

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) Minutes:**  
**Monday, September 14, 2026, 3:00pm**

The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Minutes: 09/14/2026

Circulated: 9/25/2026

Approved: 9/28/2026

**Present:**

Kentaro Toyama (Chair), Steven Buchman, Jesse Capecelatro, Kirsten Herold, Kim Kearfott, Ann Marshall (FSO), Luke McCarthy (FSO), Derek Peterson, Michael Schubnell, Melanie Tanielian

**Absent:**

Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary), Soumya Rangarajan

**Press:**

Genevieve Monsma – Record

Aliana Ritter – Daily

Maahi Patel – Daily

**Meeting Minutes:**

**3:01 pm: Come to Order and Minutes**

- The minutes from 8/31/2026 were approved by consent.

**3:02 pm: SACUA Chair Update**

- Chair Toyama and Vice Chair Herold had the opportunity to briefly meet President-elect Cybele Raver at the reception directly following the Regents' vote to appoint Cybele Raver as U-M president. During this brief conversation, President-elect Raver expressed support for faculty governance.
- Chair Toyama asked if a SACUA member/s would be interested in making brief remarks on behalf of SACUA at the Thursday Sept. 17 Regents meeting. Toyama is unable to attend because the first Open Questions event is at the same time. The deadline for requesting a speaking slot is 5 pm today.

**Action Items:** Several action items from the retreat are to 1) draft a Declaration of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities to help guide interactions with administration, and 2) to work on better communication between SACUA and Senate Assembly committees.

- On Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, Chair Toyama, Soumya Rangarajan, Mira Edmonds, and Luke McCarthy toured the DPSS control center during the beginning of U-M football game. The control center is impressive both organizationally and technically and involves the Fire Marshal, U-M ITS, the City of Ann Arbor, the FBI, and DPSS. Rick Arnold shared that many people who work in the control center have personal ties to U-M and are very invested in

supporting the university. Mira Edmonds raised a question regarding operations such that U-M police seem to be a part of the Ann Arbor police department's jurisdiction. U-M police and Ann Arbor police conduct their work as peer police units with designations as if each were a city. Ann Arbor police and U-M police have different administrative structures, i.e. Ann Arbor has City Council and the Mayor while U-M has DPSS and the U-M president. STEP has provided feedback related to [SPG 510.02: "Physical Security Technologies."](#) The Senate Assembly/SACUA had raised concerns during the prior academic year regarding security cameras on campus. It was suggested that new changes will be posted soon, with some appearing as SPG revisions, and other, more granular matters will be addressed through a separate "standards" document. A central issue is how to balance security and concerns about the stifling impacts of surveillance on free speech, academic freedom, and privacy.

**Action Item:** Chair Toyama will follow-up regarding the changes made to the SPG and related procedures.

### **3:13 pm: Senate Assembly Agenda Approval**

- Chair Toyama reviewed the Senate Assembly agenda for 9/21/2026. There was discussion about how to best encourage Senate Assembly representatives to be in communication with their unit-level constituencies. Chair Toyama will address these issues during the September Senate Assembly meeting. Potential challenges include that units have multiple representatives communicating with faculty, faculty have multiple appointments, and there are complexities to managing email distribution lists. Efforts will be made to strengthen such communication.

**Action Item:** A list of all Senate Assembly representatives will be shared with the Faculty Senate via a Chair's Newsletter

**Approval:** Kim Kearfott moved and Kirsten Herold seconded a motion to approve the Senate Assembly agenda without any changes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3:21 pm: Committee Charges**

