

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) Minutes:
Monday, June 22, 2026, 3:00pm

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Minutes: 06/22/2026

Circulated: 07/09/2026

Approved: 07/13/2026

Present:

Kentaro Toyama (Chair), Steven Buchman, Jesse Capecelatro, Kirsten Herold, Kim Kearfott, Ann Marshall (FSO), Luke McCarthy (FSO), Derek Peterson, Soumya Rangarajan, Michael Schubnell, Eric Vandenberghe (FSO)

Absent:

Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary), Melanie Tanielian

Press:

Genevieve Monsma – Record

Glenn Hedin – Daily

Meeting Minutes:

3:01 pm: Come to Order and Minutes

- The minutes from 5/28/2026 were approved by consent. SACUA discussed the possibility of identifying SACUA member remarks by name in the minutes, noting that this change might require added review of minutes during meetings.

3:09 pm: SACUA Chair Update

- SACUA Chair Kentaro Toyama sent out his first SACUA Chair newsletter. A survey in the newsletter received about 173 responses in addition to twelve emails sent directly to Toyama. The survey in the June newsletter will focus on AI.
- Toyama attended the [May Regents' meeting](#) which included discussion about U-M expenditures.
- The SACUA [Statement on Faculty Representation in the 2026 Presidential Search](#) was sent to U-M Regents. The presidential search committee also lacks representation from U-M Dearborn Faculty Research Council and Rackham Student Government. Toyama is contacting each of the Regents in his role as new Faculty Senate Chair. Toyama has not yet received a response from the Regents regarding the statement on the presidential search committee.

Action Item: Toyama will follow-up with VP-Secretary Jon Kinsey about a Regent response to SACUA's statement on the presidential search committee.

- There are efforts to address an issue with the AEC survey results regarding the Median calculation function in Tableau and the complex AEC Qualtrics survey structure.
- SACUA liaisons have been added to each of the Senate Assembly Committees,

with SACUA member interests guiding the appointments.

- Chair Toyama intends to plan a series of U-M panel discussions highlighting various viewpoints (details still to be forthcoming) and offering opportunities to listen to and engage with different sides. Potential groups to consult include the Program on Intergroup Relations, Heterodox Academy, and the AAUP.
- SACUA members discussed the recent appointment of the new dean of Engineering. The former dean had served for a year and half, and SACUA raised questions about whether dean appointment processes should be included in the bylaws, Faculty Handbook, and/or SPGs.

3:33 pm: Ad Hoc AI Committee Charge Discussion

- SACUA member Schubnell presented a potential structure for the ad hoc Faculty Senate AI Committee. “Senate Advisory Committee on AI in Teaching and Research” was suggested as a draft name, with a draft charge calling for the committee: 1) to gather broad faculty input, 2) to act as well-informed faculty governance voice, and 3) to review existing policies and to build a bridge forward and address questions of what next.
- Discussion covered the following topics: The Faculty Senate passed two resolutions on AI in [November of 2025](#) and [April of 2026](#). AI faculty concerns may differ for clinical faculty, as well as in disciplines such as History and in a Physics lab. The ad hoc committee might also liaison with unit or department-level committees, such as AI in Medicine, AI in Education, etc. The AI in Education Working Group has submitted its report, but it has not yet been released by the U-M administration.

Action Item: SACUA members are asked to consider, “If you could charge the ad hoc AI committee with one thing, what would that be?”

4:00 pm: Committee Roster Approval

- This item was in Executive Session and no minutes were taken.

Approval: Kirsten Herold moved and Michael Schubnell seconded a motion to approve the CESWF/CFEI and CAR rosters. The motion passed unanimously.

4:10 pm: New Business

- As new business, SACUA members raised items that included: 1) a faculty member’s concern with Canvas accessibility tools; 2) SACUA interest in a 2026-2027 U-M Dearborn and/or U-M Flint visit; 3) the overlap of union and faculty governance efforts, as well as clinical faculty not being unionized; 4) the creation of a Google doc for identifying SACUA priorities; 5) initial plans to offer a Tuesday at 2pm agenda planning meeting; 6) interest in addressing promotion processes for research faculty.

Action Item: Schedule a Tuesday at 2pm agenda planning meeting

4:42 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 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."