FACULTY SENATE
SENATE ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1120 Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 10/20/25
Circulated: 11/20/25
Approved: 11/24/25

Present: Francine Dolins (Chair), Liz Rohan, Jay Winkler, VP Jon Kinsey, Barbara Klein, Samantha Kreklau, John Tropman, Beth Wilensky,

Absent: Rashmi Rama, Jonathan Shillingford, Vilma Mesa (SACUA Liaison)

Guests: Jon Brennan, RPP Chair

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

12:02pm-12:04pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the September SAC meeting were approved. RPP Chair Jon Brennan is introduced.

12:04pm-12:42pm: Update from VP Jon Kinsey

Summary: VP Kinsey offered updates on actions taken at the last Regent's meeting, which took place on the Flint campus on 10/16/25.

The Regents voted unanimously to amend the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR) to restore the appeals board within the statement's appellate process. This amendment was recommended by the Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC). This was supported by VP Martino Harmon and President Grasso, in addition to the Regents.

Members discussed the timeline of changes to the SSRR that led to this amendment being passed. A member discusses the role of the Board. VP Kinsey indicates that the Board listened to community feedback and responded in kind. Members offer their opinions on this amendment, and how this process should proceed going forward.

Another major point of the most recent Regent's meeting was that there was unanimous opposition to the recent reports that the Big Ten is considering investment of private equity in exchange for a portion of its media rights. VP Kinsey provides brief background on this issue and offers to discuss the intricacies with members outside of the meeting.

An update is provided on the ongoing revision of the regent's bylaws. The progress of this project has stalled slightly due to attention needed for the ongoing presidential search. VP Kinsey indicates a desire to have the process of review announced sometime in November with a goal of having any changes implemented by May of 2026. This will be a thorough process, and the community will have a chance to offer feedback. Faculty will be engaged directly to garner feedback.

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A member suggests that the changes should be summarized at the end of the process and shared with the community to help understand and contextualize the process. A member asks if former VP Churchill has concluded her initial review of the bylaws, which she came and spoke to the committee about last year.

The Chair asks if the SAC could potentially receive the suggested changes in advance to get started on the review. This request is under consideration.

Discussion ensues on how community feedback will be utilized. One member brings up the last review of the SSRR and the SRAC committee's perception of how their recommendations were utilized. It is emphasized that the goals of the Regents and the community should be aligned.

A member suggests that the bylaws should be reviewed at a much more frequent interval. They further suggest that regular review should be codified within the bylaws. VP Kinsey indicates that this is indeed under consideration for the current revision. A member suggests that faculty review be a required step in any bylaw revision process and be included in the bylaws.

A member asks if there is a parliamentarian in the VP's office who is knowledgeable on the bylaws. It is confirmed that there is, and the Chair suggests that this individual be invited to a future SAC meeting.

Action: Discussion

12:42pm-12:49pm: Activities of the Federal Government affecting the University

Summary: The Chair introduces the Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education. This initially was sent by the Federal Government to nine universities. The Chair points out that this compact has several problematic points and seeks to limit academic freedom. At this time, none of the institutions offered the compact had accepted it, with many outright refusing the offer.

The floor is opened for discussion. How should UM respond should they be directly offered this compact? A member indicates their relief that the initial universities offered this compact rejected it. They indicate that they would expect UM to reject it, should the offer come.

Action: Discussion

12:49pm-1:02pm: Campus Surveillance

Summary: UM community concern regarding campus surveillance is the next topic discussed. The university ended a contract with City Shield over the summer. This was announced by President Grasso. A member asked if there are surveillance cameras on the Flint and Dearborn campuses. STEP is discussed.

Although there are assurances that the campus surveillance cameras will not be used maliciously or unethically, the cameras do have advanced capabilities that could be used in an invasive manner.

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The Chair indicates that this issue is also being reviewed by the Information Technology Committee. The Chair indicates that a possible collaboration may be beneficial.

A member asks if the contract with City Shield has been completely terminated, or if only for surveillance. They indicate their understanding that contracting with private security firms may indeed be necessary to protect community members, but indicate that the actions taken by this firm do not align with community values. A member indicates that UM should be front and center on what our values are.

A discussion takes place on whether the use of security cameras is preventative or reactive. A suggestion is made that more police should be patrolling campus. Discussion ensues on this with differing opinions offered.

There are several DPSS oversight committees.

Action: Discussion

1:02pm- 1:14pm: Other Business

Summary: A member is thankful for the plan to increase enrollment in UM's School of Nursing. This had been a suggestion offered in prior SAC meetings dating back to last year, and the planned increased enrollment is a welcome development.

The Chair asks if changes to the requirements to obtain H1B visas have started to affect the medical-care work force. Members offer anecdotes of community sentiment regarding these H1B visa changes.

A member indicates that there is a need for a more formal organization that can work with emeritus faculty to engage further with them once their tenure with the university is complete. Other institutions have such a program, and the member indicates that this type of program would benefit the university. This is a program that could benefit the university as emeritus faculty often want to stay involved with the university and contribute to its continued success.

A member indicates the need for a program to train faculty leadership. The member cites a similar program at Michigan State University that could be a model for this type of program.

Action: Discussion

1:14pm-1:28pm: New Business

Summary: A member continues the discussion on H1B visas and the effect they will have on international student enrollment. VP Kinsey discusses comments the University has made regarding the new rules.

A member asks if the Ann Arbor endowment provides money to the Flint and Dearborn campuses. This is related to a recent article. This is discussed. The Chair indicates that it may be beneficial to meet with the interim CFO, as well as the CIO, in order to better understand these issues.

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Action: Discussion

1:29pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office