



Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP) Minutes for 1/9/25 Meeting

Meeting information:

Circulated: 2/19/26

Approved: 2/25/26

Members present: Ken Alfano, Sun-Yung Bak, Audrey Bennett, Jonathan Brennan (Chair), James Gulvas, Neil Marsh, Nick Montgomery, Mitchel Sollenberger, Lynette Hoelter,

Members absent: Howard Bromberg, David Potter

Faculty Senate Office staff present: Luke McCarthy, Eric Vandenberghe

Minutes:

12:01pm-12:04pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the December meeting are approved.

12:04pm-12:43pm: Review previous bylaws brainstorm

Summary: Chair Brennan shares a document that reviews the key points from the conversation at the last RPP meeting in December.

The committee continues discussing points brought up at the prior meeting. It is clarified that the Faculty Senate at UM only applies when an issue is across multiple units.

A member suggests that the Faculty Senate Office could provide workshops for units to understand their bylaws, including what should be in them, and ensuring they have the tools to make their desired changes.

A member offers their experience at another institution. At that institution, the bylaw guidelines are approved by the Faculty Senate. Another member shares the "[Principles of Faculty Involvement in Institutional & Academic Unit Governance at the University of Michigan](#)." This was put together by SACUA and the Provost's Office.

A member offers their experience at the Dearborn campus. Campus-wide promotion and tenure guidelines were created and provided to each unit. A promotion rejection triggers a requirement for review boards to complete a document that lays out their rationale. These guidelines were developed by an ad hoc committee formed by the UM-D Provost's Office and included several faculty members. Another committee is discussed that focuses on curriculum at UM-D and includes the registrar's office, Provost Office, faculty, and other related groups.

A member describes their unit's internal procedures, and areas that are problematic. The member describes a lack of transparency as to what role the Provost's Office plays in reviewing promotion cases. Further issues are discussed.



A member discusses the structure of faculty governance at UM. The advisory committees are tied to individual UM leaders. Other institutions have committees that are advisory on specific subject matters. Is this a better structure? There are certain advisory committees that can struggle to find content for their meetings, and focusing on specific subject matters would provide clear expectations.

Action: Discussion

12:43pm-12:48pm: Set priorities for bylaws-related issues

Summary: The Regents are planning to have a bylaw revision period. The Chair discusses discussions held by the Secretary of the University Advisory Committee on this subject. It is expected to begin in the Winter term. The committee discusses priorities for the remainder of the semester. The February meeting will focus on points 1 and 4. The March meeting will focus on points 2 and 3. The April meeting will tie up loose ends and have the committee vote on the recommendations the committee generates.

Action: Discussion

12:48pm-12:53pm: New Business

Summary: A member suggests a Faculty Senate oversight committee that reviews merit raise considerations. They state that this would be a good way to combat inequity at UM.

Action: Discussion

12:53pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office