

**Motion 3 10-4-21**

WHEREAS instructors have primary responsibility for curriculum, subject matter, and *methods of instruction*; and

WHEREAS the [Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities](#) by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) asserts that "The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and *methods of instruction*" (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS the [University of Michigan Faculty Handbook](#), published by the Office of the Provost, also states, "The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and *methods of instruction*" (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS "methods of instruction" include the modality in which instruction is delivered; and

WHEREAS current students, while strongly desiring an in-person residential experience, are also open to their courses involving a mix of in-person and online methods of instruction; and

WHEREAS evaluation, feedback, and course-correction regarding instruction should occur through existing departmental channels such as directors of undergraduate/graduate studies, deans, chairs, course evaluations, peer faculty feedback, and elected curriculum committees; and

WHEREAS the great majority of instructors are committed to offering high-quality instruction for students and give careful thought to methods of instruction; and

WHEREAS the faculty insist on their autonomy with respect to teaching; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the University's current policy, which effectively coerces an in-person method of instruction, denies a fundamental prerogative of the faculty and flouts the stated views of the AAUP and the U-M Office of the Provost; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the University immediately re-evaluate and adjust its policy for in-person instruction, so as to better incorporate the legitimate input of the faculty.

Motion Submitted by:

Kentaro Toyama, W K Kellogg Professor of Community Information, School of Information ([toyama@umich.edu](mailto:toyama@umich.edu))

Co-sponsors:

Valerie Traub, Adrienne Rich Distinguished Professor of English & Women's and Gender Studies and Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies, LSA ([traubv@umich.edu](mailto:traubv@umich.edu))

Yi-Li Wu, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and History, LSA ([yiliwu@umich.edu](mailto:yiliwu@umich.edu))

Su'ad Abdul Khabeer, Associate Professor, American Culture, LSA ([drsquad@umich.edu](mailto:drsquad@umich.edu))

Fred M. Feinberg, Handleman Professor and Area Chair, Marketing, Ross School of Business and Professor of Statistics, Department of Statistics ([feinf@umich.edu](mailto:feinf@umich.edu))

John Whittier-Ferguson, Professor of English, LSA ([johnaw@umich.edu](mailto:johnaw@umich.edu))

A total of 611 votes were cast in support of Motion 3 and a total of 403 votes were cast in opposition. The motion passed. 64 abstentions were recorded.

Link to News Item: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu/17002-2/>