

To: SACUA

From: Luke McCarthy, Director, Faculty Senate Office

Subject: Director's Report on Faculty Senate Office Activities

Date: August 27, 2026

Faculty Senate Office Activities

Since the last report on May 15, 2026, the FSO continues to be productive:

- Assisted with the finalization of a [white paper summarizing the input from Clinical faculty](#) received during last year's [Clinical Faculty / Faculty Senate Dialogues](#).
- Participated in a Ruthven Building ping pong tournament to carry the honor of the Faculty Senate, unfortunately losing to members of the Provost's Office: to Senior Vice Provost Thom Finholt and Assistant Vice Provost Anjuli Jain Figueroa.
- Assisted with a review of the most recent AEC survey results, communications related to that survey, and post-survey release responses to faculty questions and concerns.
- The FSO staff participated in a two-day sequence to celebrate the prior year and strategize about how to better serve the Faculty Senate, moving forward.
- All members of the FSO staff took some much-needed vacation time off.
- Assisted the Center for Democracy & Civic Empowerment by providing the podium used on July 8th by President Grasso and representatives from across the UM system for a reading of the Declaration of Independence on the Diag.
- Assisted SACUA with two SACUA meetings during the summer.
- Supported a Ruthven Ice Cream social to help build community.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair with planning for this year's SACUA Retreat.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair with planning for a host of [upcoming events](#) for the year, including the following:
 - Open Questions: a series of panel discussions with moderately controversial topics.
 - A Regents' Candidate Forum
 - A series of faculty work retreats throughout the year
 - A faculty mixer in October at the Kelsey Museum of Archeology
 - Three "Political Speech and the Public Square" events on the Diag for UM community members to voice their opinions on important issues.
 - Innovate Brew: a series of random coffee matchups of faculty with faculty from outside their department.
 - This year's DMN Lecture, with keynote speaker Michael Ignatieff
- Assisted all the Senate Assembly's standing committees with rebuilding rosters, revising webpages, rebuilding email groups, and scheduling committee meetings for the year ahead. We have a lot of committees, so this bullet summarizes considerable work.

- Arranged a luncheon for the current and immediate past chairs of the faculty senates of all three campuses to meet in Plymouth, Michigan and discuss shared faculty governance concerns.
- Attended the opening of an art exhibit in the Provost's Office to showcase Stamps faculty work.
- Completed the final logistics for awarding five faculty awards, following the decisions of the applicable selection committees:
 - Distinguished Faculty Governance Award: **Rebekah Modrak**, Professor of Art and Design, Penny W Stamps School of Art and Design
 - Regents' Award for Distinguished Public Service:
 - **Bruno Giordani**, Professor of Psychiatry, Professor of Neurology, Chief Psychologist, Medical School, Professor of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Adjunct Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing
 - **Nick Tobier**, Professor of Art and Design, Penny W Stamps School of Art and Design
 - Jackie Lawson Memorial Faculty Governance Award: **Daniel Birchok**, IGS Program Coordinator and Faculty Liaison to the Center for Global Engagement, IGS and Associate Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, College of Arts, Sciences and Education, The University of Michigan-Flint
 - University Librarian Achievement Award: **Yunah Sung**, Librarian, Library Research - Asia, University Library
 - University Librarian Recognition Award: **Kathryn Vanderboll**, Senior Associate Librarian, Library - Health Sciences, University Library
- Attended a BBQ hosted by President Grasso and Dr. Susan Hull Grasso at the President's House
- Met with Ruthven IT to discuss preparations for the upcoming Regent Candidate forum.
- Assisted the SACUA chair with scheduling meetings for the year head for the SACUA, the Senate Assembly, and the SACUA chair with the Provost and the President.
- Assisted SACUA with the procurement of seats to all the home football games, plus parking passes and passes to the Regents' Guest Area for distribution among SACUA members.
- Worked on the travel and lodging logistics for this year's DMN speaker.
- Assisted the SACUA chair with summer newsletters and submissions of faculty governance reports to the Board of Regents.
- Assisted the SACUA chair with sending letters of gratitude to various faculty members with terms that are ending.
- Explored at length the possibility of publishing an annual year in review report compiling Faculty Senate activities, but ultimately chose to shelve the project for now due to concerns about workload and costs.
- With the Provost's Office, processed various funding, including SACUA member research funds.

- Communicated with academic units from across the UM system to receive the results of newly elected members of the Senate Assembly.
- Arranged for a SACUA tour of the newly opened Hadley Family recreation center.
- Performed various annual summer cleanup/preparation activities, such as organizing office files and office supplies
- Maintained the Faculty Senate website.
- Received nominations from Ann Arbor deans of faculty member for consideration by SACUA for appointment to the Library Council advising the Dean of Libraries.