- SACUA members reviewed the sixteen Senate Assembly committee charges. The process for creating the charges includes the following: Luke McCarthy began an initial draft of the charges based upon the prior year's committee report and the prior year's work in SACUA and Senate Assembly. Then, a draft is sent to Chair Toyama and the chair of the committee with an opportunity to revise, augment, or replace the draft language. Next, the draft charge is shared with the executive officer (if relevant), and a meeting is held to discuss the charge with Toyama, McCarthy, the committee chair, and the executive officer (if relevant), with additional revisions possible. Some committee chairs also ask for input from their members, although those efforts can be difficult during the summer.
- **Action Item:** Moving forward, additional planning meetings without any relevant EO in the room will be strongly encouraged for all Senate Assembly committees to aid coordination between faculty and center the ongoing work of the committee within the faculty members of the committee.
- **Revision:** One revision to the sixteen charges was made: Language will be added to the Medical Affairs Advisory Committee (MAAC) charge for the committee to

consider gender affirming care, as raised in [motion 2](#) (adopted at the November 2025 Faculty Senate meeting).

**Approval:** Kim Kearfott moved and Kirsten Herold seconded a motion to approve the sixteen Senate Assembly charges with one revision to the MAAC charge as noted above. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3:39 pm: LSA Grade Coverage**

- SACUA discussed LSA's upcoming [pilot](#) on grade covering. The pilot, planned for fall 2027, would still calculate and record first semester grades, but these grades would not appear on external transcripts. The LSA dean is seeking input on the pilot. Discussion covered the following topics. A question was raised about whether the pilot was initiated by faculty or administration. Some LSA faculty noted that, while the pilot had been mentioned when under consideration, some LSA faculty may not have been fully aware until the pilot was more widely announced in August 2026. There was discussion about whether SACUA should take any action since this is a unit-specific initiative. There was discussion of possible effects of the policy on other units. For example, sophomores who are applying internally for lab positions in non-LSA disciplines may benefit from having their first semester grades considered. Will U-M students have agency in deciding whether to "uncover" their grades? Will non-LSA units be able to view covered grades? First semester grades might be pertinent to fields where course curriculum is highly structured and could also impact tracks such as a future medical school application. It was noted that other universities, such as MIT and Caltech, have grade covering policies. A comment was made that, if a survey were to be done, surveying students could be important.
- **Action Item:** Chair Toyama will look into whether other U-M schools and colleges, as well as external graduate programs (e.g., medical schools), would be able to use internally covered LSA grades for their decisions.

### **4:00 pm: Discussion of AI Committee(s)**

- SACUA discussed a potential initiative that would invite faculty to join bottom-up, self-managed AI committees. Faculty would be invited, via a survey, to choose AI-related categories according to their interests. It was noted that units and/or departments may now have their own AI-related committees. This initiative, however, would allow for conversations across disciplines and units. Each committee would be invited to author a report. It is not known whether a few or many faculty might be interested in participating. These grassroots committees would be in addition to the Ad Hoc AI Committee that SACUA is planning.

**Approval:** SACUA endorsed creating the AI grassroots committees by unanimous consent, and Chair Toyama will move forward with this experimental project.

### **4:13 pm: New Business**

- No new business items were raised.

### **4:13 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 September 3<sup>rd</sup>, SACUA appointed the following two faculty nominated by their respective deans to the Library Council:
  - Kirsten Herold, Lecturer IV, Public Health (3-year term)
  - Candace Christensen, Associate Professor, Social Work, and Associate Professor, SMTD (3-year term)
- On September 4<sup>th</sup>, after receiving notice of an unexpected vacancy on the Library Council, SACUA appointed the following faculty member nominated by the Dean of the Ford School:
  - Molly Spencer, Lecturer IV, Ford School (2-year term)
- On September 8<sup>th</sup>, SACUA nominated for presidential consideration the following faculty for appointment to fill a temporary fall 2026 vacancy on the Residency Appeals Board:
  - Gina Cervetti, Professor of Education, Marsal Family School of Education;
  - Samantha Kreklau, Consultation and Discovery Librarian, University Libraries
  - John Lehman, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, LSA
- On September 9<sup>th</sup>, SACUA approved a “[Statement Against Violence, Intimidation, and Harassment.](#)”
- On September 9<sup>th</sup>, SACUA approved a draft roster and list of potential chairs to serve on a new SACUA Ad Hoc AI Committee being formed.

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."