



**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Senate Assembly

Monday, September 22, 3:15

The Hybrid meeting was held in 2000 University Hall, Ruthven and Zoom

Minutes: September 22, 2025

Circulated: October 23, 2025

Approved October 27, 2025

**In-person attendees:** Keith Aaronson, Sun-yun Bak (nonvoting), Meaghan Blanchard, William Calvo-Quiros, Jesse Capecelantro, Meghan Courtney, Theodora Danciu, Francine Dolins, Johannes Foufopoulos, Sarah Hawley, Kirsten Herold, Stefanus Jasin, Ann Marshall, Luke McCarthy, Vilma Mesa, Rebekah Modrak, Louise O'Brien, Derek Peterson, Rogerio Pinto (nonvoting), Soumya Rangarajan, Michael Schubnell, Lauren Smith, Craig Smith, Deirdre Spencer (nonvoting), Melanie Tanielian, Ashu Tripathi, Apryl Williams, Jason Young, Jon Zelner, Liuyan Zhao, Eric Vandenberghe (nonvoting).

**Virtual attendees:** Carlos Aguilar, Mark Allison, Mousumi Banerjee, Rajiv Bapuraj, Sybil Biermann, Helen Burgess, Jade Burns, Deepa Butoliya, Amy Cheng, Robert Duncan, Shannon Gillen, Caren Goldberg, James Gulvas, L. Jay Guo, Brendan Haug, Joshua Hausman, Justin Hodge, Yihe Huang, Kevin Joiner, Kim Kearfott, Elizabeth Keren-Kolb, Brad Killaly, Kristin Klein, Yongqing Li, John Magee, Jakob McSparron, Genevieve Monsma (nonvoting), Heather O'Malley, Pamela Pennock, Ivette Perfecto, Stacy Rosenbaum, Joel Rubenstein (nonvoting), Kimberly Saks, Jill Shake (nonvoting), Maddyn Shapiro (nonvoting), Albert Shih, Ian Shin, Christina Snider, Brian Stewart, Quentin Stout, Krithika Suresh, Elizabeth Viglianti, Paul Zimmerman.

**Press:**

Genevieve Monsma – The University Record

Maddyn Shapiro – The Michigan Daily

**3:17pm Come to Order, Minutes and Announcements**

- The meeting was called to order, with quorum, and the minutes from the April 21st Senate Assembly meeting were approved by consent.
- Faculty Senate Chair Derek reminded Senate Assembly members that the [four resolutions approved at the April 17, 2025 special University Senate meeting](#) had passed with overwhelming majorities, demonstrating resounding support and a clear faculty mandate.

**3:20pm New Member Welcome, Orientation, and Test Vote**

- Faculty Senate Chair Derek Peterson welcomed attendees to the first Senate Assembly (SA) meeting of the academic year and offered a special welcome to newly elected members who constitute one-third of the Senate Assembly. Chair Peterson expressed

appreciation for former Faculty Senate chairs, including Immediate Past Chair Rebekah Modrak, who was also recently elected as the SA representative for the Stamps school. Chair Peterson recognized Soumya Rangarajan, the first clinical faculty member elected to SACUA, also serving as the 2025-2026 Senate Vice Chair.

- Chair Peterson offered remarks on the importance of faculty governance and the necessity for the Faculty Senate, Senate Assembly, and SACUA to hold the U-M administration accountable. While U-M faculty government does not have official discretion over matters such as the budget, faculty government does offer a bully pulpit for governance issues to be discussed and resolved. The role of the Faculty Senate has never been more vital, and faculty must vigorously defend their vocation and role as teachers for the next generation.

**Action Item:** Senate Assembly representatives are encouraged to be in contact with the faculty they represent, to share regular digests of Senate Assembly meetings, and to seek input from their constituencies. Chair Peterson and the Faculty Senate Office can provide slides that can be used or adapted for this purpose. The Senate Assembly’s work can be more purposeful if each representative can establish a link with the faculty in their unit.

