

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, March 30, 2026, 3:00pm

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Minutes: 3/30/2026

Circulated: 4/3/2026

Approved: 4/6/2026

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:

Mika LaVaque-Manty, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Professor of Philosophy, LSA

Mary O’Riordan, University Faculty Ombud, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical School

Stephanie D. Preston, University Faculty Ombud, Professor of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Press:

Genevieve Monsma – Record

Jensen Stanzi – Daily

Meeting Minutes:

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

- The meeting was called to order and minutes from 3/16/2026 were approved by consent.

3:02 pm: SACUA Chair Update

- **Approval:** SACUA approved changing the date of the SACUA chair election from April 13th to April 6th by unanimous consent. Currently, there is one announced SACUA chair candidate, Kentaro Toyama. Additional interested candidates are invited to contact Chair Peterson. The vote will be held anonymously with the SimplyVoting platform during the April 6th SACUA meeting. Directly following the vote for SACUA Chair, the election for SACUA Vice Chair will be held.
- There is not yet an update from administration regarding Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP). An announcement has been anticipated for some time. Chair Peterson plans to share some news about CTP in his next chair’s newsletter.
- Chair Peterson delivered remarks on behalf of the Faculty Senate at the [March 19th Regents Meeting](#).

- On March 24th, Chair Peterson attended a convening of faculty governance leaders at the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in Cambridge, MA. There were approximately forty chairs of faculty governance in attendance, with many from public universities. Unlike the U-M Regents meetings, a number of universities provide a seat for a faculty governance representative/s at their university board meetings. There was discussion about whether the U-M Faculty Senate chair position might usefully be a two-year term. While this would reduce the pool of possible chair candidates, it would allow the chair to apply the expertise learned during the first year to a second year as chair. To make such a change, the Senate Rules would need to be amended, and the University Senate might also consider approving the change.
- The CESWF-ADVANCE study on childcare and dependent care went live on March 25th and the survey will close on April 1.
- Chair Peterson sent “thank you” messages to the March 16th SACUA guests, Michelle Casey, Stacey Brown, Brigid Hart-Molloy, and Tami Strickman.
- Chair Peterson wrote to VP Lupia to share SACUA’s concerns about the [Center for American Dialogue Preview Day Event](#), noting that SACUA had considered hosting a counter-event at the same time of the Preview Day Event, but decided not to proceed. Chair Peterson also communicated SACUA’s sentiment that a broader range of perspectives is needed to achieve real dialogue and that faculty were not consulted in a meaningful way. Two student speakers have been added to the [event plans](#), Eric Veal, CSG President, and Angelica Previero, Rackham Student Government representative.
- Chair Peterson has a meeting scheduled with VP-Secretary Jon Kinsey to discuss in-process revisions to the [Regents Bylaws](#) and, in particular, to ask if there is any intention to make revisions to the [5.09](#) process. The bylaws revisions process have been discussed within [SAC](#) and is expected to: 1) have a one-year timeline, 2) strengthen conflict of interest disclosure, 3) include consultation on all revisions, and 4) to provide documentation that compares proposed changes with the current version.
- The [three newly elected members of SACUA](#) are Steven Buchman, Medical School, Kim Kearfott, College of Engineering, and Michael Schubnell, LSA. The new SACUA members will be invited to join SACUA meetings in April as observers without speaking privileges. Their terms begin on May 1.
- On March 25th, a [Faculty Protections Workshop on FOIA](#) was held, with speakers that included attorney Sarah Prescott and attorneys from the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund. [FOIA Guidance for Faculty](#) is now available. This guidance is particularly relevant to any faculty whose work may be targeted. Part three of the guide includes best practices to protect faculty from inappropriate disclosure. Appreciation was shared for members of the Protections for Faculty Working Group for organizing the event.
- On March 27th, the Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Committee (DMNC) hosted [Transnational and Local Miseries: A Practical Guide to Academic Freedom](#), featuring the work of Dr. Demet Bolat. Appreciation was shared for the work of DMNC and FSO for organizing the event.
- On March 30th, Chair Peterson, SACUA member Kirsten Herold, and FSO