FSO Director Activities

- Finished annual reviews of the FSO staff.
- Attended Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) vendor sessions for two vendors vying for a U-M contract to modernize our core university operations platform: Oracle and Workday. Provided feedback to the University regarding the vendor presentations.
- Met with the CEW+ to discuss a possible collaboration to bring a speaker to campus during the winter 2027 term.
- Submitted a report to the Center for Democracy & Civic Empowerment regarding the outcome of funding received in the 2025-2026 year, which was used to support the DMN lecture series programing.
- Met with procurement to learn about new spending limits on hosted events.
- Wrote a memo regarding revising the election procedures for the Police Department Oversight Committee (PDOC), incorporating feedback from prior discussions on SACUA, SACUA Chair meetings with President Grasso, the current PDOC, HR, and the current SACUA leadership. Essentially, the change would eliminate a prior Faculty Senate seat / non-Faculty Senate seat split between two faculty seats on the PDOC, since that split no longer makes sense after the Faculty Senate expansion to include almost all full-time faculty in the Faculty Senate. The change would permit all faculty to run for election to both seats rather than the current situation in which all Faculty Senate members must vie for one seat.
- Met with the University Secretary's Office to discuss how their office provides electronic access to Regent actions as a possible example to follow for Faculty Senate actions. The short answer is that the Secretary's Office process is too labor intensive to serve as a model for the FSO.
- On July 22nd, attended "Leadership Training: Leadership Strategy Forum"
- Met with colleagues from Dialogue Michigan to discuss a possible partnership during the coming year.
- With the SACUA Chair, submitted a funding proposal to the Center for American Dialogue to support a series of panels and facilitated workshops to support open dialogue on campus regarding controversial topics.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair with discussions with Senate Assembly committee chairs regarding draft charges for the year ahead.

- With the SACUA Chair and committee chairs, met with executive officers to discuss draft committee charges.
- Met with Shandra White, Associate Vice President for Research, to offer input regarding draft SPGs related to research, with a request that the SACUA Chair be consulted.
- Met with Christine Snyder, Director of Child and Family Care, to discuss child/dependent care support.
- Met with Durga Singer, Associate Dean for Faculty, Medical School, to discuss child/dependent care support.
- Assisted the SACUA chair with various meetings, including meetings with Provost McCauley.
- Attended a strategy meeting of the Wellbeing Collective, and advocated most for the following:
 - Addressing faculty needs for childcare / dependent care support
 - Exploring the possibility of a ½ day or full day for a day of wellbeing, with UM employees having the job that day of focusing on their wellbeing and exploring the resources and services available from the university to support their wellbeing.
- Completed the required annual Clery Act training.
- Reviewed the results of last year's financial activities and set budget amounts for the year ahead within the constraints of the office funding notice received in July.
- Assisted the CEWSF and ADVANCE in support of the results of a childcare survey to be shared with the UM community at the start of the fall term.
- Received notice that a Strategic Imitative Fund proposal submitted during last academic year to propose a new Faculty Senate Center for Academic Freedom was not chosen for funding.
- Met with a data specialist in HR and faculty affairs administrators in the Medical School. to resolve an issue in which fulltime UM clinical faculty with appointments at the Ann Arbor VA were not showing up on our Faculty Senate membership list as they should be.
- Met with a data specialist in HR to update Faculty Senate membership rolls to match the research track faculty membership definition passed by the University Senate last spring.
- Arranged for a tour of the DPSS Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with DPSS Chief Rick Arnold to occur an hour before kickoff for the Oklahoma game on September 12th, with the following taking the tour: SACUA Chair Kentaro Toyama, SACUA Member Soumya Rangarajan, STEP Advisory Committee Member Mira Edmonds (Law School), and the FSO Director.
- Updated the current version of the Senate Rules posted on the Faculty Senate website to include the revised version of the research track membership requirements, following the University Senate's approval of amended language last spring.
- Took an entrance exam for membership in the National Association of Parliamentarians, and arranged for the Senate Parliamentarian to take the same exam.

SACUA Actions

Between regular meetings, SACUA has performed the following actions by electronic vote that should be included in the SACUA minutes:

- On May 30th, SACUA approved a [“Statement on Faculty Representation in the 2026 Presidential Search.”](#)
- On July 10th, SACUA nominated the following faculty for consideration by President Grasso for appointment to the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics:
 - **Brendan Kochunas**, Associate Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences, College of Engineering
 - **Kenneth Kozloff**, Steven A Goldstein, Ph.D. Legacy Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Professor of Kinesiology, School of Kinesiology, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Medical School and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Medical School and College of Engineering
 - **Derek Peterson**, Ali Mazrui Collegiate Professor of History and African Studies, Associate Chair, Department of History, Professor of History and Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - **David Potter**, Francis W Kelsey Collegiate Professor of Greek and Roman History, Arthur F Thurnau Professor and Professor of Greek and Latin, Department of Classical Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - **Mark Rosentraub**, Professor of Kinesiology, School of Kinesiology
 - **Tom Schwarz**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Physics
- On July 1st, SACUA approved a [“Statement Concerning Regent Acker.”](#)
- On July 14th, SACUA nominated the following faculty for consideration for appointment to the Faculty Budget Engagement Committee (FBEC):
 - Becky Peterson, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
 - Kentaro Toyama, W K Kellogg Professor of Community Information and Professor of Information
 - Sara Soderstrom, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of Organizational Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Associate Professor of Management and Organizations, Stephen M Ross School of Business
- On August 18th, SACUA approved a [“Statement Congratulating President-Elect C. Cybele Raver as 17th President.”](#)