



The University of Michigan Senate Assembly Minutes:

Monday, March 23, 2026, 3:15-5:00 p.m.

The Hybrid meeting was held in 2000 University Hall, Ruthven and Zoom

Minutes: 3/23/2026

Circulated: 4/17/2026

Approved: 4/20/26

In-person attendees: Laurie Alexander (nonvoting), Gigi Awad (nonvoting), Meaghan Blanchard (nonvoting), Steve Buchman, William Calvo-Quiros, Lisa Carter (nonvoting), James Gulvas, Kirsten Herold, Niko Kaciroti (nonvoting), Kim Kearfott, John Magee, Ann Marshall (nonvoting), Luke McCarthy (nonvoting), Rebekah Modrak, Nasen (nonvoting), Annabelle Nuñez (nonvoting), Derek Peterson, Michael Schubnell, Ian Shin, Craig Smith, Deirdre Spencer (nonvoting), Kentaro Toyama, Eric Vandenberghe (nonvoting), Charles Watkinson (nonvoting), Niko Wilson (nonvoting), Jeremy York (nonvoting)

Virtual attendees: Christina Aplin-Snider, Mousumi Banerjee, Jayapalli Bapuraj, Helen Burgess, Jade Burns, Deepa Butoliya, Jesse Capecelatro, Yi-Su Chen, Amy Cheng, Meghan Courtney, Francine Dolins, Robert Duncan, Wessam Elmeligi, Johannes Foufopoulos, Terri Friedline, Caren Goldberg, Jay Guo, Mercy Hanson, Joshua Hausman, Sarah Hawley, Shake Ketefian (nonvoting), Yongqing Li, Leah Litman, Vilma Mesa, Genevieve Monsma (nonvoting), Susan Najita, Pamela Pennock, Ivette Perfecto, Rogério Pinto (nonvoting), Soumya Rangarajan, Stacy Rosenbaum, Kimberly Saks, Suzanne Selig (nonvoting), Albert Shih, Lauren Smith, Christina Snider, Brian Stewart, Quentin Stout, Melanie Tanielian, Jason Young, Paul Zimmerman

Press:

Genevieve Monsma – The University Record

Niko Wilson – The Michigan Daily

Nasen – The Michigan Daily

Guests:

Lisa Carter, Dean of Libraries, University Librarian

Craig Smith, Assessment Specialist

Nancy Allee, Director, Taubman Health Sciences Library & STEM

Laurie Alexander, Associate University Librarian for Learning and Teaching and Interim Research

Kathleen Folger, Electronic Resources Officer

Charles Watkinson, Associate University Librarian for Publishing / Director, University of Michigan Press

Minutes:



3:22 pm Come to Order and Approval of the Minutes

- The meeting was called to order and the minutes from 02/23/2026 were approved.

3:22 pm Senate Assembly (SA) Chair Update

- The meeting with President Grasso about a potential off-cycle amendment to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR) took place as planned. Attendees included Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC) Chair Marita Ingelhart, Chair Peterson, and other members of SRAC. SRAC has also met to discuss the issue. Uncertainty remains about whether there will be an off-cycle amendment.
- Chair Peterson has been working with the MSU Faculty Senate president to plan an April 23rd faculty governance day of advocacy in Lansing. Meetings have been confirmed with two legislative committee chairs, one in the House and one in the Senate.
- The resolution concerning surveillance on campus that was postponed from the prior meeting is on today's Senate Assembly meeting agenda at 4:45 pm.
- The [Resolution in Support of Foreign Language Teaching at the University of Michigan](#) was voted on after the prior SA meeting and was adopted by a vote of 53 in favor, 3 opposed, and 4 abstentions. .
- SACUA has called a meeting of the University Faculty Senate to be held on April 27th. President Grasso will provide remarks on his work and accomplishments as interim president. The main order of business will be to consider resolutions put forward by the faculty. Three [members](#) of the University Senate are needed to move a resolution. At the November 2025 Faculty Senate meeting, nine resolutions were adopted by overwhelming majorities. The deadline for resolutions to be submitted is **April 13th**. Faculty wishing to draft a resolution may contact Chair Peterson or Faculty Senate Office Director Luke McCarthy for guidance.
- On March 10th, the Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC) Chair, Faculty Senate Chair, and SACUA member Jesse Capecelatro met with Vice President for Finance Bobby Hewlett to discuss Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP). An announcement from the VP's office is expected. The administration is aware of the faculty's near-unanimous concerns with CTP policy.
- On March 12th, Chair Peterson met with incoming U-M President Kent Severud. President-elect Severud has expressed enthusiasm for faculty governance and has indicated his interest in regularly attending SACUA and Senate Assembly meetings, consistent with the model at his prior institution, Syracuse University. Chair Peterson presented President-elect Severud with a binder of resolutions adopted within the past eighteen months. Syverud expressed support for ensuring faculty governance receives formal responses from the administration regarding adopted resolutions.
- Chair Peterson gave remarks at the [March 19th Board of Regents meeting](#) and stressed three themes, 1) restoring diversity, equity, and inclusion, 2) developing the conditions for a critical view of AI at U-M, and 3) reforming athletics oversight with strengthened faculty involvement.
- The Committee for the Economic and Social Welfare of the Faculty (CESWF) is conducting a survey on child and dependent care in partnership with UM-ADVANCE. Faculty are encouraged to fill out the survey, with a deadline of April 1st.
- On March 25th, the SACUA Protections for Faculty Working Group will host a [Faculty Protections Workshop: FOIA](#). The event will offer practical advice for faculty regarding



FOIA issues. The working group has prepared [FOIA Guidance for Faculty](#) to assist faculty who may receive unwelcome FOIA requests.

- On March 27th, the Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Committee (DMNC) will host [Transnational and Local Miseries: A Practical Guide to Academic Freedom](#), featuring Dr. Demet Bolat, a Turkish scholar dismissed from her university who is now the inaugural William and Sally Searle Research Fellow at the U-M Institute for the Humanities' new Scholars in Exile program.
- On March 31st, a [Clinical Faculty / Faculty Senate Dialogue](#) will be held for clinical faculty within and beyond the Medical School, as part of an ongoing series.
- The Faculty Senate is [currently accepting nominations and self-nominations](#) for service on 18 Faculty Senate committees, with a nomination deadline of April 14th. The advisory committees are a core element of faculty governance and include the work of advising vice presidents and serving as an important faculty voice.

3:35 pm Guest: Lisa Carter, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, on the Topic of Open Access Publishing

- Lisa Carter, Dean of Libraries, began with an introduction of library partners and then provided opening remarks: U-M Libraries are committed to providing robust open access to knowledge and scholarly output. Open access is a strategic opportunity for impact and scholarly publishing is a complex environment given funder requirements for public access and today's publishing landscape.
- Craig Smith summarized findings from a [2023 campus-wide library survey](#). Over 15,000 responses were received, with 1,200 faculty and postdocs across all tracks and ranks participating. 96% of faculty, regardless of track or rank, had published a research article, with variation across discipline and career stage. 68% of faculty had engaged in open access publishing, with higher rates in the natural sciences and medicine. Open access publishing fees were cited as a potential barrier. Survey comments indicated a desire for more information on the library's open access services, additional discounts through publisher negotiations, and options for the library to directly pay open access fees.
- Nancy Allee provided an overview of U-M open access library services that included the Library's [Open Access guide](#), [U-M's Deep Blue institutional repository](#) and a [new search tool for identifying Journals with APC Agreements](#). The Library actively negotiates with publishers to leverage existing subscription spending to provide open access publishing benefits for U-M authors at all three campuses. [Copyright consultation](#) services are available. The Library also offers journal hosting, book publishing, and support for digital scholarship projects.

Discussion Part I:

- In response to a question from a Medical School faculty, Craig Smith confirmed that clinical faculty were included in the survey, with results varying by track.
- A School of Information faculty member asked about whether the open access agreements negotiated with major publishers were in the University's favor. The Library has redirected its existing journal subscription funds to cover article processing charges (APCs) for U-M authors. For example, Elsevier offered a modest increase in cost in exchange for unlimited open access publishing permissions. U-M leads the Big Ten in the extent of open access publishing and also benefits from BTAA-level agreements.



- Chair Peterson noted that Cambridge University Press had fees of \$4–\$5K per article and raised concerns about the sustainability of the U.S. model, with fees paid by individual universities instead of by funding councils, as in Europe. It was clarified that U-M offers open access for Cambridge content at no cost and with no increase in cost for U-M. In addition, the funding landscape is changing, with publishers making money from other products and no longer finding it advantageous to put journal content behind paywalls.

Discussion Part II:

- An LSA faculty asked whether the library's open access journal search tool can be filtered by discipline. Director Allee indicated that the current tool searches by journal title, and recommended faculty to consult with a subject librarian for discipline-specific guidance and for considerations of journal impact factor.
- A School of Nursing faculty expressed interest in open access publishing for nursing faculty, and asked if it was possible to receive training, direct links to resources, and for [subject specialists](#) to attend departmental faculty meeting. Dean Carter confirmed that the Library would share resource links for wider distribution and extended an open invitation for library subject specialists to present to any school or college.
- A Physics faculty remarked that publication in high-prestige journals were essential for his field, and open access is secondary to journal impact factor. Dean Carter and Director Allee acknowledged these needs and noted the Library works with established high-impact commercial publishers (e.g. Wiley and Elsevier) to enable faculty to publish open access in prestigious journals. In fields such as engineering, open access is no longer considered to be vanity publishing.
- A Stamps faculty asked if the University of Michigan Press charges open access fees. The Press does not require authors to pay fees, although it may ask whether institutional funds are available.
- An Education faculty asked if faculty could be provided with a list of APC journals by discipline. Dean Carter responded that the library will share the [APC journal title search tool](#), and subject librarians can provide more targeted consultation, since faculty research areas may vary within discipline.
- Chair Peterson thanked Dean Carter and noted that faculty governance shares a common interest with the Library in reducing the university's dependence on for-profit publishers such as Elsevier. Such publishers generate profit from the voluntary labor of faculty authors and peer reviewers.

4:10 pm SACUA Candidate Remarks

- Chair Peterson remarked that each SACUA candidate would be invited to provide a statement of three minutes or less in alphabetical order by last name. Eleven faculty were candidates for three open seats, each for a three-year term. The electronic vote for the election will open at the conclusion of today's Senate Assembly meeting and will close after 72 hours on March 26th.
- In-person remarks were then provided by Germine Awad, Steven Buchman, James Gulvas, Niko Kaciroti, Kim Kearfott, Michael Schubnell, and Maria Silveira. Video remarks were provided by Sun-Yung Bak and Lauren Smith. Mukesh Nyati and Merle Rosenzweig were unable to attend.



- A candidate packet that included a 100-word or less written statement by each SACUA candidate was distributed prior and during the Senate Assembly meeting and was also [published in the University Record](#). These written materials included the following submitted SACUA candidate statements:

Submitted Candidate Statements:

- Germiné “Gigi” Awad: I am honored to be nominated for SACUA and strive to leverage faculty expertise to help meet the demands of the changing landscape of the academy. As questions arise as to what the U-M core values of integrity, respect, inclusion, equity, diversity, and innovation entail in the current climate, I hope to help strategize how to stay true to the University of Michigan’s mission and standards that were co-created by the campus community. I believe the protection of academic freedom is key to continuing the high standards of excellence that are expected from everyone at the University of Michigan.
- Sun-Yung Bak: I am a clinical associate professor at the School of Dentistry. As clinical faculty, I understand the pressures of teaching loads, research and service expectations. I am passionate about equity in promotion and transparency in compensation standards, academic freedom, and physical and psychological safety of not just faculty but of students and staff on campus. All faculty should have the freedom to express concerns and protection from retaliation. I am an advocate for oversight committees to protect faculty from repercussions from administration. If elected, I will strive to bring faculty voices and concerns to administration.
- Steven Buchman: I’m a tenured professor in plastic and neurosurgery. I’ve been at the University of Michigan for over 31 years and I’m running for SACUA because I feel that the administration has ‘lost its way’ regarding the way faculty are treated and valued. The grievance process requires overhaul as it’s non-binding and it seems the unelected and unappointed office of general council represents the university’s interests and not ours. I think reform is required and I promise to speak truth to power in my quixotic endeavors for transformational improvement for the professors who have dedicated their lives to this esteemed institution.
- James Gulvas: I am running for SACUA to hold university leadership accountable to faculty governance, through transparency, evidence, and timely consultation. As an acquisitions librarian, I have previously chaired the Faculty Senate’s Financial Affairs Advisory Committee, and I serve on Senate Assembly, where I have pushed for clear rationales, measurable outcomes, and honest communication. On SACUA, I will push that major university and faculty initiatives, budgets, and policy changes come with data, options, and impact assessments, and that faculty feedback is reflected in the final decision, not filed away. I will report back and elevate concerns early, across all three campuses.
- Niko Kaciroti: I am a research scientist in the Department of Pediatrics and Biostatistics. My research work builds on collaboration with other multidisciplinary teams, including clinical and research faculty members at Michigan Medicine and across the campus. As a member of SACUA, I will advocate for faculty interests and use my experience of working with diverse faculty members to support a team-based approach to decision-



making. If elected, I will work with the university leadership to ensure that faculty concerns are heard and supported.

