

Minutes of Meeting: 12/1/2025
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, December 1, 2025, 3:00pm
The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Present: Derek Peterson (Chair), Soumya Rangarajan (Vice Chair), Heather O'Malley, Vilma Mesa, Kentaro Toyama, Kirsten Herold, Susan Najita, Jesse Capecelatro, Rebekah Modrak (Immediate Past Chair)

Absent: Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary), Melanie Tanielian

Guests:

Regent Paul Brown

Provost Laurie McCauley

Special Counsel to the Provost and Associate General Counsel Christine Gerdes

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

Press:

Michigan Daily -- Kathryn Pyne and Isabella Puccio
Record -- Genevieve Monsma

3:00pm-4:03pm: Guest: Regent Paul Brown

Summary: Introductions are made. Chair Peterson thanks Regent Brown for attending the meeting. Chair Peterson provides Regent Brown with an overview of the most recent [University Senate](#) meeting that took place on November 3, 2025. Discussion ensues on the nine motions that passed:

[Motion 1: Motion to Make the Collegiate Travel Partners \(CTP\) Travel Service Optional](#)

This vote had the most votes of any in recorded University Senate history at UM. Members of SACUA are in contact with interim EVP Hewlett and his team. Regent Brown indicates that there has been discussion about this subject on the Board. He asks the faculty about their impressions of CTP. Members proceed to describe issues that the system presents. A member indicates that the contract with CTP may save money centrally, but that costs are increased for individual faculty. Another member describes the increase in time that is required using the system to ensure that they are finding the best price. It is noted that faculty have a fiduciary duty to find the best price for travel when utilizing research dollars.

[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](#)

Regent Brown voices his support for this motion. He provides the backstory for how this decision was presented to the Board. Discussion ensues on the legality of this decision. Chair Peterson and others will meet with EVP Miller in the coming weeks regarding this motion.

[Motion 3: Resolution to Reject Participation in the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education”](#)

Chair Peterson indicates that the faculty are in opposition to the university agreeing to such a compact. Regent Brown agrees that such a compact is not in the best interest of the university.

[Motion 4: Resolution Demanding a Comprehensive Policy Addressing the Role of Generative Artificial Intelligence at the University of Michigan](#)

Chair Peterson indicates that the proliferation of artificial intelligence is fundamentally altering the way faculty teach, and the work that students complete. The motion calls for safeguards, guidance, and resources to preserve the academic mission of the university. Regent Brown notes the significance of AI and indicates that the use of AI should be tailored to each discipline. He notes that it may be appropriate to utilize in some areas, and perhaps not at all in others. Chair Peterson talks about a recently formed committee on AI in education that has been jointly formed by Provost McCauley and VP Pendse.

[Motion 5: Call to Restore Funding for Consulting for Statistics, Computing, and Analytics Research \(CSCAR\)](#)

Chair Peterson has communicated this sentiment to VP Lupia and will be following up. Members provide Regent Brown with context for the value this service provided. A member discusses the need for transparency in decision-making by leadership.

[Motion 6: A Resolution Asking the University to Invest the Necessary Resources to Make Our Digital Materials Accessible](#)

Faculty are required to meet certain ADA compliance metrics by April. This will require making their teaching materials more accessible within the parameters set forth by the government. This motion is calling for resources to be provided to assist faculty in this undertaking. SACUA members describe some of the challenges. It is noted that there is a desire to be more accessible, and that it is imperative that the process be more streamlined.

[Motion 7: Motion to Restore Fair Rules and Rule of Law to the University](#)

This motion focuses on the July 2024 changes by the Board of Regents to the SSRR, as well as issues with the faculty grievance process. SACUA members provide context for some of the ongoing issues with the SSRR process. The restoration of the appeals panel by the Board of Regents earlier this term was a positive step, and faculty offer other areas that could be

improved.

Regarding the faculty grievance process, faculty voice concerns regarding how the process is currently constituted. Concerns are raised about the enforceability of GHB decisions, as well as having decisions overturned at higher levels.

Discussion ensues on the need for faculty input on decisions made at the highest level of the university. Opinions are offered on the model that is most appropriate.

[Motion 8: Resolution Regarding New H-1B Policies](#)

This motion is briefly discussed. Faculty express their support for colleagues and community members affected by changes by the federal government to the new H-1B policies.

[Motion 9: Statement Concerning the Presidential Search Committee](#)

This motion calls for members of faculty governance to be directly involved in executive search processes. Regent Brown provides context as to how the current search committee was constituted. Confidentiality is discussed with differing opinions offered as to its value in a search process.

The presidential search is discussed briefly, with a potential timeline offered.

Action: Discussion

4:03pm-4:50pm: Guest: Provost Laurie McCauley

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

Action: Discussion

4:50pm: 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 polices 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."