

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**University Senate Meeting****Monday, November 3, 2025, 3:15 pm**

The Hybrid meeting was held in 2000 University Hall, Ruthven and Zoom
Attendance included approximately 100 in-person and 400 online members

Minutes: November 3, 2025**Circulated:** April 24, 2026**Approved:** April 27, 2026**Scheduled Speakers**

- Mark J. Kushner, William P. Allis Distinguished University Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Chemical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences
- Jesse Capecelatro, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering, College of Engineering
- Rafael Neis, Jean and Samuel Frankel Professor of Rabbinic Literature, Professor of History and Judaic Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Faculty Director of Arts Learning and Teaching, the Arts Initiative
- Shanna Kattari, Associate Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work and Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
- Anna Kirkland, Kim Lane Scheppele Collegiate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Professor of Sociology, Professor of Political Science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Professor of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health and Professor of Law, Law School
- Julian Davis Mortenson, James G. Phillip Professor of Law, UM Law School
- Silke-Maria Weineck, Grace Lee Boggs Professor of Comparative Literature and German Studies, LSA
- Brady West, Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center, Research Professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, Adjunct Lecturer in Quantitative Methods and Social Sciences Program, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Research Professor, Biostatistics, School of Public Health
- Rachel Best, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director Graduate Studies, Sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
- Abram Wagner, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Assistant Professor of Global Public Health, School of Public Health
- Julie Boland, Professor of Psychology and Linguistics, LSA
- Jamie L. Wraight, Lecturer IV in Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences and Letters, The University of Michigan-Dearborn
- Scott Greer, Professor Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health

- Germiné Awad, University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, Professor of Psychology, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Associate Director, Global Islamic Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
- Craig Smith, Senior Associate Librarian, University Library
- Johannes von Moltke, Rudolf Arnheim Collegiate Professor of German Studies and Film, Television and Media, Acting Director, International Institute, Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Professor of Film, Television and Media, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Press:

Genevieve Monsma – *University Record*

Harper King – *Daily*

Edith Pendell – *Daily*

The remarks provided below are summaries of comments made by the speakers and are not comprehensive or a transcription.

Minutes

3:16 Chair Opening Remarks

On November 3, 2026, the University Senate met, with a quorum of members present. Chair Peterson provided opening remarks. Deirdre Spencer was recognized as Faculty Senate Parliamentarian. Faculty Senate meetings are open to the public and speaking privileges are limited to University Senate members. The University Senate, also known as the Faculty Senate, includes over [7,800+ members](#). The Senate Assembly (SA) meets once a month and SACUA meets weekly. Following the [April 17th, 2025 University Senate Special Meeting](#), 4,000 University Senate members voted on motions. These motions provided an impetus for faculty governance leadership to pursue issues and to advocate for matters articulated by a vote of the faculty.

3:18 Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the November 4, 2024, University Senate meeting and the April 17, 2025, special University Senate meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

3:20 Approval of the Agenda

- The agenda was reviewed and then approved by unanimous consent. The agenda allots ten minutes to each of the nine motions.
- Chair Peterson continued with opening remarks. At 5:30 pm after today's meeting, a vote will commence on the resolutions and be open for 72 hours. To vote, you must be a member of the [University Senate](#). To speak, please raise your hand, either digitally or in-person, and someone in the room will bring you a microphone.

3:22 Motion 1: Motion to Make the Collegiate Travel Partners (CTP) Travel Service Optional

- Mark Kushner, one of the sponsors of the motion, moved that motion 1 be adopted. There were multiple in-person seconds of the motion.
- Mark Kushner then spoke in favor of the motion. Kushner remarked that CTP is not cheaper or more convenient than online booking and the decision was made without public discussion. A petition on the matter had received 1,000+ signatures.
- Jesse Capecelatro, SACUA member and Chair of the CTP Task Force, also spoke in favor of the motion. To date, a survey sponsored by the task force had received 900+ responses across all units, with faculty members overwhelming concerned about CTP.

