



General Counsel's Advisory Committee (GCAC) Minutes for March 20, 2026

Meeting information:

Circulated: 03/13/2026

Approved: 04/10/2026

Members present: Cam Amin, David Santacroce, Jordan Siegel (Chair), Stevens Wandmacher, Michael Lempert, Chris J. Walker, Farina Mir, Yulia Sevryugina, Daniel Birchok, Kentaro Toyama (SACUA), Tim Lynch (VP and General Counsel), Julian Mortenson, Jason Fettig

Members absent: Nancy Allee, Tom Braun, Aric Knuth

Faculty Senate Office staff present: Eric Vandenberghe, Meaghan Blanchard

Minutes:

8:16am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The Minutes from the November meeting will be reviewed at a later date.

Vice President Lynch asks that the committee members discuss how they use artificial intelligence in their teaching and how artificial intelligence impacts their classrooms at the April meeting.

8:22am: Guidance and Support for Faculty/Staff/Students on Immigrant and Student Visas

Summary: The committee expresses appreciation for the [Immigration Information: For the University of Michigan Community](#) document developed by Vice President Lynch. The committee asks clarifying questions regarding phrasing and advice given in the document. The committee also advises Vice President Lynch to continue to distribute this document widely. The committee also asks questions about some differences in phrasing between the [Middle East Studies Association travel guidance document](#) and the University's guidance.

Some committee members express concern for U-M community members, especially those from the countries listed in [the December 16, 2025 executive order](#) travelling in and out of the country. Vice President Lynch emphasizes that the University of Michigan, historically, has always supported the completion of degrees, even in situations in which an international scholar cannot return to the United States.

The committee discusses the possibility of hanging signage with important security phone numbers, like contact lines for DPSS and the Office of the General Counsel, in classrooms or hallways in case of ICE raids or other security emergencies. Vice President Lynch asks the committees to reach out to their school's deans to better understand their opinions on hanging signage in the individual schools.

The committee asks how they can best assist Vice President Lynch in addressing these



immigration concerns and issues in the future. Vice President Lynch encourages the committee to continue to research, write and publish on these topics.

A committee member asks Vice President Lynch if the university will protect the rights of U-M community members who record altercations with ICE or other security incidents. Vice President Lynch notes his interest in protecting faculty who act peacefully in the classroom and at a healthy distance and in the course of their regular teaching duties.

Action: Discussion

8:55am: Disability and Tenure

Summary: Committee members express concern regarding the current policy that requires faculty members who have reached the end of their long-term disability to transition to retirement (or be terminated if they do not meet the conditions of retirement). The committee advocates for this procedure to be moved under the [5.09 process](#), in accordance with recommendations outlined in the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)'s [1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments](#). The committee also recommends that the current [201.15 SPG: Fitness for Duty](#) be moved under the 5.09 process.

A committee member expresses concern that policies like this, when not included under a 5.09 procedure, have the potential for health discrimination. The committee discusses the intricacies of faculty affected in this way. There are issues that must be weighed. Examples are provided and discussed in general terms.

Action: Discussion

9:30am: Accessibility of teaching materials for people with disabilities

Summary: A topic is initiated that will be reviewed at the next meeting. This is in regard to the legal obligation that UM has to meet minimum accessibility standards by the April deadline. Members indicate a disparity in resources available to faculty across units. Members express a lack of clarity about what consequences for non-compliance are, and who bears the burden of those consequences. It is indicated that each unit should be providing adequate resources to assist the faculty with meeting these requirements. This topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

Action: Discussion

9:35am: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Blanchard
Operations Lead
Faculty Senate Office