

**The University of Michigan
University Senate
Motion #11042024-3**

Motion 3: Motion to Censure the University of Michigan Regents

WHEREAS, the Regents have, on multiple occasions, denied requests submitted by the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) asking that the SACUA Chair, the elected representative of the faculty of the university, be granted regular, scheduled time at Regent meetings;

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2024, the Regents quietly implemented significant changes to [SPG 601.41, "Use of University of Michigan Facilities,"](#) which affect speech on campus, while ignoring input with respect to a related draft policy that was not instated, without any further consultation with faculty, and without any other communication to the university community;

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2024, the Regents unilaterally [amended](#) the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR) off-cycle, without following the Regents' own previously adopted policy, which states, "The Vice President of Student Life, Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC) Chair, and the CSG President may unanimously agree to have an off-cycle amendment period if necessary. The Board of Regents has provided the SRAC of the Senate Assembly with primary oversight of the review."; and in doing so made changes to the SSRR which effectively grant the Regents greater ability to apply penalties to students arbitrarily;

WHEREAS, the Regents approved a new "institutional neutrality" bylaw, ignoring the University President's and SACUA's respective requests that it be reviewed by the Senate Assembly before enactment;

WHEREAS, the Regents have fostered a climate of repression at the university, by authorizing [police violence](#) against students; the use of [chemical irritants](#) against students, faculty, and staff at protests; [hiring private security](#) which have maintained a presence on campus since the spring; increased surveillance and intimidation of students on and off campus; enlisting [Student Life staff](#) in the policing of students; and [disciplinary action](#), campus bans, employment bans, and formal criminal charges to repress student activism and political speech on campus;

WHEREAS, the above, taken as a whole, demonstrate that the Regents have little inclination to engage in shared governance and are increasingly exhibiting authoritarian tendencies antithetical to a public university in a democratic nation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate moves to censure the Regents of the University of Michigan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate calls on the Regents of the University of Michigan to honor the principles of shared governance (as [outlined](#) by the American Association

of University Professors), a first step toward which would be to meet with the Senate Assembly with regard to the above issues;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate demands, in the name of the values on which the United States and its public universities were founded, that the Regents cease the use of surveillance, policing, physical violence, and legal power as mechanisms to silence speech.

Movant:

Kentaro Toyama, W K Kellogg Professor of Community Information and Professor of Information, School of Information

Supporting Members:

Julie Boland, Professor of Linguistics, Professor of Psychology and Associate Chair, Department of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Stephen Ward, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, Director Academic Program, Semester in Detroit Program in the Residential College, Associate Professor in the Residential College and Associate Director of Faculty, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Results: Yes, 1387; No 559; Abstain 225- 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/>