

Minutes of Meeting: 11/10/2025

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs

Monday, November 10, 2025, 3:00pm

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Present: Derek Peterson (Chair), Rebekah Modrak (Immediate Past Chair), Melanie Tanielian, Heather O'Malley, Vilma Mesa, Susan Najita, Jesse Capecelatro, Kirsten Herold

Absent: Soumya Rangarajan (Vice Chair), Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary), Kentaro Toyama

Guests:

Dr. Oluwaferanmi Okanlami, Director, Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services;

Laura Blake Jones, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students;

Marita Ingelhart, Chair of the Student Relations Advisory Committee

Faculty Senate Office: Luke McCarthy, Meaghan Blanchard, Eric Vandenberghe

Press:

Maddyn Shapiro: Michigan Daily

Genevieve Monsma: University Record

3:00pm-3:45pm: Accommodations

Summary: This portion of the meeting was held in executive session.

Action: Discussion

3:45pm-4:01pm: Communications

Summary: This portion of the meeting was held in executive session.

Action: Discussion

4:01pm-4:03pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the 10/20/25 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

4:03pm-4:11pm: Chair's Update

Summary:

Chair Peterson provides the committee with an update on work completed since the last SACUA meeting, talks about the nine motions discussed at the November 3rd University Senate meeting, and shares an update that all nine motions passed, following the Senate meeting.

- The [University Senate Meeting](#) took place on 11/3/25. Nine motions were put forth. Voting concluded on Thursday evening and all nine motions passed.
- The Student Relations Advisory Committee sent a letter to President Grasso in response to his decisions regarding the updates to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- Chair Peterson met with former EVP Chatas and current interim EVP Hewlett prior to EVP Chatas' departure. The discussion focused on the proposed Investment Values Committee, as well as on-campus childcare.
- The [35th Annual Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom](#) took place on Thursday. The event was a rousing success with about 175 attendees in the room, and 286 viewing live online. Two children of Chandler Davis were in attendance for the lecture and the dinner that followed.
- Members of SACUA and the FSO visited the UM-Flint campus in October. The visit included meetings with Flint faculty governance leaders, faculty union leaders, and Chancellor Alexander. The visit concluded with a campus tour.
- The October [Political Speech and the Public Square](#) event took place on the Diag on October 21st. The subject was "Artificial Intelligence: Is It a Good Thing?" The next event will take place on the Diag at noon on Tuesday 11/18. The subject will be "Surveillance: Does It Make Us Safer?"
- The October [Faculty Work Retreats](#) were well attended. The November events will take place on 11/19 and 11/20 for those interested.
- Chair Peterson recently met with Michelle Casey of the Office of Ethics, Integrity, and Compliance. It is anticipated that representatives from that office will join a SACUA meeting in the Winter term.
- Chair Peterson met with VP Kolb and discussed an event showcasing the work UM faculty does with federal grant funds. Further planning for this winter term event will continue.
- Chair Peterson joined the 11/7 UM-Flint Faculty Senate meeting.
- Chair Peterson recently met with Regent Bernstein to discuss the Investment Values Committee.

Action: Update

4:11pm-4:19pm: SA Seat Reapportionment

Summary: Director McCarthy provides an overview of the Senate Assembly seat reapportionment process. Every three years a census is taken of the Faculty Senate Members, and the 77 Assembly seats are apportioned accordingly. The FSO has performed this census. The reapportionment will need to be approved by SACUA and the Senate Assembly. The result will need to be shared with the units in the Winter term so that the elections can take place for the Fall 2026 term.

Director McCarthy shares the results of the census and describes some of the challenges of the census. The Senate rules allow faculty with a 50/50 appointment in two units to decide which unit they wish to count towards.

The College of Engineering will lose one seat. UM-Flint will be gaining a seat. Director McCarthy provides further context.

Chair Peterson makes a motion to approve the reapportionment.
Member Mesa seconds the motion.

The motion is passed unanimously.

Action: Approval of reapportionment motion

4:19pm-4:35pm: SA Committee SOP

Summary: SACUA revisits the proposed Standard Operating Procedure on Senate Assembly Committee Composition. Chair McCarthy provides an overview of the substance and reason for this SOP. There currently is limited guidance on Senate Assembly Committee composition, and there are frequent questions that come during the nominating process. This SOP is meant to provide clarity on membership, the appointment process, and other logistical concerns.