- Faculty Senate Office (FSO) Director Luke McCarthy provided an orientation on Senate Assembly procedures. The Senate Assembly is open to the public, and both the press and guests are welcome. Speaking privileges are limited to Senate Assembly members only. The Chair will open the floor for discussion and, to request to speak, please raise your hand, and the Chair will recognize you to speak. Votes are conducted on a secure and anonymous platform, SimplyVoting. The FSO cannot view the vote choices of any members. All Senate Assembly votes are cast at <https://vote.umich.edu/>.
- A practice vote was then held on the question, “Does Pineapple belong on pizza,” with a vote of 19 in favor, 21 opposed, and 4 who answered the question with their own question: “Does pizza belong on pineapple?” There were also 3 abstentions.
- Senate Assembly members are invited to propose agenda items for SA meetings. Please [email the Faculty Senate Chair](#) two weeks ahead of time or earlier. New Business allows for Senate Assembly members to raise issues as part of regular meeting agendas. Since time is limited for New Business, it is recommended that SA members email the Faculty Senate Chair ahead of time. A motion and a second is needed to bring an item to the floor for consideration and discussion. After discussion, a vote can commence. Unanimous consent is a time-saving procedure that allows the Chair to ask, “Are there objections to ...?” If no objections are raised, the item passes. For more information on parliamentary procedure, please consult the Senate Assembly New Member Handbook, Robert’s Rules of Order, and the Senate Assembly Parliamentarian, Deirdre Spencer.

### 3:45pm Senate Assembly Chair Update

- Additional details related to the Senate Assembly Chair updates can be found in the [September 2025 Faculty Senate Chair newsletter](#).



- There is a [vacancy on SACUA to be filled by a current member of the Senate Assembly](#). Nominations and self-nominations can be submitted until Wednesday, October 1. SACUA members meet weekly, by attending SACUA (three times a month) and Senate Assembly (once a month). [SACUA](#) serves as the executive committee of the Faculty Senate.

**Action Item:** Please send any concerns about the [new ECRT mandatory reporting obligations \(SPG 201.89-1\)](#) to Chair Peterson. The new policy has expanded mandatory reporting obligations to designate all faculty as mandatory reporters and to more widely cover discriminatory conduct that includes sexual harassment as well as any behaviors considered to create hostile environments.

**Action Item:** Please share your experiences with [U-M's new Collegiate Travel Planners \(CTP\) requirement](#) by completing a [CTP survey](#) that has been created by the Collegiate Travel Planners Task Force, chaired by SACUA member Jesse Capecelatro. Senate Assembly members are also encouraged to forward the survey to staff who may have CTP-related feedback. The task force plans to be in communication with U-M administration in the upcoming month.

**Action Item:** There are plans for a winter term public facing event that will call attention to important work that is **not** being done at U-M because of federal funding cuts. If your own work has been affected by federal funding cuts, has public-facing dimensions, and you're willing to speak publicly, please contact [facultysenatechair@umich.edu](mailto:facultysenatechair@umich.edu).

**Action Item:** The [annual 2025 University Senate meeting will be held on November 3rd, 3:15-5:00 p.m. Faculty Senate members](#) are all invited to submit motions. To be considered, motions must have three at least Faculty Senate sponsors and be submitted by a **deadline of October 20th** to the Secretary of the Senate at [FacultySenateSecretary@umich.edu](mailto:FacultySenateSecretary@umich.edu).

### **3:51 Resolution Concerning the Presidential Search Committee**

- Chair Peterson introduced the SACUA-approved [Statement Concerning the Presidential Search Committee](#) for consideration by the Senate Assembly. In response to the [announcement of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee in August 2025](#), SACUA released the statement to communicate its concerns about the composition of the committee such that no representatives from faculty governance had been included.
- The floor was opened for discussion. A representative from the Medical School noted that the committee did not have any clinical faculty members. A representative from LSA stated that there was only one social sciences/humanities faculty serving on the committee. A representative from U-M Dearborn shared that, while there was a U-M Dearborn staff member on the committee, there was no faculty representative from U-M Dearborn. A SACUA member noted that having representatives from faculty government

was important since faculty government is structured to more broadly represent the many constituencies of faculty.

- A representative from the Ford School raised a question about how other peer institutions involve faculty government in presidential searches. FSO Director Luke McCarthy remarked that faculty senates at other universities vary in terms of their relationship with administration. For example, at some institutions, the faculty senate approves SPGs, while at U-M, the Faculty Senate is limited to an advisory role.
- A SACUA member remarked that, in May of 2025, SACUA issued a [Statement of Principles Concerning the Upcoming Presidential Search](#) that expressed the importance of having included a representation from faculty government on the presidential search committee. Despite the request, no members from SACUA or Senate Assembly were added to the committee.

