



**The University of Michigan Senate Assembly Minutes:**

**Monday, February 23, 2026, 3:15-5:00 p.m.**

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

Minutes: 2/23/2026

Circulated: 3/20/2026

Approved: 3/23/2026

**In-person attendees:** Keith Aaronson, Dominic Apap (nonvoting), Meaghan Blanchard (nonvoting), William Calvo-Quiros, Jesse Capecealatro, Theodora Danciu, Charlotte Karem Albrecht, John Magee, Ann Marshall (nonvoting), Luke McCarthy (nonvoting), Rebekah Modrak, Susan Najita, Nasen (nonvoting), Derek Peterson, Soumya Rangarajan, Youngju Ryu (nonvoting), Ian Shin, Lauren Smith, Craig Smith, Deirdre Spencer (nonvoting), Kentaro Toyama, Eric Vandenberghe (nonvoting)

**Virtual attendees:** Mark Allison, Mousumi Banerjee, Sybil Biermann, Helen Burgess, Deepa Butoliya, Yi-Su Chen, Amy I-Lin Cheng, Francine Dolins, Wessam Elmelig, Johannes Foufopoulos, James Gulvas, Joshua Hausman, Sarah Hawley, Kirsten Herold, Stefanus Jasin, Kim Kearfott, Shake Ketefian (nonvoting), Liz Kolb, Yongqing Li, Leah Litman, Charles Lwanga, Vilma Mesa, Genevieve Monsma (nonvoting), Louise O'Brien, Ivette Perfecto, Rogerio Pinto (nonvoting), Stacy Rosenbaum, Kimberly Saks, Michael Schubnell, Suzanne Selig (nonvoting), Albert Shih, Christina Snider, Quentin Stout, Krithika Suresh, Apryl Williams, Jason Young, Jon Zelner, Paul Zimmerman

**Press:**

Genevieve Monsma – The University Record

Dominic Apap – The Michigan Daily

Nasen – The Michigan Daily

**Guest:**

Youngju Ryu, Director, International Institute and Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

**Minutes:**

**3:17 pm Come to order**

- The meeting was called to order and the minutes from 01/26/2026 were approved.

**3:18 pm Senate Assembly (SA) Chair Update**

- A meeting was recently held with President Grasso on [motion 4](#), the 2024 University Senate resolution on gender-based violence and discrimination, with attendees also including Chair Peterson and resolution movants Bruno Giordani and Jordan Siegel. Chair Peterson hopes to have additional updates to provide in the future.



- Dr. Lauren Smith, a pathologist and ethicist, is the newly elected member of SACUA and will fill a SACUA vacancy through the end of April 2026.
  - A meeting with President Grasso will be held to discuss a potential off-cycle amendment to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR), with attendees to also include Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC) Chair Marita Ingelhart, Chair Peterson, and other members of SRAC.
  - A meeting to discuss Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP) with VP Bobby Hewlett has been set for the second week of March, with attendees to also include Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC) Chair Becky Peterson, CTP Task Force Chair Jesse Capecelatro, and SA Chair Derek Peterson.
  - SACUA approved a bargaining document, jointly endorsed by U-M unions and SACUA, that calls for reforms to Work Connections.
  - The SACUA Nominating Committee will meet soon to certify the slate of candidates running for three open seats on SACUA. To date, ten nominees have expressed interest. Two additional nominees have not yet confirmed their interest in being a candidate.
  - On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Chair Peterson and Vice Chair Rangarajan hosted a [Clinical Faculty/Faculty Senate Dialogue](#) at University Hospital South, with SACUA member Lauren Smith and Medical Affairs Advisory Committee (MAAC) Chair John Magee also attending. Discussion included issues of tenure and promotion, high workload, and needed support for service, among other topics. A group will meet to consider next steps and to develop a white paper.
  - On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, a day of advocacy will be held in Lansing to bring together faculty governance leaders from across the state of Michigan. Chair Peterson is working with MSU faculty governance leaders, and the event will address challenges of shrinking funds and other threats to higher education.
  - The Faculty Senate Office submitted an application to the Strategic Initiative Fund to create a Faculty Senate Institute for Academic Freedom.
  - DEI is legal and there is no reason to not bring back ODEI. There is some support among U-M leadership, including the President and Provost, for restoration of DEI.
  - The Faculty Work Retreats have been well attended and an important venue for building community and solidarity, especially during these difficult times. The events have also been an opportunity to meet junior faculty.
  - On February 25, a [Media Readiness training for faculty](#) was held in collaboration with the Office of the VP for Communication's Michigan News. The event was organized by the SACUA Protections for Faculty Working Group, with support from the Faculty Senate Office. A survey, sponsored by the Protections for Faculty Working Group, has received 700+ U-M faculty responses and indicates that over [30% of respondents have self-censored](#) with nearly 50% having felt pressure to self-censor. Faculty are widely feeling threatened, especially around issues such as DEI, Palestine, and climate science.
- Action Item:** The results of the survey will be made more generally available and there are plans to discuss this issue at the Senate Assembly in March or April.

