

Motions

**The University of Michigan
University Senate
Motion #11042024-1**

Motion 1: Call to Pause Implementation of the Revised Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities

WHEREAS, for the Ann Arbor campus, the *Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities* “describes possible behaviors which are inconsistent with the values of the University community; it outlines procedures to respond to such behaviors; and it suggests possible sanctions/interventions which are intended to educate and to safeguard members of the University community” (*Statement*, Art. I);

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section J of the *Statement* provides that “the Statement will be open for amendments every three years” and that “the Board of Regents has provided the Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC) of the Senate Assembly with primary oversight of the review,” with SRAC being a Faculty Senate committee under the oversight of the elected faculty members of the Senate Assembly;

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section J of the *Statement* further provides that SRAC shall oversee the amendment process with broad community input from the University’s executive officers [including the Vice President of Student Life (VPSL) and the General Counsel], students through Central Student Government (CSG), and the faculty through the Senate Assembly;

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section J of the *Statement* further provides that an off-cycle amendment period may occur, if necessary, provided there has been unanimous agreement to do so by the VPSL, the SRAC Chair, and the CSG President;

WHEREAS, the *Statement*’s amendment process was approved by the Board of Regents in 1999 in response to a student-led effort to make the *Statement* a dynamic, living document developed through a community process—permitting everyone to share ownership—rather than being a code of conduct imposed top-down from the Regents;

WHEREAS, in its July 2024 meeting, the Board of Regents revised the *Statement* without consultation with CSG or Faculty Senate leadership—including the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA), the Senate Assembly, or SRAC—with those revisions including the following:

- Adds that the “University,” as separate from the students, staff, or faculty of the University, can file a complaint against students, without providing any clarity regarding who can exercise this authority and what accountability they have;

- Removes the right of the student possibly being sanctioned to offer suggestions regarding the appropriate remedy, should they accept responsibility for the alleged misconduct, so as to support involving the student in an educational opportunity;
- Shortens the timing for students to respond to the possibility of serious sanctions, including expulsion;
- Effectively removes the option of including a student panel to determine whether misconduct has occurred (thereby placing a Hearing decision in the hands of a single staff Resolution Officer);
- Eliminates the Appeals Board that considered appeals, which included student, faculty, and administration representation, thereby no longer including faculty in the appeals process (thereby placing an appeals decision in the hands of only the VPSL);
- Makes the appeals process conditional upon staff members within the U-M administration first determining for the student whether that student's appeal will be submitted to the VPSL for consideration;

WHEREAS, all of the above occurred without any discussion with SACUA, the Senate Assembly, or SRAC of why the above changes were appropriate, including the elimination of faculty involvement in the appeals process;

WHEREAS, the regular tri-annual amendment process, with SRAC oversight, is occurring this academic year and has already begun;

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024, the Senate Assembly approved a resolution calling upon the University's administration to pause the implementation of the revised *Statement*, and asking that the administration respect the collaborative role of students, staff, and faculty in formulating changes to the *Statement* through the regular amendment process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Senate calls upon the University's administration to pause implementation of the revised *Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, and asks that the administration respect the collaborative role of students, staff, and faculty in formulating changes to this policy, following the process now under way under the leadership of the Student Relations Advisory Committee.

Approved by SACUA on October 21, 2024 for consideration by the University Senate

SACUA Approval Certified by Rebekah Modrak, SACUA Chair, Professor of Art and Design, Penny W Stamps School of Art and Design

Approved by the Senate Assembly on October 31, 2024 for consideration by the University Senate

Results: Yes, 1599; No 394; Abstain 178- Motion PASSED

Link to event page: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/University-Senate-Agenda-2024-11-4-1.pdf>

Link to news item: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu/university-senate-motions-and-voting-results-from-the-november-4-2024-meeting/>