- **Kim Kearfott:** As an active researcher and teacher at U-M for over three decades, I seek to return my experienced, principled, and fearless voice to SACUA. Academic freedom — our university’s soul — must encompass both research and instructional autonomy. Diversity — our heart — continuously revitalizes our community. I prioritize protecting these values across all disciplines. While STEM faculty face critical resource challenges, humanities colleagues endure budget-strained teaching and intense cultural debates. I cannot guarantee simple solutions, but I promise to strive for them while demanding administrative accountability and transparency. I ask for your vote to protect our collective future.
- **Mukesh Nyati:** As a U-M faculty member for over two decades with an international educational background, I bring the necessary experience to serve and protect our diverse faculty community. Having served on numerous committees, I understand the importance of representation for faculty who come from all parts of the world to serve this institution. I am driven by a specific mantra in both my professional and personal life: responsibility, rights, and ethics. If elected to SACUA, I will represent these core values to ensure a fair and ethical environment for all faculty.
- **Merle Rosenzweig:** As a proud alum of the University of Michigan, it would be an honor to be considered as a candidate for the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs and to support the mission of the University of Michigan ‘in developing leaders and citizens who will challenge the present and enrich the future.’ I believe the university faces new challenges, such as climate change, diversity, equity, and inclusion in student enrollment and faculty recruitment; gender equality, among other things. As a member of SACUA, I would have the opportunity to see those challenges accomplished.
- **Michael Schubnell:** As research faculty in physics and a Senate Assembly member, I am deeply committed to representing faculty interests and advancing shared governance. Universities face many challenges — from attacks on free speech, accessibility, and funding, to the unknown impact of emerging technologies like AI. I believe SACUA must provide a strong voice in defining how we adapt, balancing innovation with academic integrity. If elected, I will advocate for faculty input, flexible policies, and thoughtful engagement, ensuring we shape the future of research and teaching at Michigan, rather than simply react to change.
- **Maria Silveira:** I am honored to stand for election to SACUA. Throughout my career as a physician-scientist, ethicist, and educator at the University of Michigan, I have been deeply engaged in leadership and policy work at institutional, state, and national levels, including prior elected service in the U-M Senate Assembly. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to shared governance, transparency, and ensuring faculty perspectives meaningfully inform university decision-making. I will advocate for faculty and student well-being, freedom of academic speech, robust funding of impactful research, and improved affordability of higher education. I am particularly committed to fostering trust between faculty and leadership.



- Lauren B. Smith: I am currently on SACUA, filling a vacancy. I will continue to bring my experience as a clinical professor and my insight as the daughter of a nontenure-track faculty member. I am a pathologist and ethicist specializing in diagnosing leukemias and lymphomas, and I frequently address complex ethical issues in medicine with mediation. This is a critical time when academic freedom is at stake. I support peaceful protest and science-based medical care, and I understand the importance of shared governance. In an era when courage is essential, I will listen to diverse perspectives and fight for our shared values/interests.

Discussion:

- There were several process related questions which clarified the following information. The candidates who receive the most votes will be elected, subject to limits on the number of SACUA members from any one unit. Since one Medical School representative currently serves on SACUA, the election of a second Medical School representative would meet that unit's two-person maximum. The other Medical School candidates would then be passed over in favor of other candidates with the next highest votes. The role of SACUA Nominating Committee is to complete a procedural review of candidate eligibility. All eligible and interested SACUA nominees are included in the slate of candidates without pre-vetting except for a verification of eligibility.

4:48 pm Resolution Concerning Surveillance on Campus

- The Resolution Concerning Surveillance on Campus was originally moved at the February 23rd SA meeting, was then postponed to allow for further revision, and a revised version was re-circulated to the Senate Assembly prior to today's meeting.
- Chair Peterson reviewed the resolution's four be it resolved items and opened the floor for discussion. Hearing no discussion, an electronic vote was opened via the SimplyVoting platform.

Vote:

The [Resolution Concerning Surveillance on Campus](#) passed with 30 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstention.

4:56 pm New Business

- The Senate Parliamentarian commented that it was good to see the tremendous progress made with open access since a prior SACUA Subcommittee on Open Access, that she had chaired, had considered the issue.

5:00 Adjournment

- Chair Peterson invited SA members to raise new business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério M. Pinto
Faculty Senate Secretary

ADDENDUM

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

[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.”