3:28 Motion 2: Resolution to End the “Pause” and Resume Gender Affirming Care, in Alignment with our University’s Values and the Mission of Michigan Medicine

- Rafe Neis, one of the sponsors of the motion, moved that motion 2 be adopted. There were multiple in-person seconds of the motion.
- Rafe Neis then spoke in favor of the motion. Studies, including U-M studies, have shown that Gender Affirming Care (GAC) is critical and lifesaving, and all national medical associations affirm the medical necessity of GAC. Studies have also demonstrated that withholding GAC is associated with depression and risk of suicide. There is no substitute for the care that has been provided by Michigan Medicine.
- Shanna Kattari also spoke in favor of the motion. It is crucial for the trans community to make decisions about their own bodies, including the use of puberty blockers and hormones to best represent who they are. Hormone treatments are available for cis-females and cis-males, and there is evidence GAC treatments save lives. It is crucial to be on the side of justice and to provide basic health care.
- Anna Kirkland also spoke in favor of the motion. Gender Affirming Care is fully legal and is protected by state civil rights law, passed by legislators and the governor. The federal government has tried to deny care based upon threats and intimidation. Our participation in such discrimination threatens all of us and Michigan Medicine should be able to use their expertise for clinical care.
- The floor was then opened for discussion. An LSA faculty spoke in favor of the motion remarking that it is important to signal that this is a line that should not be crossed. A Dentistry faculty said that, as a mother of a trans man who is married to a nonbinary partner, the pause on GAC is an incredible cruelty, shameful, and likely not legal. A Public Health faculty warned that this pause on GAC for minors sets a precedent to expand the pause to adults. A Michigan Medicine (MM) faculty remarked that some of the studies on GAC were weak. Another MM faculty responded that the studies referred to in the previous comment were not scientifically valid and the question is whether providers are able to use their discretion about how to do their job.

3:45 pm Motion 3: Resolution to Reject Participation in the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education”

- Julian Davis Mortenson, one of the sponsors of the motion, moved that motion 3 be adopted. There were multiple in-person seconds of the motion.
- Julian Davis Mortenson then spoke in favor of the motion. U-M strives to uphold excellence across the academic enterprise and, as such, pursues the quest for knowledge without government interference. The “Compact” undermines such autonomy by imposing interference directly with admissions, faculty selection, and academic freedom, etc.

3:48 pm Motion 4: Resolution Demanding a Comprehensive Policy Addressing the Role of Generative Artificial Intelligence at the University of Michigan

- Silke-Maria Weineck, one of the sponsors of the motion, moved that motion 4 be adopted. There were multiple in-person seconds of the motion.
- Silke-Maria Weineck then spoke in favor of the motion. While aspects of AI are transformative and others harmful, many are worried by the rapid adoption of AI without careful analysis. There has not been the needed conversation about topics such as AI’s impact on the environment, the deskilling of students, mental health risks, and the theft of intellectual property. This is not an anti-AI motion, but a request to include faculty in the creation of policies and a call to come together, across disciplines, to hash out such questions and to listen to AI critics as closely as to its proponents. Our government will not regulate AI and U-M needs to rise to the occasion as leaders and the best.
- The floor was then opened for discussion. An Engineering faculty raised a question about whether the University is in a position to regulate AI, given the rapid pace of its development, and encouraged a more piecemeal approach before attempting a general policy. A U-M Dearborn faculty commented that, given that AI can’t be stopped, there needs to be tools to work better with it, and there are not ways to find out if students are using AI for their assignments. The university needs to back-up faculty on policing AI. An Engineering faculty suggested that a piecemeal approach wouldn’t work and there needs to be a campus-wide discussion about AI’s impact on faculty members’ intellectual rights. A MM faculty uses AI every day and spoke to the need for a campus conversation while also raising questions about whether a centralized policy was needed. An LSA faculty spoke in favor of the motion, remarking that a comprehensive policy is distinct from regulation of AI and that, thus far, U-M leaders have made decisions without faculty input. Another LSA faculty remarked that the university has had a campus-wide policy on the rollout of AI with very little consultation of broad sectors of the faculty.