**3:39 pm Guest: Rick Arnold, Interim Executive Director, Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS)**

- Interim Chief Arnold grew up in Ann Arbor, is a U-M alumna, and has over thirty years of experience in law enforcement. He has been at DPSS for two years and has been



Interim Executive Director for 8-9 months. Based on questions raised by Chair Peterson, Director Arnold gave a brief presentation on the following topics:

- [STEP](#) originated in response to the shooting at MSU. DPSS has done benchmarking to other Big 10 institutions. More blue light phones, communication technology and alarms, and personal distress alarms for nurses have been added. For phase 1, security cameras are being added to egress and ingress points on campus where no cameras were previously located.
- In addition, DPSS has asked for increased budgets for hardware and software integration, funds to operationalize new equipment, and for more police officers. U-M is dispersed geographically, with officers needed on the north, central, athletic, and medical campuses.
- It has been difficult to find a study that is directly applicable to the new DPSS security measures. Director Arnold has reviewed studies that show that cameras may be associated with the rates of some types of crimes. Arnold was not able to cite any evidence the more cameras make the campus safer.

**Discussion:**

- An LSA faculty asked how DPSS would know when enough security cameras had been installed? Director Arnold said a number of buildings inhabited by people previously did not have cameras, and cameras had been installed in 45 buildings. DPSS's intent is to study the impact of the cameras as they are installed.
- A Medical School faculty asked about high-resolution cameras, such as the Diag cameras, and their chilling effect on public speech. The locations of these cameras are not areas known for having crimes. Director Arnold said the Diag has had controversial speakers and counter protests, and DPSS needs to make sure everyone can freely express their views. DPSS has considered replacing these cameras with less powerful cameras. There are safeguards and laws in place that protect from using the cameras in a voyeuristic manner.
- A Medical School faculty said that protestors have come under legal scrutiny for peaceful protest and immigrants could be at added risk. What safeguards are there for handing over recordings to the government? Director Arnold said, if there is a court order, they are required to hand over the recordings. Such requests go through legal counsel. Safeguards present in the prior SPG will be added back to the new SPG, i.e. recordings will be kept for a limited time, such as 30 days and no audio ever enters DPSS's systems.
- A faculty member expressed appreciation for the challenges DPSS faces in balancing freedoms given the MSU shooting and asked how DPSS responds to such pressures. Director Arnold said he has not felt undue pressure and is as transparent with U-M administration as with faculty. His professional obligation is focused on safety and that guides his leadership.
- An LSA faculty asked about the number of security cameras and how security is defined. Director Arnold said security is not easy to define, and it is hard to measure the absence of something. Prevention is an important goal, as is the need to be prepared for a major incident at U-M. There are roughly 6 to 10 cameras on the diag.
- An LSA faculty shared the proliferation of cameras and disciplinary actions towards student protestors has resulted in a large portion of campus no longer feeling comfortable contacting DPSS.



- A Dentistry faculty remarked that, with the new cameras and added security, she was surprised DPSS was not able to more quickly find a student who recently died. Does DPSS hire outside companies? Director Arnold said onboarding of a new officer takes 18 months and, during an officer shortage, outside companies were hired. The goal is to not use security contractors. DPSS wants to do more data analysis going forward.
- A Stamps faculty shared that camera footage was part of the OSCR student protest hearings. Students needed to use FOIA to access this footage and the FOIA was denied. Students have been afraid to use their first amendment rights and cameras have led to less protest. In addition, at a protest at UMMA, police arrested students and footage from security cameras was kept for more than 30 days. Is there a map of where the cameras are? Director Arnold said there is no map and, doing so, would defeat the purpose of the cameras. Cameras are visible and will be installed at points of ingress and egress. For the UMMA case, charges were filed against students which prompted an investigation.
- The Senate Secretary remarked that, for many, the numerous cameras do not keep campus safe, but instead they are used for surveillance. The cost of this is fear and people feel inhibited to exercise their first amendment rights. He went on to say that the lack of evidence of any correlation between the number of cameras and the prevention of crime makes the utility of the cameras questionable.
- A Stamps faculty echoed these concerns, above, stating that U-M invests in cameras without knowing if they actually offer protection. As scientists, if decisions are being made without clear evidence, this is problematic and leads to a culture of distrust.