- Director McCarthy met with President Grasso. The topics discussed included SACUA's work on a resolution related to security cameras soon to be brought to the Senate Assembly, the Faculty Protections Task Force's Censorship/Self-Censorship Survey results, and [U-M's partnering with U.S. Department of Defense](#) on the education of military officers. President Grasso shared that the UM curriculum for military officers would continue to be the existing UM curriculum. SACUA members expressed concerns that the project would isolate U-M from its peer institutions and that the move was particularly troubling during a time of an illegal war. A faculty commented that U-M has a long, troubling history of military involvement and SACUA might consider meeting with faculty who teach military courses at U-M.
- The Faculty Protections Task Force's [Censorship/Self-Censorship Survey](#) results have been released and will be circulated in the next chair newsletter. There are plans to meet with members from the Provost's Office within the next few weeks to discuss the survey results and to consider how to expand faculty protections beyond what the [Provost's Office currently offers regarding threats and harassment of faculty](#).
 - On March 31, SACUA Vice Chair Soumya Rangarajan will lead a [Clinical Faculty / Faculty Senate Dialogue](#) via zoom with all clinical faculty invited to attend.

3:33 pm: Mika LaVaque-Manty, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Professor of Philosophy, LSA

- Mika LaVaque-Manty, Chair of the AI in Education Working Group provided an overview of the work of the committee. The report is due on April 30th, and the committee includes fourteen faculty with representation from most schools and colleges, U-M Flint, U-M Dearborn, lecturers, research faculty, and Michigan Medicine. The names of the working group members have been kept confidential because of concerns of excessive lobbying of committee members. The committee charge was displayed. A survey about AI in education was distributed to 11,000 faculty of all ranks, with about 900 responses received. A graduate student survey has also been planned and CRLT conducted an undergraduate survey. In addition to the surveys, Mika has spoken to anyone interested in sharing their perspectives. The work of the committee is supported by a staff member from the Provost's Office and a staff member from ITS.
- **Discussion:** covered the following topics and comments. In November 2025, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution, [Motion 4: Resolution Demanding a Comprehensive Policy Addressing the Role of Generative Artificial Intelligence at the University of Michigan](#). SACUA plans to review the working group's report when available. Concerns were raised about AI leading to a cognitive loss of skill in students and the impacts of AI on the environment. Students may arrive at U-M with less skills due to AI use. Within engineering, questions are being raised about whether learning objectives and assessments need to be changed if AI can successfully complete problem sets. AI use may not be appropriate for undergraduate foundational courses where fundamentals are taught, but may be appropriate for some graduate student courses. Students need to know how to

code before they can successfully use AI to code. Concerns were raised about U-M's messaging about AI not being broadly representative of the campus community. In medicine, there are also concerns about the use of AI leading to physicians becoming less skilled in procedural techniques. While AI policies will need to vary, students genuinely face confusion if the AI policy changes for each course. In some fields, U-M graduates are being asked about their AI competencies during their job search. Faculty are requesting an infrastructure that is analog-based where access to AI tools have been removed. Concerns were raised that the names of the university-wide AI committee members had been kept confidential as the precursor of lack of accountability. Interest was expressed for department-level data collection and planning around how AI applications may be useful and/or damaging for any particular field. In some areas, such as education, there are also debates within fields, such as what constitutes good pedagogy. Concerns were raised about the influence of tech oligarchs and about U-M administration ignoring or manipulating the recommendations of the working group. It was suggested that changes with AI have been moving extremely fast and that any new policy could be out of date within six months. Concerns were also raised about the ethical use of AI and about AI's gobbling-up of intellectual property. Chair Peterson offered SACUA's help in supporting the work of the committee, including SACUA asking for an extension of the deadline if needed. It was noted that Mika and members of the committee were not given course release for their work.

