

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, April 13, 2026, 3:00pm

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Minutes: 4/13/2026

Circulated: 5/1/2026

Approved: 5/18/26

Present:

Derek Peterson (Chair), Meaghan Blanchard (FSO), Steven Buchman (guest, incoming SACUA member), Jesse Capecelatro, Kirsten Herold, Kim Kearfott (guest, incoming SACUA member), Ann Marshall (FSO), Luke McCarthy (FSO), Vilma Mesa, Rebekah Modrak (Immediate Past Chair), Susan Najita, Soumya Rangarajan (Vice Chair), Michael Schubnell (guest, incoming SACUA member),

Absent:

Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary), Lauren Smith, Melanie Tanielian, Kentaro Toyama

Press:

Genevieve Monsma – Record

Isabella Casagrande – Daily

Meeting Minutes:

3:04 pm: Come to Order and Approval of the Minutes

- The meeting came to order and the 4/6/2026 minutes were approved by consent.

3:04 pm: SACUA Chair Update

- Vilma Mesa, SACUA liaison to the Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC), shared that VP Kinsey and SAC plan to have a year-long process of reviewing potential Regents Bylaws revisions. SAC members have communicated to VP Kinsey potential concerns about moving content from Bylaws Sections 4 and 5 to the SPGs. Both SAC and VP Kinsey take the project very seriously.
- On April 23, faculty governance leaders from across Michigan will join together for a day of advocacy in Lansing.
- The SACUA chair is a member of the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics (ABIA) and specifics from ABIA meetings are bound by rules of confidentiality. Chair Peterson can provide a general summary from ABIA's recent meeting, including that U-M athletics has many successes and there have been discussions about the recent federal executive order regarding student athlete transfers.
- Vice Chair Soumya Rangarajan updated SACUA on the most recent Clinical Faculty/Faculty Senate Dialogues. Peterson and Rangarajan shared a White Paper on Clinical Faculty with SACUA, informed by the 2025-2026 clinical dialogues.

- Key points from the white paper include that clinical faculty 1) are not given sabbaticals or adequate time to do work conducive to an academic mission, 2) are paid on a 12 month salary instead of a 9 month salary, revealing salary disparities, and 3) it is challenging for clinical faculty to pursue promotion. More advocacy for clinical faculty is needed.
- The annual Faculty Senate Luncheon was held on April 16th, with many executive officers (EOs) attending. Appreciation was shared for Senate Assembly committee members, for the EOs, and for FSO's help with planning the event.
 - "Everything That Is Wrong About AI: A Critical Look at Challenges & Opportunities" will be held on April 7th, with Chair Peterson as one of the panelists.
 - Chair Peterson is meeting with each of the three incoming SACUA members as part of their onboarding process.

3:18 pm: Preview of Received University Senate Resolutions

- To date, three resolutions have been fully submitted and accepted for the April 27th University Senate meeting, on topics that include, 1) U-M's involvement with Hegseth's military training program, 2) tuition support for faculty, and 3) early decision admissions at U-M. Several other potential resolutions were being discussed: child care, trans-athletes, and training for deans and assistant deans. President Grasso is scheduled to speak from 3-3:30 p.m. and the resolutions will be considered from 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- Chair Peterson shared that the prior resolutions adopted by the Faculty Senate had provided a platform of faculty priorities for him to pursue with administration. A faculty commented that it was good to receive resolutions from those who had not yet been active in faculty governance.

3:30 pm: Finalize University Senate Resolutions

- SACUA discussed three additional potential resolutions for the Faculty Senate meeting:

Motion to Update Research Track Faculty Senate Membership Language:

- This resolution, put forward by RPP, gives research track faculty the same Faculty Senate membership eligibility – an appointment of 50% or more – as other Faculty Senate members, adding 41 people. A two-thirds vote of approval by the Faculty Senate is needed.
- **Approval:** Kirsten Herold moved and Vilma Mesa seconded, and the motion was adopted unanimously. This motion will be moved by SACUA at the Faculty Senate meeting.

A Call for GenAI-Free Zones

- An earlier version of the resolution had been discussed at the prior SACUA meeting and SACUA now considered the revised version. A faculty member shared concerns about AI's purpose to outpace humans and acceleration of change. In addition, there have been many lawsuits about tech and mental health and also concerns about AI's impact on authors. There were comments about the

specific recommendations included within the resolution. Learning communities and browser lock-down software were discussed.

- **Vote:** Chair Peterson called the question to close the discussion and a vote was held. 2 voted in favor, 2 were opposed, and 2 abstained, and the motion failed.

A Call for Robust Faculty Engagement with the Athletic Department

- Chair Peterson shared that the resolution had been discussed at ABIA, with some in agreement and others disagreeing. The resolution calls for a greater role for the EICO, a new U-M entity that met with SACUA earlier this academic year. The resolution also provides for more transparency and allows faculty to shape the agenda. A faculty member shared there have been obstacles to faculty offering ABIA agenda items in the past. There was a comment that the Academic Performance Committee (APC), a subcommittee of ABIA, is faculty led and effective.
- **Approval:** Kirsten Herold called the question to close the discussion and a vote was held. The vote was 4 in favor, with 2 abstentions, and the motion passed. The approved resolution will stand as a SACUA resolution and not go forward to the University Senate.

4:15 pm: White Paper on Clinical Faculty

- Vice Chair Rangarajan provided an overview of the white paper. In the past year, four meetings were held with clinical faculty in various formats and locations. Many concerns have been raised, including about workload and the lack of support for clinical faculty to get promoted. Clinicians have left U-M because of lack of support. Discussion covered topics such as some units being more collaborative than others, certain types of clinical work not being recognized for promotion, and variation in schools such as SMTD, law, and education.
- **Action item:** The white paper will be circulated with an invitation for feedback from clinical faculty.

4:30 pm: SA Agenda Approval

- The Senate Assembly agenda was displayed and briefly reviewed.
- **Approval:** Kirsten Herold moved and Jesse Capecelatro seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

4:35 pm: New Business

- There were no new business items.

4:35 pm: SACUA Members' End of Term Remarks and Celebration

- Appreciation was shared for outgoing SACUA members, Lauren Smith, Susan Najita, and Vilma Mesa, and outgoing members invited to offer remarks. Outgoing SACUA members expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and for all they've learned through their service. Outgoing Past Chair Rebekah Modrak and outgoing Chair Derek Peterson shared gratitude for the important work of SACUA members and for SACUA's effectiveness.

4:47 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 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."