4:00 pm Motion 5: Call to Restore Funding for Consulting for Statistics, Computing, and Analytics Research (CSCAR)

- Brady West, one of the sponsors of the motion, moved that motion 5 be adopted. There were multiple in-person seconds of the motion.
- Brady West then spoke in favor of the motion. A petition received 877 signatures in support of CSCAR, and it is unclear how ending CSCAR will save money or allow OVPR to serve the campus more effectively. Countless members of the campus community have launched their career and prepared grant application with CSCAR’s

support. Thousands of CSCAR appointments have been scheduled by faculty in MM, SEAS, Engineering, and elsewhere.

- Rachel Best then spoke in favor of the motion. In response to a job candidate who had asked why it is great to work at U-M, her first example was CSCAR. CSCAR was also instrumental when she was working on a revise and resubmit for a publication.
- Abram Wagner then spoke in favor of the motion, sharing that CSCAR provided help with a new analytical model and CSCAR had expertise beyond what was available within his department. CSCAR is indispensable as a service open to everyone.
- The floor was then opened for discussion. A faculty remarked that CSCAR's expertise cannot be filled with AI, and suggesting AI as a potential solution is very unrealistic. A Ross faculty remarked that CSCAR had been invaluable for his research. and the 3.5 full-time staff that run CSCAR is a minimal investment given its tremendous impact. A School of Public Health faculty shared appreciation for CSCAR, noting the service is incredibly valuable for students and early career faculty.

4:12 pm [Motion 6: A Resolution Asking the University to Invest the Necessary Resources to Make Our Digital Materials Accessible](#)

- Julie Boland, one of the sponsors of the motion, moved that motion 6 be adopted. There were multiple in-person seconds of the motion.
- Julie Boland then spoke in favor of the motion. A new ADA regulation requires that online course materials be accessible by April 24, 2026, and, while she enthusiastically supports ADA, U-M's plans have not been going well and there has been little communication about how to achieve compliance. Many faculty are unaware the new regulation requires all Canvas materials to be compliant. PDFs are generally not compliant and content with formulas and video simulations present challenges. Compliance, as outlined in SPG 601.20, requires more centralized tools and it is not cost effective for thousands of faculty to remediate content individually.
- Jamie Wraight then spoke in favor of the motion. While he too lauds the imperative of the project, compliance would require hundreds of hours of unpaid work. For him, compliance would cover seven course preps and adding captions to videos for self-paced online courses. There is also ambiguity about liability for individual faculty.
- The floor was then opened for discussion. An Engineering faculty commented that unit-level IT have estimated that it would take 100 hours for a single course to be in compliance, and more centralized resources are needed for the project. Another faculty commented there was a lot of misinformation about the requirements and many people on campus were working to address the requirements. An LSA faculty shared their experience with making a course accessible for a blind student and said it was not just resources, but also expertise that is needed.

4:29 pm [Motion 7: Motion to Restore Fair Rules and Rule of Law to the University](#)

- Scott Greer, one of the sponsors of the motion, moved that motion 6 be adopted. There were multiple in-person seconds of the motion.

- Scott Greer then spoke in favor of the motion. The rule of law has been eroded internally at U-M, with examples of dissenting opinions not receiving meaningful representation on ad hoc committees and with the procedures for amending the U-M Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR) not being followed. With the overturning of grievance decisions and the handling of student protestors, speech gets chilled.
- Gigi Awad then spoke in favor of the motion, noting there is a risk that U-M becomes like her prior institution at the University of Texas. The lack of clear policy is a mechanism of oppression and suppression, and there needs to be procedural justice to resolve disputes. Shared governance is needed to ensure justice and we all win when policies and procedures are fair.
- Craig Smith then spoke in favor of the resolution. There has been an extensive media campaign to promote the university and yet the Regents made changes to the SSRR without due process. If rules can be changed at any time, there are no rules. Campus leaders, such as Rachel Dawson, have been fired because of pressure from the Regents.
- The floor was then opened for discussion. An LSA faculty spoke in favor of the motion, remarking U-M hasn't followed its bylaws and a process is needed to uphold the bylaws. U-M's grievance procedure is not enforceable. The General Counsel has not worked in support of U-M faculty. Another faculty remarked the resolution was timely and necessary and it is important to be on the right side of history and against the ways the anti-war activists have been prosecuted.

