



### **From the Chair of the Faculty Senate**

Dear colleagues:

I am writing to appraise you of a number of activities that will come upon us soon after the Thanksgiving break. Do please put these events into your calendars!

### **Political Speech and the Public Square**

On Tuesday, 2 December faculty government has put together the latest in a series of free speech events that are meant to stretch our First Amendment muscles. This occasion will focus on ‘Surveillance: Does it Make is Safer?’. Eight speakers—faculty, students and staff—will articulate their views on the Diag, on the very steps of the Hatcher Library, with newly-installed surveillance cameras looking down upon us.

Join us on the Diag at noon. [Further details about this event can be found here.](#)

### **Work Connections Townhall**

On Thursday, 4 December at 4:30 union organizers will host a townhall meeting to discuss Work Connections, the University’s office that deals with disability claims. As many of you know, [faculty government has long advocated](#) for the reform and reorganization of Work Connections. A great many colleagues have stories of Work Connections overruling their doctors and forcing people to go back to work before they are healthy enough to do so. [Here is a recent Michigan Daily article](#) that summarizes some of the key concerns.

The town hall will take place in room 2206 in the Undergraduate Science Building. There is a Zoom link available, but organizers would prefer that we attend in person. [Do please register in advance at this link.](#)

## Clinical Faculty / Faculty Senate Dialogues

In 2023 the Faculty Senate expanded to include faculty with appointments as clinical professors. We in faculty government are now putting together a series of listening sessions so that we can better connect with our newly-enfranchised clinical faculty colleagues.



The first of these sessions will take place on Monday, 8 December at 7:30 am in room G1320 in the Towsley Center. For this first session we would like to connect with colleagues who work in **Pediatrics or in Obstetrics and Gynecology**. If you're a clinical faculty member in these fields we want to meet you, talk about your work and your needs, and learn from you how best to advocate for your interests. There will be bagels and coffee to fuel our discussions.

Further details—and wayfinding directions to the meeting venue—[can be found at this site](#).

## Regents Candidate Forum

On Tuesday, 9 November at 6:00 pm the American Federation of Teachers will host an open forum featuring four announced candidates for the University's Board of Regents. The forum will be moderated by AFT Michigan president Terrence Martin, and will be convened on Zoom. [Register at this site to receive a Zoom invitation](#).

Good wishes to everyone for the Thanksgiving holiday.

In solidarity,

Derek Peterson  
Chair of the Faculty Senate



# WORK CONNECTIONS TOWNHALL

Too often, when workers experience chronic or emergency medical conditions, Work Connections denies people the leave their docs prescribe. Come to an all-worker townhall to share your experience and add your voice to the call for change.

**Thursday, December 4**  
**4:30PM - 6PM**

**Undergraduate Science Bldg., Rm 2206**  
**204 Washtenaw Ave**

**EMPLOYEE AND GUEST PARKING**  
**NEARBY AT PALMER COMMONS**  
**PARKING STRUCTURE**  
**100 WASHTENAW AVE**



 **REGISTER NOW**

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**FACULTY SENATE**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT [MOE.FITZSIMONS@SEIUHEALTHCAREMI.ORG](mailto:MOE.FITZSIMONS@SEIUHEALTHCAREMI.ORG)**

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