

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) Minutes:
Monday, July 13, 2026, 3:00pm

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Minutes: 07/13/2026

Circulated: 08/27/2026

Approved: 08/31/2026

Present:

Kentaro Toyama (Chair), Kirsten Herold, Kim Kearfott, Ann Marshall (FSO), Derek Peterson, Soumya Rangarajan, Michael Schubnell, Eric Vandenberghe (FSO)

Absent:

Steven Buchman, Jesse Capecelatro, Luke McCarthy (FSO), 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 6/22/2026 were approved by consent.

3:09 pm: SACUA Chair Update

- Chair Toyama sent the most recent Chair's Newsletter to faculty on July 1. The survey in the newsletter asked faculty for input on the charge of a new AI committee and 269 responses were received via Qualtrics. The survey results were further considered by SACUA during the 3:30 agenda item on the Ad Hoc AI Committee Charge
- The [Statement Concerning Regent Acker](#) was sent by Chair Toyama to the Regents, and Regents Chair Michael Behm confirmed receiving the statement.
- Chair Toyama provided an update on the AEC survey results. Given challenges with the Median functionality in Tableau and the complexity of the AEC survey, the 2026 AEC survey results will instead display the Mean. Since the survey uses a five-point Likert scale, significant outliers are not expected for most results.
- SACUA members are invited to attend the Frozen Yogurt Treat event in Ruthven, 4th Floor Commons, on July 21, 1-3 pm. FSO is one of a number of co-sponsors.
- Chair Toyama is working on organizing monthly panel events for the fall term to address moderately controversial topics. The intent is that the series might be a space for encouraging attendees to better understand various perspectives rather than debate. The September panel topic will focus on institutional neutrality, and one panelist has been identified to date.

Action Item: SACUA members are invited to email Chair Toyama with ideas for

topics and speakers to be addressed as part of the series.

3:33 pm: Ad Hoc AI Committee Charge Discussion

- Chair Toyama shared the results of the one-question AI survey circulated through the most recent SACUA Chair Newsletter. In January 2026, as AAAC Chair, Toyama asked Senate Assembly members about their experiences with AI and, based upon these results, thirteen themes were identified that a potential AI committee might consider. The July 2026 survey asked faculty to choose one to three of these thirteen themes as priorities for the AI committee charge. Toyama displayed a histogram of the results, with the top issues being support for instruction in an AI-saturated environment; a university-wide AI Code of Conduct; and AI-free spaces for exams and assignments.
- SACUA members were invited to share suggestions for the AI committee charge, and the floor was opened for discussion. Chair Toyama noted that the committee should consider issues across a spectrum of opinions about AI. The topics discussed included the following:
 - The university has a responsibility to prepare students for life outside the university and that life now includes AI. In some fields, it is difficult to professionally imagine a future AI-free world.
 - Because of AI, some fields may need to address that computer coding will no longer be valued as a skill, with students instead needing to learn how to use AI to code.
 - A potential need is how to provide every student with skills both about GenAI and the ethics of AI.
 - From the survey, there is a potential need to “create inclusive AI governance structures at U-M” to guide decisions about whether to license, for example, the most recent version of ChatGPT, etc.
 - Widespread faculty need about AI issues was expressed in the [November 2025 University Senate AI resolution](#) calling for a comprehensive U-M AI policy that passed with [overwhelming margins](#) and also the [April of 2026 AI University resolution](#) calling for AI-free zones that also passed [with overwhelming margins](#). U-M IT staff have shared that it is relatively straightforward to lock down browsers and computers in order for students to take exams in controlled environments. To include all aspects of both resolutions in the AI committee charge might be too much for a single committee to tackle.
 - The items from the above resolutions might be included as subtext and/or as examples in relation to the charge topics that the AI committee is to address.
 - Broad topics of AI needs include those of 1) staff, 2) students, and 3) faculty, as well as the 4) space needs related to AI.
 - The need for AI-free spaces is a recommended charge item.

Action Item: Chair Toyama will next draft an initial charge for the AI Committee and bring it to SACUA for review.

3:32 pm: Topic prioritization / SACUA retreat planning

- Toyama shared a slide of potential SACUA 2026-2027 priorities/retreat topics from several sources, which included: (1) faculty/staff childcare; (2) trans/gender-diverse athletes; (3) early decision admissions; (4) AI-free zones at UM; (5) faculty ability to take UM courses; (6) grade inflation; (7) faculty salary cost-of-living increases; (8) test-optional admissions; (9) Michigan Recreation membership rates; (10) Work Connections reform; (11) ongoing issues with travel bookings and reimbursements.
- Additional discussion on the existing list of topics and new topics covered the following topics:
 - **Test-optional admissions** – the UC system has raised concerns with test-blind admissions which is distinct from U-M’s test-optional admissions. With test-optional, students have the option to submit their test scores for consideration.
 - **Michigan Recreation membership** – With the new Hadley rec center, U-M rec rates have increased substantially.
 - **Michigan Medicine staffing issues** – MM has been “hemorrhaging” physicians, causing patients to have difficulty making appointments. It is not just a salary issue, but also an issue of transparency. MM has been expanding to Troy and with Sparrow, with higher salaries at these locations than at Ann Arbor MM. It was noted that such staffing challenges at Ann Arbor MM impacts Work Connection issues.
 - **Childcare** – This issue has been on SACUA’s agenda for several years and has potential broad impact across faculty groups. It was suggested SACUA might invite a guest to speak on U-M childcare needs. Prior VP-CFO Chatas had researched the issue, and, according to HR data, there are roughly 1,000 new child dependents for U-M affiliates each year. It is a complex issue with varied potential approaches (centers, subsidies, contracted childcare, and state-employer-parent partnerships).
 - **Salary – cost of living adjustment** – U-M charges for parking, childcare, and rec center, without providing tuition benefits, which hits lower income U-M including post-docs and staff disproportionately, i.e. grocery, car, housing, etc. U-M might consider providing a flat, cost-of-living adjustment. LEO has successfully bargained for an increase of 6-8%.
 - **Early decision admissions** – Potential concerns have been raised by the Regents and by Admissions about early decision, including that it benefits wealthier students.
 - **Trans/gender-diverse athletes** – this issue might be meaningfully considered by ABIA.
- It was noted that a number of these priorities could be sent to the Senate Assembly committees for investigation and action.
- There was discussion on the role of being a SACUA liaison, and Chair Toyama said he is interested in working closely with the committee chairs and making the SACUA liaison role more meaningful.

4:02 pm: Faculty Grievance Procedure discussion

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

Approval: SACUA approved unanimously that SACUA Chair Toyama may invite U-M Dearborn and U-M Flint faculty governance leaders to one SACUA meeting each term.

4:30 pm: New Business

- The SACUA retreat is planned for September 11, 9 am to 3 pm, and will be located in Detroit. There will also be an optional self-guided tour of the Detroit Institute of Arts and dinner afterwards. A carpool will be available, and spouses are invited to attend the tour and dinner.

4:38 pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério Meireles Pinto
Faculty Senate Secretary

ADDENDUM

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.”](#)

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."