



**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Senate Assembly

Monday, January 26, 2026, 3:15-5:00 p.m.

The Hybrid meeting was held in 2000 University Hall, Ruthven and Zoom

Minutes: 01/26/2026

Circulated: 02/19/2026

Approved: 02/23/2026

**In-person attendees:** Hannah Bodnar (nonvoting), Francine Dolins, Marita Inglehart (nonvoting), Rebekah Modrak, Derek Peterson, Becky Peterson (nonvoting), Soumya Rangarajan, Michael Schubnell, Lauren Smith, Craig Smith, Deirdre Spencer (nonvoting), Kentaro Toyama, Ashu Tripathi, Meaghan Blanchard (nonvoting), Ann Marshall (nonvoting), Luke McCarthy (nonvoting), Eric Vandenberghe (nonvoting).

**Virtual attendees:** Keith Aaronson, Charlotte Karem Albrecht, Christina Aplin-Snyder, Mousumi Banerjee, Sybil Biermann, Jade Burns, Deepa Butoliya, William Calvo-Quiros, Jesse Capecealatro, Yi-Su Chen, Amy I-Lin Cheng, Meghan Courtney, Robert Duncan, Wessam Elmelig, Johannes Foufopoulos, Terri Friedline, Caren Goldberg, James Gulvas, Mercy Hanson, Joshua Hausman, Sarah Hawley, Kirsten Herold, Yihe Huang, Kevin Joiner, Kim Kearfott, Mick Kennedy, Shake Ketefian (nonvoting), Brad Killaly, Yongqing Li, Leah Litman, Charles Lwanga, John Magee, Jakob McSparron, Vilma Mesa, Zetian Mi, Shahzad Mian, Genevieve Monsma (nonvoting), Susan Najita, Pamela Pennock, Ivette Perfecto, Becky Peterson (nonvoting), Rogério Pinto (Senate Secretary, nonvoting), Stacy Rosenbaum, Kimberly Saks, Suzanne Selig (nonvoting), Albert Shih, Ian Kin-Yee Shin, Quentin Stout, Krithika Suresh, Melanie Tanielian, Elizabeth Viglianti, Apryl Williams, Jason Young, Paul Zimmerman.

**Press:**

Genevieve Monsma – The University Record

Hannah Bodnar – The Michigan Daily

**3:21 pm Come to order**

- The meeting was called to order and the minutes from 12/15/2025 were approved.

**3:17 pm Senate Assembly (SA) Chair Update**

- As follow-up from the prior SA meeting, Chair Peterson scheduled a meeting with President Grasso to discuss President Grasso's offer to respond to the Daily reporting about OSCR proceedings. In addition, President Grasso is scheduled to meet with the movants of [motion 4](#), a University Senate resolution on gender-based violence and discrimination passed in 2024.
- As follow-up from SA's December discussion of U-M surveillance, Interim DPSS Chief Rick Arnold will be a guest of the Senate Assembly in February to discuss [STEP](#) and the proliferation of surveillance at U-M. Chair Peterson is also working with Mike Steinberg, Craig Smith, and Mira Edmonds to put together a white paper on surveillance issues.



Relatedly, AAUP President Todd Wolfson sent a letter, dated January 26th, 2026, to President Grasso communicating deep reservations about the abundance of security at U-M. Chair Peterson shared this letter with the Senate Assembly by email.

- Chair Peterson reached out to the Chair of the Faculty Senate at the University of Minnesota to offer support regarding the recent events in Minneapolis. Whether here or in Minneapolis, a vigorous plan is needed to support international faculty, staff, and students from the threat of ICE.

**Action Item:** Chair Peterson will speak to the OGC to call attention to the ongoing threat of ICE deployment in the Ann Arbor area.

- Appreciation was shared for all who attended the reception for President-Elect Kent Syverud held on January 22nd. SACUA passed a resolution [welcoming President-Elect Syverud to the University of Michigan](#).
- Two January Faculty Work Retreats, sponsored by the Office of the Provost and FSO, were held with about thirty people attending to work together and share a meal together. Provost McCauley attended the January 22nd event and spent about an hour having lunch with faculty attendees. The [next work retreats](#) will be held in February, and all faculty are invited to participate.
- The next [Clinical Faculty/Faculty Senate Dialogues will be held on February 20th](#) at 7:00 a.m. at University Hospital South.
- The Protections for Faculty Working group is planning an event in collaboration with the Michigan News team (within the Office of the VP of Communications) to support faculty with successful media strategies, especially with how to deal with potentially aggressive reporters. More details about the event will be forthcoming.
- Chair Peterson met with Mika LaVaque-Manty, Chair of the AI in Education Working Group. The working group has been asked to complete its work at a rapid pace, with a deadline of April. Chair Peterson will talk with the Provost about the working group and he has also invited members of the working group to meet with SACUA at an upcoming meeting.
- Nominations are being received until mid-February for the open SACUA seat, term ending on April 30, 2026, formerly held by Heather O'Malley. In addition, nominations and self-nominations are being sought until February 20th for this year's 2026 SACUA election. There are three open seats, each to serve three-year terms. Both Chair Peterson and Vice Chair Rangarajan offered to speak with anyone considering running for SACUA.
- Appreciation was shared for Kentara Toyama for stepping in on short notice to serve as Chair of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee for the remainder of the academic term.
- [Maize and Blue Courage](#) is sponsoring a February 10th, 2026, 7-8 pm webinar, [Advocating for Academic Freedom](#). The keynote will be delivered by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, and additional speakers include professors Samuel Bagenstos, Kentaro Toyama, and Jesse Capecelatro, among others.

### **3:36 pm Report, Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC), Chair Marita Inglehart**

- SRAC Chair Marita Inglehart provided a report on the recent activities of the [Student Relations Advisory Committee \(SRAC\)](#), and its work to advise and consult with the Vice President of Student Life (VPSL). The [2025-2026 SRAC charge](#) was reviewed, which



calls for SRAC to consider amendments to the [Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SSRR\)](#) and to provide more faculty input on the processes of the [Office of Student Conflict Resolution \(OSCR\)](#), among other items.

- **History of SSRR Changes:** Before July 18, 2024, complaints could be brought by students, staff, and faculty. On July 18, 2024, the Regents amended the SSRR so that the University of Michigan could submit complaints against students and student groups.
- **Two problems** with these changes are, 1) the SSRR states that SRAC amends the SSRR through a 3-year cycle with off cycle amendments possible, and 2) allowing the university to bring complaints dramatically changes the process and power dynamics.

#### **SRAC Actions:**

- 1) In August 2024, SRAC sent a letter to the U-M president and Regents requesting that they pause the SSRR changes until the regularly scheduled three-year amendment process could begin in fall 2024. The administration’s response was “no” to the requests.
- 2) SRAC discussed nineteen SSRR amendments in many sessions and, on February 26, 2025, SRAC sent a memo to VP Martino Harmon titled “SRAC Recommendations: 2024-2025 Proposed Amendments to the Statement.”
  - The nineteen amendments were based on input from students, staff, and faculty. An overview document was sent that explained each SSRR section to be amended, listed the current and proposed language, and provided SRAC voting results for each of the amendments. The SSRR states that a response needs to be provided to SRAC at least two weeks before the end of the winter term.
  - No response was received until fall 2025.
  - **Rejection:** ten of the nineteen amendments were rejected, three approved, and an additional five changes in language were made, with one more under consideration.
  - The president promised to meet with the SRAC chair and two SRAC members, but this has not yet happened.

#### **Lessons Learned:**

- Meanwhile, eleven OSCR cases related to student protests over the war in Palestine were pursued by the university under the old SSRR, such that:
  - The cases were brought 14-16 months after the incident (SSRR allows a timeline for up to six months)
  - No student panel was ever allowed to convene even though the SSRR gives students this option.
  - The resolution coordinator should be neutral, but this was not the case.