4:43 pm [Motion 8: Resolution Regarding New H-1B Policies](#)

- Johannes von Moltke, one of the sponsors of the motion, moved that motion 6 be adopted. There were multiple in-person seconds of the motion.
- Johannes von Moltke then spoke in favor of the motion. As an international faculty, if there had been a \$100K cost for a visa in 1998, he wouldn't be here today. Academic work in international studies has become increasingly difficult. In LSA, the emphasis is on the importance of producing knowledge not just for the U.S., but for the world. The current climate has harmed such work and has already had a chilling effect.

4:47 pm [Motion 9: Statement Concerning the Presidential Search Committee](#)

- On behalf of the Senate Assembly, Chair Peterson brought forward the resolution for consideration.
- Chair Peterson then spoke in favor of the resolution. A theme is that the administration has increasingly not listened to faculty governance. While faculty serve on the presidential search committee, this is not the same as having faculty serve on the search committee identified through faculty governance procedures.

4:50 Instructions on voting

- Chair Peterson reviewed the voting procedures. All Faculty Senate members will receive an email with a link to vote via the SimplyVoting platform at approximately 5:30 p.m today. Please encourage all your colleagues to vote. It mattered a great deal that 4,000+ members of the Faculty Senate voted on resolutions at the prior Faculty Senate meeting.

4:51 Matters Arising

- The Faculty Senate is also encouraged to attend the [2025 Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom](#), with keynote speaker Ruth Ben-Ghiat, at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 6th.

4:52 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério M. Pinto
Faculty Senate Secretary

ADDENDUM

University Senate Actions

Following the meeting of the University Senate held on November 3, 2025, the University Senate approved by electronic vote the following motions:

- Motion 1: Motion to Make the Collegiate Travel Partners (CTP) Travel Service Optional
 - *Results: Yes, 3350 (96.7%); No 116 (3.3%); Abstain 172- Motion PASSED*
- Motion 2: Resolution to End the “Pause” and Resume Gender Affirming Care, in Alignment with our University’s Values and the Mission of Michigan Medicine
 - *Results: Yes, 2432 (81.4%); 555 (18.6%); Abstain 651 – Motion PASSED*
- Motion 3: Resolution to Reject Participation in the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education”
 - *Results: Yes, 2978 (93.0%); 225 (7.0%); Abstain 435 – Motion PASSED*
- Motion 4: Resolution Demanding a Comprehensive Policy Addressing the Role of Generative Artificial Intelligence at the University of Michigan
 - *Results: Yes, 2666 (86.1%); 429 (13.9%); Abstain 543 – Motion PASSED*
- Motion 5: Call to Restore Funding for Consulting for Statistics, Computing, and Analytics Research (CSCAR)
 - *Results: Yes, 2585 (90.2%); 281 (9.8%); Abstain 772 – Motion PASSED*
- Motion 6: A Resolution Asking the University to Invest the Necessary Resources to Make Our Digital Materials Accessible
 - *Results: Yes, 2716 (92.5%); 221 (7.5%); Abstain 701 – Motion PASSED*
- Motion 7: Motion to Restore Fair Rules and Rule of Law to the University
 - *Results: Yes, 2478 (88.4%); 325 (11.6%); Abstain 835 – Motion PASSED*
- Motion 8: Resolution Regarding New H-1B Policies
 - *Results: Yes, 2796 (92.6%); 224 (7.4%); Abstain 618 – Motion PASSED*
- Motion 9: Statement Concerning the Presidential Search Committee
 - *Results: Yes, 2592 (88.4%); 339 (11.6%); Abstain 707 – Motion PASSED*

[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."