

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: December 8, 2025

Circulated: January 9, 2026

Approved: January 12, 2026

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), Melanie Tanielian

Absent: Kentaro Toyama

Press:

Genevieve Monsma – *University Record*

Daniela Hallack and Erin Chow – *Michigan Daily*

Guests:

Domenico Grasso, President of the University of Michigan

Stephen Yaros, Chief of Staff, Office of the President

Kenneth Kettenbeil, Senior Advisor to the President, Office of the President

3:01 Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes

The meeting minutes from 11/17/2025 and 12/1/2025 were approved.

3:02 SACUA Chair Update

- Chair Peterson recently met with Regent Behm to discuss and consider next steps for the [nine motions recently approved at the November Faculty Senate meeting](#).
- As follow-up to recent SACUA and SRAC discussions, a meeting is being planned to discuss the OSCR procedures for student protestors, with attendees to include President Grasso, SACUA Chair Derek Peterson, SRAC Chair Marita Inglehart, and several other SRAC members.
- Interim DPSS Chief Rick Arnold will attend the February 23rd Senate Assembly meeting to discuss security policy and surveillance. He is unavailable to attend the December 15th Senate Assembly meeting. Senate Assembly will continue with its plans to have an initial discussion of security policy on December 15th.
- Chair Peterson heard from Regent Brown that he appreciated his visit to SACUA on December 1st and would welcome future visits to SACUA.
- On December 2, the most recent [Political Speech and the Public Square](#) event was held on the topic of “Surveillance: Does it Make Us Safer?” with moderator Mira Edmonds. The event had an audience of about twenty in-person attendees and [was reported on by the Michigan Daily](#). In addition, the series is important for maintaining the Diag as a space for open dialog and protest.
- On December 4th, Senate Assembly committee chairs met to discuss the work of

their committees. Following this meeting, one action item will be the creation of a shared virtual platform where committee chairs and SACUA liaisons can provide brief updates, communicate across committees, and make plans to collaborate.

- Earlier today at 7:30 a.m., the first of a series of [Clinical Faculty / Faculty Senate Dialogues](#) was held to help the Faculty Senate better understand the concerns, issues, and perspectives of clinical faculty. It was a productive session, and meeting attendees included four pediatric clinical faculty, Vice Chair Soumya Ragarajan, Chair Derek Peterson, MAAC Chair John Magee, FSO Director Luke McCarthy, and FSO Project Lead Meaghan Blanchard. The next session in the series will focus on clinical faculty with specialties in adult medicine. Clinical faculty face unique pressures, and supervisors may not provide clinicians with the time needed to be engaged with faculty government. Clinicians are fully enfranchised members of the Faculty Senate.
- SACUA member Kirsten Herold shared that the December 4th Townhall on Work Connections was well attended, with 100 people in-person or on zoom. Powerful testimonials were provided, and both Regent Brown and Regent Ilitch attended and asked questions. Concerns about Work Connections are finally being heard by leadership. One take away was that individuals without the needed qualifications were making Work Connections decisions instead of honoring the expertise of Michigan Medicine faculty. Appreciation was shared for a recent [Michigan Daily article on Work Connections](#) that has also helped raise awareness.
- Kirsten Herold is taking the place of Vilma Mesa as SACUA representative on the Total Worker Health Advisory Committee, created to focus on Work Connections. Kirsten attended her first meeting on the committee and was the only faculty member present. There was a robust discussion at the meeting as well as a lengthy slide presentation.

3:22 Pre-Guest Discussion

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

3:30 Guest: President Domenico Grasso

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

4:16 SA Agenda Approval

- The draft Senate Assembly agenda for the December 15th meeting was reviewed.
- SACUA discussed the 4 pm agenda item, “On-Campus Security Cameras.” Interim DPSS Chief Rick Arnold is unavailable to attend SA in December, but will hopefully attend in February. The four SACUA-nominated faculty serving on the DPSS Advisory Committee – Mira Edmonds, Andre Monteiro Da Rocha, Michael Steinberg, and Craig Wilkins – will attend the December SA meeting, allowing Senate Assembly to offer advice to these four faculty government representatives. With the upcoming December 9th release of the 2025-2026 U-M faculty and staff salary report, SACUA can better assess the extent of new hiring of DPSS officers.
- SACUA discussed the 3:30 SA agenda item, President Domenico Grasso’s visit to SA. Potential issues to be raised during President Grasso’s visit include Work Connections, academic freedom and campus surveillance, and the OSCR

proceedings.

Approval: Vilma Mesa moved and Soumya Rangarajan seconded a motion to approve the Senate Assembly agenda as circulated. The motion passed unanimously.

4:25 Discussion of Faculty Grievance Procedure Recommendations

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

4:50 New Business

- There was not time to discuss new business.
- **Action Items:** Possible agenda items for future SACUA meetings were briefly mentioned and include, 1) policies for open versus executive session for executive officers, regents, and other SACUA guests, and 2) next steps for the faculty grievance procedure recommendations.

4:50 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério Meireles Pinto
Faculty Senate Secretary

Addendum

SACUA Actions

Between regular meetings, SACUA has performed the following actions by electronic vote that should be included in the SACUA minutes:

- On December 11, 2025, SACUA approved its nomination of the following faculty to serve on a new academic accommodations advisory committee being organized by the Provost's Office:
 - **Laura Alford**, Lecturer IV in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, College of Engineering
 - **Marita Inglehart**, University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, Professor of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine, School of Dentistry
 - **Gavin LaRose**, Teaching Professor, Karen Rhea Collegiate Lecturer, Math Technology Arch Mage, Mathematics, Lecturer IV in Mathematics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Information Services Consultant
 - **Shelly Schreier**, Neil M Kalter Collegiate Lecturer, Teaching Professor and Lecturer IV in Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - **Nicole Tuttle**, Lecturer IV in Chemistry and Lecturer IV in Comprehensive Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - **Colleen van Lent**, Lecturer IV in Information, School of Information

- On December 18, 2025, SACUA approved its nomination of the following faculty for a mental health advisory community group being organized in connection with M Healthy:
 - **Christina Snider**, Associate Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, The University of Michigan-Flint
 - **Shahzad Mian**, F. Bruce Fralick Professor of Ophthalmology, Chair of Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Director, Kellogg Eye Center
 - **John Tropman**, Henry J Meyer Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Social Work and Professor Emeritus of Social Work, School of Social Work
 - **Mitchel Sollenberger**, Professor of Political Science, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences and Letters, The University of Michigan-Dearborn
- On December 19, 2025, SACUA approved a “SACUA Response to the Faculty Grievance Procedure Working Group Report of 30 June 2025.” SACUA’s approved response was then promptly delivered on December 19th to the Provost’s Office for consideration.

[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.”