#### **Current Efforts:**

- SRAC requested that CSG and VPSL Harmon agree to an off-cycle amendment process.
- Nine recommended amendments have been identified, and there is a survey to gather input about the amendments from SRAC faculty and student members, as well as from VPSL Harmon.

### **Senate Assembly Discussion on SRAC Report**

- A U-M Dearborn faculty asked what the administration’s motive was and how might the university benefit from seemingly criminalization of students? SRAC Chair Marita Inglehart replied that, while she can’t speak to the university’s motivation, when Marita Inglehart served on the OSCR Appeals Board, she observed that the suspension of the student protestors was meant as threatening and to chill speech such that no student would dare to protest. Why give a student who said, “never again a holocaust” a two-year suspension?
- An LSA faculty shared appreciation for the work of the committee and asked, 1) what impact these processes are having on students and, 2) whether an open letter (as opposed to closed) had been considered? Marita Inglehart responded that two of the eleven students had reached out to her and that the impact on one of the students had been very tough and had impacted the graduate student’s job prospect. Marita Inglehart remarked this is not how a university should treat its students and, as a mother, she is even more appalled, and also shared support for an open letter and also for having a lawyer serve as an SRAC committee member.
- A Stamps faculty also communicated support for an open letter and suggested that the letter might appear in the Chronicle of Higher Ed or similar publication. In addition, students had shared with the faculty that they could not post any materials on their dorm room doors.
- An Education faculty raised concerns that similar problematic issues with investigative and appeal processes might exist in other U-M policies. Chair Inglehart echoed these concerns.

**Action Item:** Senate Assembly Chair Derek Peterson remarked that this would not be the last time these matters were discussed, and further actions, such as a resolution, were being considered.

#### **4:05 pm Report, Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC), Chair Becky Peterson**

- FAAC Chair Becky Peterson provided a report on the recent activities of the [Financial Affairs Advisory Committee](#) and its work to advise and consult with the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (EVPCFO). The office has broad purview and oversees Facilities & Operations, Finance, Staff Ombuds, Investment, University Human Resources, the Shared Services Center, Campus Sustainability, and the Office of Planning and Strategic Initiatives (see [organizational chart](#)). Bobby Hewlett is the interim EVPCFO. FAAC’s approach is to gather questions from committee members, to have speakers come in, and to push the CFO very hard while also maintaining a good working relationship.
- Highlights of FAAC’s work include:
  - **Investments:** The university is in a strong financial position, with a high bond rating and a \$21.2 billion endowment. A Senate Assembly working group of faculty have brought a proposal to FAAC to create an “Investment Values Committee” to better communicate how this 21 billion is invested, and FAAC has been working to move this forward with the proposal in a substantial way.



- **General Fund:** FAAC will hold a joint meeting with the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) to provide information on the general fund that is managed jointly by the EVPCFO and the Provost's Office.
- **CTP:** There has been strong faculty support for making CTP optional, including a [Faculty Senate resolution that passed with very strong support](#), an SA task force survey that received 900 responses, and a petition that received 1300 signatures. On December 18th, FAAC held a special meeting on CTP, and consequently the CFO is analyzing options and a follow-up meeting will be held. If faculty encounter cases where CTP prices are higher than free market, please take screenshots and send this data to FAAC Chair Peterson. If CTP cannot be made optional for all cases, faculty opt out might be possible for use of sponsored/discretionary travel and for international travel, with mandatory CTP only for domestic flights purchased with general funds.
- **Work Connections:** At a special December 12th FAAC meeting, FAAC requested the CFO to report on what changes, if any, had been made in response to the [2021 Faculty Senate Resolution \(Motion 1\)](#). Key concerns with Work Connections include, 1) there is no appeal process, 2) the use of Independent Medical Examiners (IMEs), 3) Risk Management oversight of Work Connections, 4) recent absorption of the Integrated Disability Management Advisory Committee (IDMAC) into the Total Workers Health Advisory Committee (TWHAC). A follow-up meeting is to be scheduled.

**Action Item: SACUA will follow-up on next steps regarding Work Connections during its weekly meetings.**

- **Resources:** EVP-CFO provides information on their website, including the main [Business & Finance website](#), the annual [U-M Budget Book](#), and the [Endowment/Investment website](#).