Director McCarthy addresses questions regarding term limits raised by SACUA members. Student membership on specific committees is discussed, along with timing of roster updates. If passed, this would move to the Senate Assembly for their consideration

Chair Peterson moves to have this SOP approved.
Member Mesa seconds the motion.

The motion is passed unanimously.

Action: Approval of SOP

4:35pm-4:52pm: Assessment of Senate Votes and Forward Path

Summary: The University Senate Meeting voting results from the 11/3/25 meeting are discussed. This was the largest voter turnout both in total votes and percentage of eligible voters. Chair Peterson indicates the significance of this vote as showing the opinion of the faculty. Chair Peterson has sent the motions and voting results to each of the relevant individual members of the administration. Abstentions in the votes are briefly shared.

The Chair proceeds to go through each of the motions and SACUA discusses how to proceed forward.

- [**Motion 1: Motion to Make the Collegiate Travel Partners \(CTP\) Travel Service Optional**](#)
 - Results: Yes, 3350 (96.7%); No 116 (3.3%); Abstain 172- Motion PASSED

Chair Peterson and member Capecelatro will work to set up a meeting with interim CFO Hewlett. The ongoing CTP survey that the FSO and SACUA have been working on will continue, and the report will be updated.

- [**Motion 2: Resolution to End the “Pause” and Resume Gender Affirming Care, in Alignment with our University’s Values and the Mission of Michigan Medicine**](#)
 - Results: Yes, 2432 (81.4%); 555 (18.6%); Abstain 651 – Motion PASSED

Chair Peterson will meet with EVP Miller next month to discuss this matter further.

- [**Motion 3: Resolution to Reject Participation in the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education”**](#)
 - Results: Yes, 2978 (93.0%); 225 (7.0%); Abstain 435 – Motion PASSED

This sentiment has been conveyed to the Regents

- [**Motion 4: Resolution Demanding a Comprehensive Policy Addressing the Role of Generative Artificial Intelligence at the University of Michigan**](#)
 - Results: Yes, 2666 (86.1%); 429 (13.9%); Abstain 543 – Motion PASSED

Chair Peterson and the movant will meet with VP Pendse. There is a related committee that SACUA will be asked to recommend nominees.

- [**Motion 5: Call to Restore Funding for Consulting for Statistics, Computing, and Analytics Research \(CSCAR\)**](#)
 - Results: Yes, 2585 (90.2%); 281 (9.8%); Abstain 772 – Motion PASSED

Chair Peterson has written to VP Lupia. He will work to meet with him regarding this motion.

- [**Motion 6: A Resolution Asking the University to Invest the Necessary Resources to Make Our Digital Materials Accessible**](#)
 - *Results: Yes, 2716 (92.5%); 221 (7.5%); Abstain 701 – Motion PASSED*

Members discuss the need for discipline-specific assistance. Members discuss the varied experiences within their units.

- [**Motion 7: Motion to Restore Fair Rules and Rule of Law to the University**](#)
 - *Results: Yes, 2478 (88.4%); 325 (11.6%); Abstain 835 – Motion PASSED*

SRAC has responded to President Grasso's letter regarding the changes to the SSRR and are awaiting a response. Regarding the grievance process, a report is imminent from the Provost's Office.

- [**Motion 8: Resolution Regarding New H-1B Policies**](#)
 - *Results: Yes, 2796 (92.6%); 224 (7.4%); Abstain 618 – Motion PASSED*

This sentiment has been conveyed to the Regents.

- [**Motion 9: Statement Concerning the Presidential Search Committee**](#)
 - *Results: Yes, 2592 (88.4%); 339 (11.6%); Abstain 707 – Motion PASSED*

This sentiment has been conveyed to the Regents. The Dearborn Chancellor Search Committee is discussed. SACUA's recommendations were not selected. Director McCarthy is following up on this.

A member suggests that Chair Peterson write to the Faculty Senate to provide an update on how he and SACUA are following up on these passed motions.

Action: Discussion

4:52pm: New Business

Summary: A member suggests, as a topic for the next meeting, that SACUA discuss the University's discipline of student protestors, and the related disciplinary hearings, which have been the subject of recent *Daily* coverage and numerous emails from the community that SACUA has received. SACUA agreed to include the topic on the agenda for its next meeting.

Action: Discussion

4:55pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério Meireles Pinto
Faculty Senate Secretary

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."