#### **4:05 pm Resolution Concerning Surveillance on Campus**

##### **Motion:**

- Charlotte Karem Albrecht moved and Ian Shin seconded consideration of the draft resolution as distributed prior to the meeting. The floor was opened for discussion.

##### **Discussion:**

- A comment was made that the term “solve” might be added to the language about “detering” crime, to include both “deter” and “solve.”
- Regarding the language about scholarly studies, a question was raised about whether there is a risk of U-M relying on studies funded by surveillance technology companies. There was interest in these U-M studies having oversight from faculty governance and involvement from relevant faculty experts. In addition, it was recommended the study go beyond empirical data collected by the cameras to also consider how people feel when confronted with the cameras. The study might therefore have two objectives, 1) evaluating the usefulness of the cameras, and 2) considering tradeoffs given the distress created by the cameras. Ford School faculty could be an important resource. There was interest in the study considering how surveillance technologies impact both students and staff. A question was raised about how to study a rare event, i.e. the shooting at MSU. Such a study could be relevant to the training of officers. It was noted that central campus and Michigan Medicine may have different experiences with the cameras.

**Motion to Postpone:** A motion to postpone consideration of the resolution to the March meeting was passed by unanimous consent.



**4:30 pm Guest: Youngju Ryu, Director, International Institute (II) and Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts**

- Director Ryu presented on “Language and Area Studies at U-M.” U-M offers instruction in 50-60 less commonly taught languages (LCTL), which is substantial, with both Harvard and Indiana University offering more languages than U-M. It is important to offer instruction in languages with low enrollment, such as Uzbek. The post-Sputnik [National Defense Education Act of 1958](#) and later the Higher Education Act of 1965 Title VI had, for decades, had provided language study funding. This legislation had supported National Resource Centers (NRC) as well as Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS). FLAS supported student scholarships, faculty and staff salaries, travel, event support, and cross-institutional partnerships.
- Federal funding cuts to NRC and FLAS have been devastating – a U-M loss of 3.4 million annually, including \$1.8 million in FLAS and \$1.5 million NCR funding that supported [six U-M NRC centers](#), and a \$245,000 loss in language lecturer salary support.
- Is the current situation a perfect storm for language education? LSA has worked to support departments in absorbing the salaries of lecturers teaching languages. Indigenous language study is at risk, and a Strategic Initiatives Fund application was submitted to support indigenous language study. The 1980s and 1990s dissolution of the cold war (see Bruce Cumings’ work) has affected language study. The latest update is that Congress appropriated \$80 million for five federal agencies for FY2026 (H.R.7148), but this allotment does not mean that federal funding for language study will come back.

**Discussion:** A Medical School faculty shared that the Medical School is dependent on translators for Mandarin and Arabic. Dr. Ryu shared that U-M partners with other Big Ten schools to offer online language study, such as that from Indiana University.

**4:55 pm Resolution in Support of Foreign Language Teaching at the University of Michigan**

- Chair Peterson invited discussion on the Resolution in Support of Foreign Language Teaching at the University of Michigan. The resolution had been shared prior to the meeting. The resolution was previously adopted by SACUA and approved for Senate Assembly consideration, making the resolution an automatically pending question in the Senate Assembly. One comment was offered about dispersal and continuity of funding.

**Vote after the meeting:** It was announced that a vote on the resolution would commence directly following the Senate Assembly meeting.

**5:02 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

### **Addendum: Senate Assembly Actions**

Between regular meetings, the Senate Assembly performed the following actions that should be included in the Senate Assembly minutes:

#### **Approval and Vote Results:**

- The Senate Assembly approved, by electronic vote, the [Resolution in Support of Foreign Language Teaching at the University of Michigan](#). The resolution passed with 54 yes votes, 3 no votes, and 4 abstentions

#### [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."