4:00 pm: Guests: Mary O'Riordan, University Faculty Ombud, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical School and Stephanie D. Preston, University Faculty Ombud, Professor of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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

4:46 pm: Standing Judicial Committee Nominees

- FSO Director McCarthy explained that the intent is to have up to 18 members on the Standing Judicial Committee. Members serve, if needed, on 5.09 cases on the hearing committee. It is important to have a large committee to allow for the possibility of multiple 5.09 proceedings occurring at the same time and to accommodate faculty availability.
- There are currently 10 nominees, and up to 14 approved nominees are needed. If SACUA wants a choice of members, then more than 14 nominees should be identified. All nominees must be full professors and only tenure track faculty can vote on the slate of nominees. Emeriti faculty are not eligible. A vote by the tenure-track members of SACUA on the slate of nominees will be held at the end of April. It is expected that some nominees will be given less than 3-year terms to allow for a more even staggering of terms. It is recommended that deans not be nominated since the 5.09 process already gives deans discretion to choose members of the hearing committee. It was also recommended that a broad range of units be represented. Former SACUA members are a potential pool of nominees.

- A SACUA member noted that, in Michigan Medicine, the proportion of tenure-track faculty has diminished dramatically.
- **Action Item:** An email will be distributed asking SACUA members to identify Judicial Committee nominees.

4:40 pm: New Business

- As the date is fast approaching, Chair Peterson encouraged SACUA members to consider drafting resolutions for the upcoming Monday, April 27th, University Senate meeting. The deadline for submitting resolutions is **April 13 or earlier if possible.**

4:58 pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério Meireles Pinto
Faculty Senate Secretary

ADDENDUM

SACUA Actions

Between regular meetings, SACUA has performed the following actions by electronic vote that should be included in the SACUA minutes:

- On February 18th, SACUA nominated the following faculty to serve on the Advisory Group on Native American and Indigenous Affairs:
 - Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law, Professor of Law, Law School and Professor of American Culture
 - Susan Najita, Associate Professor of American Culture, Associate Professor of English Language and Literature and Director Graduate Studies, American Culture
 - Kyle Whyte, University, Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, George Willis Pack Professor, Professor of Environment and Sustainability, School for Environment and Sustainability and Professor of Philosophy, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
- On February 26th, SACUA nominated the following faculty to serve on a Dean Search Advisory Committee for the Marsal Family School of Education:
 - Carla O'Connor, University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Professor of Education
 - Walter Ecton, Assistant Professor of Education
 - Michaela Zint, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Professor of Environment and Sustainability; Professor of Program in Environment; and Professor of Education

- On February 26th, SACUA nominated the following faculty to serve on a Dean Search Advisory Committee for the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning:
 - Martin Murray, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning
 - Rebecca Price, Librarian, Library Research, Arts and Humanities
 - Robert Adams, Associate Professor of Architecture; Associate Professor of Art and Design; Professor in the Digital Studies Institute
- On February 26th, SACUA nominated the following faculty to serve on a Working Group on Overall Enrollment at the Ann Arbor Campus:
 - Marita Inglehart, University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, Professor of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine
 - Tom Braun, Professor of Biostatistics
 - Cindee Giffen, Lecturer II in Comprehensive Studies
- On February 27th, SACUA nominated the following faculty to serve on a Dean Search Advisory Committee for the School for Environment and Sustainability:
 - Bilal Butt, Professor of Environment and Sustainability
 - Ivette Perfecto, Bunyan Bryant Collegiate Professor of Environmental Justice, Professor of Environment and Sustainability; and Professor of Environment, Program in the Environment
 - Susan Najita, Associate Professor of American Culture, Associate Professor of English Language and Literature and Director Graduate Studies, American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
- On March 23rd, SACUA nominated the following faculty to serve on the University's Honorary Degree Committee:
 - Diane Harper, Professor of Family Medicine, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - Rebekah Modrak, Professor of Art and Design, Penny W Stamps School of Art and Design
 - Michael Thouless, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Janine Johnson Weins Professor of Engineering and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering
 - AnneMarie Toebosch, Teaching Professor and Lecturer IV in Germanic Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - Christian Vercler, Clinical Professor of Surgery, Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery and Program Director, Plastic Surgery Section, Medical School
 - Lisa Young, Teaching Professor and Lecturer IV in Anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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 polices 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."