requirements. In the weeks to come we hope to hear from the OVPR about new platforms that will ameliorate the shortfalls occasioned by CSCAR's closure.

Coming events

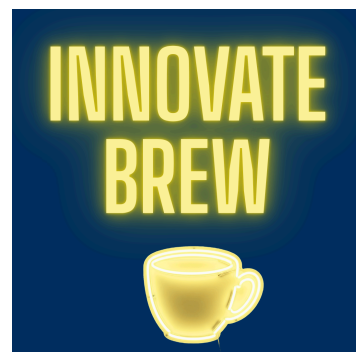
The [2025 Faculty Mixer](#) will occur on October 8th, 4:30-6:00pm at the Detroit Observatory. Tours of the museum + telescope room will be given. [Register to attend the Faculty Mixer here.](#)



The [35th annual Davis, Markert and Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom](#) will be given by the distinguished scholar of Italian fascism Ruth Ben Ghat. The lecture will be given on November 6th, 2025 at 4pm. CART Services and ASL interpreters will be present at the event. [Register here to receive event updates about the DMN Lecture and be informed of when registration opens.](#)



Do you have 30 minutes to talk and have coffee, one-on-one, with a random U-M colleague? Sign up for [Innovate Brew](#) and the Faculty Senate Office will pair you with a different research-active colleague from outside of your field, once a month for six months. [Register here to sign up for Innovate Brew, and you will receive a match near the end of September!](#)



In solidarity,

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