

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA)
The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Minutes of Meeting: October 20, 2025

Circulated: 11/7/2025

Approved: 11/10/2025

Present: Derek Peterson (Chair), Meaghan Blanchard (FSO), Jesse Capecelatro, Kirsten Herold, Ann Marshall (FSO), Luke McCarthy (FSO), Vilma Mesa, Rebekah Modrak (Immediate Past Chair), Susan Najita, Rogério Meireles Pinto (Secretary), Soumya Rangarajan (Vice Chair), Kentaro Toyama

Absent: Melanie Tanielian, Heather O'Malley

Press:

Genevieve Monsma – *University Record*

Grace Park – *Michigan Daily*

Guests:

Ravi Pendse, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

Allison Kushner, Director of Disability Equity and ADA Coordinator, ECRT

Stephanie Rosen, IT Accessibility Assistant Director

Phillip Deaton, Deputy ADA Coordinator, Digital Accessibility

3:02 Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes

The October 6, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

3:04 SACUA Chair's Update

- The [2025 Annual DMN Lecture](#) is on November 6th, with keynote speaker Ruth Ben-Ghiat, along with panelists Ron Suny, LSA History and Political Science, Karima Bennoune, Professor of Law, and Ji Yeon Hong, LSA Political Science.
- Chair Peterson welcomed newly elected SACUA member Susan Najita to her first SACUA meeting.
- About 60-70 faculty members attended the [Faculty Mixer](#), sponsored by the Faculty Senate, held on October 8th at the Judy & Stanley Frankel Detroit Observatory.
- Also on October 8th, a [Faculty On-Campus Work Retreat](#) was held on North Campus. The next work retreats will be held on Wednesday, October 22 and Thursday, October 23rd at the Michigan League.
- The next [Political Speech and the Public Square](#) event will be held on October 21 at noon and will address the question “AI: Is it a Good Thing?” The moderator will be Paul Resnik, School of Information, with six faculty and student speakers. There will also be time at the end of the event for audience members to sign-up to speak. A SACUA member shared that a [journalist will speak on AI at an event sponsored by the Wallace House later this evening, October 21 at 5 pm](#).
- Several SACUA members will travel to U-M Flint on Friday October 24th to meet

with members of the Flint Faculty Council and the UM-Flint AFT-AAUP.

- At the Thursday October 16th Regents meeting, the Regents approved an amendment that will [reinstate the appeals board as part of the processes outlined in the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SSRR\)](#). This is a recommendation made by the Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC) and was enacted after much lobbying by SRAC. SRAC is also preparing a letter to President Grasso of items for further consideration. For the moment, this is a welcome change to the SSRR.
- Chair Peterson and Vice Chair Rangarajan met with CEO-VP David Miller, in the Medical School, to discuss plans for clinical faculty, including events to be held within the next year to address the challenges facing clinical faculty.
- 700 people have filled out surveys to provide feedback about the university's new Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP) vendor and policy.
- Appreciation was shared for VP-CFO Geoffrey Chatas who is leaving U-M for a new position. Chair Peterson expressed gratitude for VP Chatas' willingness to be forthcoming and collegial, to readily share information, and to work with faculty government. Current Vice President for Finance Bobby Hewlett will serve as interim VP-CFO during the search for Chatas' replacement. A SACUA member shared appreciation for Chatas' dedication to the issue of child care.
- The annual University Senate meeting is to be held on November 3rd. By the start of the SACUA meeting, eight resolutions had been submitted on topics that include AI, CSCAR, the presidential search, H-1B visa policy, and the Compact resolution (to be discussed later in the meeting).

3:15 Accessibility with Guests VP-CIO Ravi Pendse, Ravi Pendse, Stephanie Rosen, and Phillip Deaton

- This agenda item was in Executive Session and no minutes were taken.

3:45 Post-Guest Discussion

- This agenda item was in Executive Session and no minutes were taken.

4:08 University Senate Meeting; University Senate Resolution in Opposition to the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education"

- SACUA members discussed the Resolution to Reject Participation in the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education," a motion being put forward for consideration at the November 3rd University Senate meeting by three faculty not on SACUA. Additional language had been added to the resolution by the three U-M law faculty authors since the draft was initially circulated to SACUA. In addition, a document was shared that included the text of other similar resolutions passed at other academic institutions. The intent of the resolution is to speak broadly beyond U-M and to have a consensus of many universities in opposition to the "Compact."
- SACUA members discussed a potential edit to the text in the first bullet point of the first Whereas to clarify that the Compact threatens "to impose federal" government interference. There was a related discussion about how the Michigan Constitution provides independence to public universities, and that state-level legal protections are important to universities in the State of Michigan.

- The date to submit motions for the November 3 Faculty Senate meeting is today, October 20th.
- A SACUA member shared that on [November 7th, the AAUP will sponsor a Higher Education Day of Action](#). An email to SACUA members was distributed that includes more details, and SACUA is invited to participate and hold joint events.

Approval:

- Kirsten Herold moved and Vilma Mesa seconded that SACUA endorse the Resolution to Reject Participation in the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education,” with a few suggested edits being forwarded to the authors for their consideration.
- The motion to endorse the resolution was passed unanimously.

Action Item:

- Luke McCarthy will make any needed formatting edits to the document and will also follow-up with the authors of the Resolution to Reject Participation in the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education.”

4:23 SA Agenda Approval

- SACUA members reviewed the agenda for the October 27th Senate Assembly meeting. A SACUA member suggested that the AI agenda item be structured as a listening session with the intent to hear from as many faculty as possible about their experiences and recommendations regarding AI. There was discussion about how to address AI from a teaching and learning perspective and also discussion about the role of AI in faculty research. It was suggested that spaces are needed where critiques of AI can be taken seriously and that attention should be given to existential threats posed by AI. The Provost is planning a new AI-focused planning committee that is to include a representative from SACUA.

Approval:

- The motion to vote on the Senate Assembly agenda was moved by unanimous consent and the SA agenda was approved unanimously.

4:45 New Business

- There was discussion, as follow-up to a recent GCAC meeting, about executive officers’ advisory and consultative role in relation to SA committees and Senate Assembly. SACUA members expressed interest in SA committees being a venue where faculty and executive officers can have two-way conversations, with executive officers being interested in both sharing information and also seeking advice and input from faculty.

4:51 Adjournment

Addendum

Pending Matters

At the close of the meeting, the following items were pending matters for later resolution:

- Luke McCarthy will make any needed formatting edits to the “Resolution to Reject Participation in the ‘Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education’” and will follow-up with the authors regarding the suggested changes provided by SACUA members.

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério Meireles Pinto
Faculty Senate Secretary

[University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:](#)

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."