

Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 12/19/25

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Approved: 2/2/26

Present: Francine Dolins (Chair), Barbara Klein, Liz Rohan, Vilma Mesa (SACUA Liaison), VP Jon Kinsey

Absent: Samantha Kreklau, Rashmi Rama, Jonathan Shillingford, John Tropman, Beth Wilensky, Jay Winkler

Guests: Jon Brennan, Chair of the RPP

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

3:04pm-3:08pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the November SAC meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

3:08pm-3:35pm: Update from VP Jon Kinsey

Summary: VP Kinsey provides an update to the committee.

The presidential search continues. The tentative timeline includes an announcement of the new president in January, with that individual starting in the role in May.

The head football coach hiring search is ongoing. The nature of the previous coach being let go is discussed. An investigation into the Athletics Department is underway. President Grasso's [12/17 message to the community](#) is discussed. Members discuss this as an embarrassing episode that has made international headlines. VP Kinsey indicates that the investigation is expected to be completed in January or February tentatively. Members discussed the need to balance expediency and character.

A member discusses the Chancellor search at UM-Dearborn. The member discusses the fact that the student government President was left off the search committee. The member proceeds to describe concerns around the search overall and suggests a more democratic process.

The federal government recently [announced](#) an executive order meant to cut federal funding to hospitals that perform gender-affirming care for minors. Discussion ensues by membership on the financial setbacks the UM hospital system would experience, as well as the harm done to those that count on that care.

VP Lupia will come to discuss the federal research enterprise at an upcoming meeting.

Regents will join future meetings once the new UM President is announced.

Action: Updates

3:35pm-3:53pm: Federal Government: Northwestern University [recent settlement](#)

Summary: The Chair provides the committee with an overview of this topic. The committee describes some of the issues that the leadership needs to balance. This has weighed on the minds of administrators across the country, and UM is no different. Federal dollars lost equate to jobs lost, and this is to be balanced with maintaining academic integrity.

VP Kinsey describes actions taken by President Grasso to defend academic freedom. A member brings up the Spring vote by the University Senate to have UM explore joining a defense compact with other Big Ten schools. This has not progressed in that exact way, but the schools are working together. A member suggests that collective action is necessary, and that we need to be proactive. A member indicates the need for empathy for colleagues. Further discussion takes place.

Action: Discussion

3:54pm-4:21pm: Federal Executive Order: [ENSURING A NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE](#)

Summary: The Chair introduces this topic. The federal government issued an executive order limiting State ability to regulate Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Committee members provide their perspectives on AI. It can be innovative, but there are competing factors that need to be considered. The environment and critical thinking can be negatively impacted. Some students are writing with AI, and some faculty are grading with AI.

A member indicates trepidation around UM's embrace of AI and calls for further regulation and safeguarding. The negative impact on teaching is discussed. The creep of capitalism into higher education is discussed.

The politics of federal AI regulation is discussed. There is currently not enough. More will likely come down in the future. A member mentions Europe's regulations as something the US could consider as a model.

There is an ongoing task force formed by the Provost's Office and CIO's Office that is meant to look at AI in education. Their work will hopefully provide more clarity and lead to more resources for safeguards at UM.

VP Kinsey suggests that faculty will be making pedagogical decisions when it comes to AI. He indicates The Regents are having their 3-day retreat in January in Palo Alto. The first day is on the topic of AI.

Action: discussion



4:21pm-4:27pm: Surveillance cameras on campus

Summary: Surveillance cameras on campus was a topic discussed at the most recent Senate Assembly meeting. A question is asked on if there are cameras on the Flint and Dearborn campuses.

The recent shooting at Brown University is discussed. There are cameras outside the buildings, but not many inside the building. Members ask if these cameras are preventative or reactive. A member discusses that different data is presented by different parties. It would be good to know the data used by the decision-makers at UM to understand why these cameras are going into place. Recent cases that have gone through the SSRR process are discussed. This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

Action: Discussion

4:27pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office