

To: SACUA

From: Luke McCarthy, Director, Faculty Senate Office

Subject: Director's Report on Faculty Senate Office Activities

Date: April 3, 2026

Faculty Senate Office Activities

Since the last report on January 30, 2026, the FSO continues to be productive:

- Assisted the 18 SA committee chairs with committee meetings and initial work on annual committee reports
- Managed a number of ongoing nomination processes, including the following:
 - SACUA Vacancy election
 - SACUA general election
 - SA committee chair nominations
 - SA committee member nominations
- Provided logistical support for the following events:
 - 5 on-campus faculty retreats
 - A Ruthven building charity event: “Mardi Gras Madness,” with proceeds going to [Food Gatherers](#).
 - Two “Clinical Faculty Dialogue” sessions, one in person on the medical campus and one on Zoom.
 - A media training event for faculty, in partnership with the Office of Communications, organized by the SACUA Faculty Protections Working Group.
 - An event to provide information about FOIA, organized by the SACUA Faculty Protections Working Group, with an accompanying handout of practical advice. The event featured presentations from attorneys for the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund and by Sarah Prescott, Founding Partner, Salvatore Prescott Porter & Porter, PLLC. Also participating was Senate Chair Peterson and Jonathan Kuuskoski, Chair of the Faculty Protections Working Group.
 - A winter term supplemental event for the DMN lecture series, “In-Person Attendance: Transnational and Local Miseries: A Practical Guide to Academic Freedom.” The event featured Dr. Demet Bolat, the inaugural William and Sally Searle Research Fellow, Scholars in Exile, Institute for the Humanities, LSA. Also participating as a panelist was Senate Chair Peterson and DMNC member Gretchen Keppel-Aleks.
- Worked on the logistical details for several upcoming events:
 - Additional faculty work retreats being organized for the coming term.
 - An April Faculty Senate meeting
 - A gathering of faculty senate leaders in Lansing on April 23rd.
 - A final Clinical Faculty Dialogue session.

- Maintained the Faculty Senate website and improved the digital accessibility of both the Faculty Senate site and the Faculty Ombuds site.
- Continued assisting two working groups that were organized over the summer:
 - The CTP Task Force
 - The Protections for Faculty Working Group
- Assisted the FAAC chair in meetings regarding a number of important issues being discussed with Finance:
 - CTP
 - A potential Investment Values Committee
 - Work Connections
- Continued exploring the potential of a year publication that might gather and publicize the activities of the Faculty Senate.
- Assisted the Senate Assembly nominations committee with collecting nominations of chairs and members to serve on the SA's committees next year.
- Began accepting nominations for the annual faculty awards

FSO Director Activities

- Assisted the SACUA Chair with Senate Chair communications to the Faculty Senate.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair in various meetings, including with the President and the Provost.
- Assisted the movants of the University Senate's 2024 "Motion 4: Motion on Accountability for the Handling of Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination at the University" with a meeting with the Senate Chair, President Grasso, and ECRT Director Strickman.
- Assisted representatives from SRAC with a meeting with President Grasso and the Senate Chair to discuss a potential off-cycle amendment process of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair with organizing a series of meetings on April 23rd in Lansing including faculty senate leadership drawn from higher education institutions from across the state.
- Attended a "Center for American Dialogue Forum" event for the launch of the new center.
- Discussed with HR the potential of revising the current Police Department Oversight Committee faculty membership split of one Faculty Senate seat and one non-Faculty Senate seat, in light of most faculty being now in the Faculty Senate.
- Attended the 2025 President's Awards for Public Engagement and a symposium showcasing UM research.
- Participated as a member of the Well-Being Navigation Action Team considering how easy it is for UM community members to find and navigate resources that support wellbeing.
- Assisted faculty with the performance of three surveys:
 - The annual AEC evaluation of administrators
 - A CESWF survey of faculty childcare needs, in partnership with Advance

- A survey about faculty censorship/self-censorship organized by the SACUA Faculty Protections Working Group
- With the SACUA Chair, submitted a Strategic Initiative Fund proposal advocating for the creation of a new Faculty Senate Institute for Academic Freedom

Collaborations

The Faculty Senate Office has engaged in the following recent collaborations with UM partners:

- Michigan News, The Office of Communications: organized a media training event for faculty
- Advance, Office of the Provost, commissioned a faculty survey regarding childcare needs.

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

Senate Assembly Actions

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

- On February 13, 2026, the Senate Assembly elected the following faculty member to serve on SACUA to fill a current vacancy, with a term beginning immediately and ending on April 30, 2026: Lauren Smith, Clinical Professor of Pathology and Interim Hematopathology Fellowship Director, Hematopathology, Medical School
- On February 26, 2026, the Senate Assembly approved a Resolution in Support of Foreign Language Teaching at the University of Michigan
- On March 26, 2026, the Senate Assembly elected the following faculty members to serve three year terms on SACUA, with a term beginning on May 1, 2026 and ending on April 30, 2029:

- Steven Buchman, M. Haskell Newman Collegiate Professor of Plastic Surgery, Professor of Surgery and Professor of Neurosurgery, Medical School
- Kim Kearfott, Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences, College of Engineering, Professor of Radiology, Medical School and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering and Medical School College of Engineering
- Michael Schubnell, Research Scientist, Physics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts