

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs**  
**Monday, March 16, 2026, 3:00pm**

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

**Minutes:** 3/16/2026

**Circulated:** 3/27/2026

**Approved:** 3/30/2026

**Present:**

Derek Peterson (Chair), Meaghan Blanchard (FSO), Jesse Capecelatro, Kirsten Herold, Ann Marshall (FSO), Luke McCarthy (FSO), Vilma Mesa, Rebekah Modrak (Immediate Past Chair), Susan Najita, Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary), Soumya Rangarajan (Vice Chair), Melanie Tanielian, Kentaro Toyama

**Guests:**

Michelle Casey, Ethics, Integrity and Compliance Officer (EICO)  
Stacey Brown, EICO Policy and Accountability Director  
Brigid Hart-Molloy, EICO Education and Outreach Director  
Tami Strickman, Executive Director, Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX Office

**Press:**

Genevieve Monsma – Record  
Shaena Foley – Daily

**Meeting Minutes:**

**3:01 pm: Come to Order and Approval of the Minutes**

- The meeting was called to order and minutes from 3/9/2026 were approved by consent.

**3:02 pm: SACUA Chair Update**

- [EICO](#) Michelle Casey is a guest at today's SACUA meeting following a recent meeting with EICO Michelle Casey, President Grasso, Chair Peterson, and Director McCarthy.
- Chair Peterson shared that he had followed up with Kaitlin Karmen, Solidarity & Political Action Committee (SPAC) Co-Chair, GEO, after her visit to SACUA on 3/9/2026.
- Regarding New Business items from SACUA's 3/9/2026 meeting, 1) today's SACUA agenda includes a call for convening a Faculty Senate Meeting in April and 2) the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate Assembly agenda includes an item for considering a Resolution Concerning Surveillance on Campus.
- The 2026-2027 SACUA Chair election will occur on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Five current SACUA members are eligible. Any interested candidates are invited to reach out to Chair Peterson and Immediate Past Chair Modrak to discuss the role of SACUA chair. Vice Chair Soumya Rangarajan encouraged SACUA members to

consider running for vice chair and offered to talk with any interested vice chair candidates.

- A meeting was held with EVP-CFO Bobby Hewlett on Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP), with attendees also including FAAC Chair Becky Peterson, CTP Task Force Chair Jesse Capecelatro, SACUA Chair Derek Peterson, and FSO Director Luke McCarthy. There is no public update at this time, but an announcement is expected soon. FAAC Chair Becky Peterson and CPT Task Force Chair Jesse Capecelatro continue to receive emails from faculty and students expressing many difficulties with CTP.
- The U-M American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Undergraduate Chapter is preparing a resolution that calls for the creation of a U-M alert system to report when ICE is on campus.
- Chair Peterson recently had an hour-long meeting with U-M President-elect Kent Syverud. At the meeting, Chair Peterson provided President-elect Syverud with a binder covering six topics, 1) DEI and what's been lost regarding DEI at U-M, 2) student protest and academic freedom, including ongoing concerns with the treatment of U-M student protestors, 3) AI (see [motion](#)), 4) surveillance (see [resolution](#)), 5) foreign language teaching (see [resolution](#)), and 6) athletic department oversight. Chair Peterson also expressed concerns that U-M administration does respond or even, at times, acknowledge faculty governance actions. President-elect Syverud has expressed interest in being more engaged with faculty governance, as is the norm at his prior institution, Syracuse University. President-elect Syverud would like to meet with SACUA as soon as he is installed as president. President Grasso's last day is May 8<sup>th</sup>, and Kent Syverud is expected to begin his work as president shortly after this.
- There are upcoming [Faculty On-Campus Work Retreats](#) on March 18 and March 19<sup>th</sup> at the North Quad Space 2435.
- Chair Peterson is scheduled to speak at the [March 19<sup>th</sup> Regents Meeting](#) at 3:30 p.m.
- Chair Peterson will attend an event hosted by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences that brings together chairs of faculty governance to coordinate and share information.
- On Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the [Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion \(CFEI\)](#) sponsored a [Community Action Faculty Panel](#) with about thirty people attending.
- [Committee on the Economic and Social Well-Being of the Faculty \(CESWF\)](#) has commissioned a study on childcare and caregiving needs more broadly to inform areas of improvement and policy enhancements. [U-M ADVANCE](#) is administering the survey.

**Approval:**

SACUA approved the CESWF-ADVANCE study on childcare and dependent care to move forward by unanimous consent.

**3:10 pm: Call for a University Senate Meeting / Faculty Senate Membership  
Language: Research Track**

- Chair Peterson proposed an all-faculty University Senate meeting to be held on

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026. It would replace the SACUA meeting currently scheduled for that day. The central reason for the meeting is to consider a resolution to bring research-track faculty fully into [Faculty Senate membership](#). To be a member of the Faculty Senate, research-track faculty currently need to have a *full-time* appointment as compared to all other faculty who need to have at least a 50% primary appointment.

- President Grasso will deliver remarks at the University Senate meeting focusing on his accomplishments as interim president.
- Faculty Senate membership was encouraged to consider critical and timely issues and to propose resolutions to be voted on by the Assembly. Current issues being considered include childcare, Open AI, athletics, surveillance, language classes, among others.

**Approval:**

SACUA approved the call for an April 27<sup>th</sup> University Senate meeting by unanimous consent.

**3:28 SA Agenda Approval**

- SACUA reviewed the draft agenda for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate Assembly meeting. A Resolution Concerning Surveillance on Campus will be considered at the March SA meeting. SACUA briefly discussed the content of this resolution.

**Approval:**

The SA agenda was approved without revision by unanimous consent.

**3:30 pm: Guests: Michelle Casey, Ethics, Integrity and Compliance Officer, with Stacey Brown, Ethics, Integrity and Compliance Policy and Accountability Director, and Brigid Hart-Molloy, Education and Outreach Director**

- This agenda item was in Executive Session and no minutes were taken.

**4:00 pm: Guest: Tami Strickman, Executive Director, Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX Office**

- This agenda item was in Executive Session and no minutes were taken

**4:40 pm: New Business**

- Concerns were raised about the [Center for American Dialogue Preview Day Event](#), with comments including that the center was created without opportunities for input from teaching faculty and without transparency or consideration of faculty expertise on dialog about controversial topics. The event also does not include a range of voices regarding gender, race, and inequality. A concern was also raised about U-M's partnership with Hegseth's Department of War program, as was reported in an [article by the Michigan Daily](#). SACUA members also discussed whether a counter event might be held, either at the same time or prior to the event.
- An update was shared regarding the Secretary of the University Advisory Committee's (SAC) recent discussions about revisions to the bylaws. It was suggested that SACUA be aware and involved in these bylaw changes.

**5:04 pm: Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério Meireles 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."