### **Senate Assembly Discussion on FAAC Report**

- A Michigan Medicine faculty asked if the Michigan Medicine budget is part of the EVPCFO's purview. FAAC Chair Becky Peterson responded that, in brief, the funds are provided by the EVPCFO to MM and then MM has discretion over budgetary decisions.
- A Physics faculty shared appreciation for the CTP efforts and said that additional clarification about the type of CTP data needed would be helpful.
- A MM faculty asked about the rationale for CTP. Becky Peterson provided additional context from the EVPCFO perspective, explaining that the intended goal of CTP was to receive bulk purchasing discounts, especially from Delta (with 70% of U-M flights booked with Delta) and a need to have a higher volume of sales in CTP to receive such discounts. In addition, if millions of CTP flights are booked per year, this also could help reach sustainability goals.
- An Engineering faculty commented that CTP does not consider discounts from traveling economy, and about only 50% of travel is from sponsored research funds.
- An LSA faculty asked about the factors contributing to Work Connections. Becky Peterson responded that, while she may not have a full answer, many personal concerns

have been raised and that everyone's case is different. While anecdotal data has been very powerful, such data does not always translate well to the metrics used by Budget and Finance.

- A School of Public Health faculty remarked that, in the past, the administration tried to argue that U-M employees were gaming the system and that finally the administration seems to understand that such an approach was not helpful and is a mischaracterization of the problem with Work Connections.
- A UM-Dearborn faculty, who had worked on U-M disinvestment efforts in the past, shared frustration with how long the process took and also that the university wasn't willing to publicly say they had disinvested. As a public university, a much higher bar of transparency is needed.

#### **4:50 SACUA Nominations Committee Election Vote After Meeting**

- FSO Director Luke McCarthy reviewed the process for the upcoming SACUA elections. [Nominations and self-nominations](#) to serve on [SACUA](#) can be submitted until February 20<sup>th</sup>. Candidates need to be voting members of the [University Senate](#) and, due to Senate Rules regarding SACUA's composition and the current SACUA membership, faculty from the School of Public Health and School of Information are not currently eligible. The candidate slate will be shared with the Senate Assembly on or before March 9<sup>th</sup>. SACUA candidates will be invited to make brief remarks at the March Senate Assembly meeting. At the conclusion of the March 23<sup>rd</sup> SA meeting, the Senate Assembly will vote electronically over a 72-hour period to elect three new SACUA members.
- A SACUA Nominating Committee will review FSO's work preparing this year's slate of SACUA candidates, and the committee is expected to meet on zoom for approximately 30 minutes during the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. A ballot of six people has been prepared that, as required by the Senate rules, includes two outgoing SACUA members -- Vilma Mesa and Susan Najita, and four outgoing SA member volunteers -- Sybil Biermann, Ashu Tripathi, Kevin Joiner, and Shahzad Mian. Without objection, the candidates for the SACUA Nominating Committee will be submitted to an e-vote of the Senate Assembly shortly after today's meeting to elect the six members to this SACUA Nominating Committee.

#### **4:55 New Business and Adjournment**

- Chair Peterson invited SA members to raise new business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério M. Pinto  
Faculty Senate Secretary

[University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 5.02:  
Governing Bodies in Schools and Colleges](#)

Sec. 4.01 The University Senate

"...[t]he Senate is authorized to consider any subject pertaining to the interests of the university, and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in regard thereto. Decisions of the University Senate with respect to matters within its jurisdiction shall constitute the binding action of the university faculties. Jurisdiction over academic policies shall reside in the faculties of the various schools and colleges, but insofar as actions by the several faculties affect university policy as a whole, or schools and colleges other than the one in which they originate, they shall be brought before the University Senate."

[Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs:](#)

Senate: "In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed."

Assembly: "The Assembly may adopt rules for the transaction of its business. In appropriate cases not covered by rules of the Assembly, the rules of the University Senate shall apply."

SACUA: "The committee may adopt rules for the transaction of its business."