**Vote:** A vote was called by unanimous consent. The [statement](#) was approved by a vote of 46 in favor, 3 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

#### 4:05 pm Committee Charges

- Chair Peterson introduced 17 [Senate Assembly committee](#) charges to be considered for approval. The charge for the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) will be considered at a later date. The charges were developed in collaboration with the previous year's committee, the executive officer being advised (as relevant), and with SACUA. Each committee also has a SACUA member serve as liaison.
- The floor was opened for discussion on the committee charges. Each charge includes “emerging topics” as a charge item, and faculty are invited to email committee chairs and the Faculty Senate/SACUA chair with suggestions regarding the work of the committees. A question was raised about the Committee on Anti-Racism (CAR) charge and how the work of the committee fits within the university's DEI stance. It was noted that inclusion, equity, and diversity are three of the [six core values](#) of the university and that CAR's work focuses on racial justice. A CAR member remarked that a broad approach to race and representation has been taken by the committee, and a recent project of the committee was to add [language about caste to the university's civil rights anti-discrimination policy](#). There was discussion about potential overlap between the work of the Committee on Anti-Racism, the Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion (CFEI) and the Committee on the Economic and Social Well-Being of the Faculty (CESWF).

**Vote:** Soumya Rangarajan moved and Vilma Mesa seconded the vote on the approval of the 17 charges. The Senate Assembly committee charges were approved with a vote of 49 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

#### 4:29 Campus Surveillance

- On June 18, 2025, SACUA approved a [Statement concerning surveillance on the University of Michigan campus](#). The statement expressed concern with the surveillance

practices of City Shield, a private security firm, and offered appreciation to President Grasso for cancelling the university's contract with the firm. After SACUA's statement was issued, in alignment with U-M ACLU's statement, an oversight committee was created to develop policies regarding campus surveillance. In addition, a [Security Technology Enhancement Project \(STEP\)](#) website was created.

- Chair Peterson invited discussion on the issue of campus surveillance. A Michigan Medicine faculty member and also an Engineering faculty member commented on the and provided an example of occasional lapses of security at Michigan Medicine and Engineering. A History faculty member brought up concerns about social bias prevalent in the use of cameras as they often use biased facial recognition software, audio recordings, and AI security technologies.
- A Public Health faculty member stated that the quick adoption of each new high-tech security trend and AI creep are both problematic, and that a more visible DPSS presence and more human-centered approaches to security should be pursued. An LSA faculty remarked that the phrase "reasonable expectations of privacy" is vague and it is unclear how such language applies to campus hallways and offices. The Senate Secretary cautioned that surveillance should not be considered in a vacuum, but with recognition of the increased pressure to report and to punish from a legal standpoint and not from a community-building perspective which is more desirable. Instead, social and democratic spaces should be encouraged with a focus on prevention. An LSA faculty member remarked that Gmail and Facebook data can be shared without the knowledge of the account holder, raising serious issues related to informed consent.

**Action Item:** SACUA will consider next steps and also contact the new DPSS committee.

#### 4:47 New Business

- Chair Peterson introduced a resolution, prepared by members of SACUA, on the new federal H-1B Visa policies announced on Friday September 19.
- Kirsten Herold moved and Soumya Rangarajan seconded the motion, and the floor was opened for discussion.
- A Pharmacy faculty raised a question about whether the new H-1B visa rule applies to U-M, since academic institutions, as nonprofits, might be exempt. Others remarked that the new H-1B visa rule does apply. An LSA faculty recommended that the language of the statement be stronger – i.e. the new H-1B visa policy requires an initiation fee, creates a boundary to enter the U.S., and places an economic status on entrance to the U.S. The implications of the policy are that costs will increase dramatically and the hospital, which relies heavily on H-1B visa holders, will be deeply affected. An Education faculty asked if there are additional steps Senate Assembly members might take on this issue such as writing to U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell. A SACUA member noted that international faculty serve across all departments at all three campuses.

**Amendment:** A friendly amendment was approved by unanimous consent that made minor edits to text, with finalized language that U-M offer “all possible support to international faculty, staff, and students” (second to last sentence) and “elected representatives at all levels of government ...” (last sentence).

**Vote:** A vote was called by unanimous consent and the resolution was approved by a vote of 41 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

**Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:05 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério M. Pinto  
Faculty Senate Secretary

(With assistance from Ann Marshall, Faculty Governance Coordinator, FSO)

[University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:  
Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges](#)

Sec. 4.01 The University Senate

"...[t]he Senate is authorized to consider any subject pertaining to the interests of the university, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in regard thereto. Decisions of the University Senate with respect to matters within its jurisdiction shall constitute the binding action of the university faculties. Jurisdiction over academic policies shall reside in the faculties of the various schools and colleges, but insofar as actions by the several faculties affect university policy as a whole, or schools and colleges other than the one in which they originate, they shall be brought before the University Senate."

[Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs:](#)

Senate: “In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed.”

Assembly: “The Assembly may adopt rules for the transaction of its business. In appropriate cases not covered by rules of the Assembly, the rules of the University Senate shall apply.”

SACUA: “The committee may adopt rules for the transaction of its business.”