



Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP)

Minutes of Meeting: 9/26/25

Circulated: 10/23/25

Approved: 10/29/25

Present: Sun-Yung Bak, Nick Montgomery, Neil Marsh, Jonathan Brennan (Chair), Ken Alfano, David Potter, Mitchel Sollenberger, James Gulvas, Howard Bromberg

Absent: Audrey Bennett, Lynette Hoelter, Heather O'Malley (SACUA)

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe, Luke McCarthy

12:01pm-12:10pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. Introductions were made by the committee members.

12:10pm-12:24pm: Review committee charges

Summary: The Chair introduces the [Charge](#) for this academic year.

The first charge item is to “consider the Faculty Senate’s current rules and procedures for resolving disputes between faculty.” Discussion ensues on past efforts in the 1980’s to address this issue. The Senate’s current rules do not address this type of issue. Currently, Robert’s Rules of Order are the means for addressing these types of disputes. Having clear guidelines spelled out in the Senate Rules would be useful, as the process laid out in Robert’s Rules of Order is more cumbersome than perhaps is necessary.

The next charge item is reviewing the utility of the nominating committee that considers the slate of candidates for SACUA. Should this committee continue to stand? The FSO Director provides an overview of the work of the committee. Discussion ensues.

The third charge item is more open-ended and has a bigger picture. It is to look at the overall structure of the Faculty Senate. What could the Faculty Senate be? The FSO staff looked at peer institution faculty governance last year.

The FSO Director indicates the gravity of the moment in higher education. How should faculty governance at UM be structured to meet this moment? The faculty governance structure at UM is discussed.

Action: Discussion

12:24pm-1:00pm: Planning: timing and information needed

Summary: The Chair discusses the ongoing bylaw revision process that the Secretary of the University Office is currently undertaking. The Chair has been approached by the Chair of the SAC, which advises the Secretary of the University, about possibly holding a joint meeting in which these subjects are discussed.



A member discusses the bylaws as they pertain to the Flint and Dearborn campuses. Over the last 25 years, faculty governance bodies have proliferated on the two campuses, and they are not currently mentioned in the bylaws.

A member indicates a concern as to whether this review of the bylaws is primarily consolidating, or if it is substantive? The recent changes to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities are discussed. The Regents bypassed the standard protocols for updating the Statement and implemented their desired changes unilaterally. The Michigan Constitution affords Regents “general supervision” of the University. This is understood to not be too hands-on, but that is based on tradition and could easily be interpreted differently.

The UM presidential search is discussed. A member indicates that during the 1987 UM presidential search SACUA chose the search committee membership. The current search does not have any current members of faculty governance on the committee.

The meeting schedule is discussed and finalized.

What further information will be necessary for the committee to complete their work? Regarding the Regent Bylaw update, more information will be available following the October Regent’s meeting. The Faculty Governance Coordinator will share files that the committee have previously worked on.

Action: Discussion

1:00pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office