

Minutes of Meeting: 5/18/2026  
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs  
Monday, May 18, 2026, 3:00pm  
The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Present: Kentaro Toyama (Chair), Kirsten Herold (Vice Chair), Steve Buchman, Kim Kearfott, Soumya Rangarajan, Derek Peterson, Michael Schubnell, Melanie Tanielian

Absent: Jesse Capecelatro, Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary)

Guests: None

Faculty Senate Office: Luke McCarthy, Meaghan Blanchard, Eric Vandenberghe

Press:

Genevieve Monsma- The University Record

**3:01pm:** Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the 4/13, 5/4, and 5/11 meetings were approved.

**3:03pm: Chair's Update**

Summary: Chair Toyama provided an update to the committee. Individual meetings are scheduled with the Provost and President.

A member asks about the ongoing UM Presidential search. It was recently announced by the Board of Regents that they will utilize the same search committee used for the most recent search. Members discuss issues with the composition of the search committee. It is suggested that SACUA advocate for a representative of faculty governance to be added.

A member discusses the recent appointment of the College of Engineering Dean.

It is determined that these items will be taken up following the scheduled items and at subsequent meetings.

Action: Discussion

**3:09pm: Chair Newsletter Survey**

Summary: Chair Toyama requests permission to include a survey in his first newsletter that

will likely go out this month. He reviews the potential questions that had been provided prior to the meeting. The questions will be open-ended and responses will be anonymous.

A member suggests further questions regarding SACUA's work following this initial set of questions.

Chair Toyama calls for a vote to utilize the questions discussed in his upcoming newsletter. The motion carries unanimously.

Action: Discussion

### **3:13pm: Faculty Awards Selections**

Summary: This portion of the meeting was held in executive session.

Action: Awardees selected

### **3:50pm: Committee Roster Approval**

Summary: This portion of the meeting was held in executive session.

Action: Updates to committees, as well as approval of rosters.

The following motions were made by Chair Toyama during the session:

The Communications Advisory Committee and the Development Advisory Committee will be combined for the 2026-2027 academic year.  
The motion carries unanimously.

The Committee on Anti-racism, the Committee on the Economic and Social Well-Being of the Faculty, and the Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion will be combined for the 2026-2027 academic year.  
The motion carries unanimously.

The Committee on Oversight of Administrative Action will be suspended for the 2026-2027 academic year.  
The motion carries unanimously.

The rosters for all of the Senate Assembly committees, as presented, are approved.  
The motion carries unanimously.

### **4:35pm: New Business**

Summary: A member suggests that SACUA consider the formation of a new ad hoc committee focused on artificial intelligence. The suggested initial charge is finding faculty perspective and gathering faculty input. The committee discusses this proposal and offers suggestions of further charge items related to safety, as well as patient care.

Chair Toyama makes a motion to create an ad hoc committee focused on artificial intelligence.

The motion carries unanimously.

The Senate Assembly committee liaisons are discussed. The FSO Director provides a tentative timeline and explains the process. SACUA discusses how best to make SACUA aware of committee work.

Action: Creation of ad hoc committee

**4:50pm:** 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."