

Minutes of Meeting: 8/31/2026

Circulated: 9/14/2026

Approved: 9/14/2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs

Monday, August 31, 2026, 3:00pm

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Present: Kentaro Toyama (Chair), Steve Buchman, Michael Schubnell, Jesse Capecelatro, Soumya Rangarajan, Kim Kearfott, Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary), Derek Peterson

Absent: Kirsten Herold (Vice Chair), Melanie Tanielian

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

Press:

Aliana Ritter- Michigan Daily
Genevieve Monsma- University Record

3:03pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the 7/13/26 meeting were approved.

3:05pm: Chair's Update

Summary: Chair Toyama provides updates:

- Chair Toyama sent the SACUA-approved [Welcome Statement](#) to President-elect Raver. President Raver replied positively.
- Chair Toyama met over the summer with several members of the Boards of Regents. He plans to meet with more members throughout the year.
- Chair Toyama and Director McCarthy have been meeting with Senate Assembly Committee Chairs and Vice Presidents to discuss committee charges. SACUA is slated to consider the charges on 9/14. The Senate Assembly is slated to consider them on 9/21.
- Chair Toyama met with the Provost several times over the summer.
- Chair Toyama informs the members of upcoming events. Further details can be found in the links below:
 - o [Regent Candidate Forum](#)
 - o [Faculty Mixer](#)
 - o [Faculty On-Campus Work Retreats](#)

- [Political Speech in the Public Square](#)
- [36th Annual Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom](#)
- [Open Questions Series](#)
- Chair Toyama discusses a new updates section in future SACUA meetings that will allow for SACUA liaisons to update the group on the work of their respective Senate Assembly committees over the course of the year.

Action: Updates

3:15pm: Creation of an Ad Hoc Childcare Committee

Summary: Chair Toyama proposes the formation of an ad hoc committee to advocate for more family care support. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution at the April 2026 University Senate meeting that [called for further support for faculty and staff childcare needs](#). This ad hoc committee would work to continue progress on this important subject.

A member brings up an [article](#) recently published in the University Record that indicates the barriers to providing resources for high-quality childcare. The article further indicates that UM is committed to providing further resources.

Members discuss what components of an ad hoc committee on childcare would encapsulate. A member suggests drawing on work done by prior Senate Assembly Committees and cites work recently completed by the Committee on the Economic and Social Wellbeing of the Faculty (CESWF). A further suggestion is that faculty experts from around campus be brought into the committee. A member makes a point that eldercare should be included in this committee's remit.

Further details about who the committee could collaborate with, including labor unions, are discussed. Members discuss whether this committee's work could be completed by one of the existing Senate Assembly committees.

A member discusses the cost of the University not addressing this issue. It is a retention issue for the faculty. Faculty members have left the University due to lack of childcare support.

Chair Toyama calls for a vote to create an ad hoc childcare committee. The vote passes 6-0 with one abstention.

Action: Creation of ad hoc childcare committee

3:30pm: Senate Rules: "Housekeeping" Updates and Proposed New Amendments

Summary: Director McCarthy provides SACUA with proposed amendments to the Regents' Bylaws that pertain to faculty governance. These are being suggested by the Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP).

The first set of suggested “housekeeping” amendments are items that would not affect the current operating procedures of faculty governance at UM. They are items that are specified in the Senate’s rules but were not changed in the Regents’ Bylaws. Director McCarthy proceeds to explain the procedural steps that will need to be taken to make alterations to the bylaws. All amendments will require discussion next in the Senate Assembly, possibly in the University Senate (depending on what is approved), notice in the *Record*, and approval by the Board of Regents. Director McCarthy goes through the changes with SACUA.

Chair Toyama calls for a vote. The motion carries 7-0 with no abstentions.

Director McCarthy introduces the second set of bylaw updates for SACUA consideration. The first suggestion is to eliminate the SACUA Nominating Committee. This is a byproduct of a time when SACUA elections were not attracting many candidates, which is no longer the case. The committee creates unnecessary administrative work, and it is not clear what desirable purpose the committee now serves. The second suggestion involves allowing Faculty Senate membership for faculty with emeritus status and at least a 50% appointment.. These are infrequent cases in which faculty members who have been Faculty Senate members continue to have a fulltime active appointment as Emeritus/Emerita faculty at the University, but they currently lose Senate membership when their title changes. Members offer their perspectives on these two proposals.

Member Buchman motions for approval of this set of bylaw updates, which is seconded by member Kearfott. The motion carries 7-0 with no abstentions.

Action: Approval of bylaw updates

3:55pm: AI Committee Membership

Summary: This portion of the meeting was held in executive session, resulting in the following actions that should be reported for the minutes:

Member Rangarajan moves for a vote to approve the draft Charge for this committee distributed to SACUA members prior to the meeting. The motion carries 7-0 with no abstentions.

Without objection, SACUA agreed to provide input on potential members for the AI committee, leading to an electronic vote between meetings.

Without objection, SACUA also agreed to provide input on a draft statement regarding violence, intimidation, and harassment, leading to an electronic vote between meetings.

4:45pm: 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."