

General Counsel's Advisory Committee (GCAC)

Minutes of Meeting 4/10/26

Circulated: 9/10/26

Approved: 10/8/26

Present: Jason Fetting, Michael Lempert, Farina Mir, Julian Mortenson, Jordan Siegel (Chair), Yulia Sevryugina, Stevens Wandmacher, David Santacroce, Tim Lynch (VP and General Counsel), Daniel Birchok, Tom Braun, Cam Amin, Kentaro Toyama (SACUA),

Absent: Nancy Allee, Aric Knuth, Chris J. Walker

Faculty Senate Office: Meaghan Blanchard

8:45: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda is approved. The minutes for the 11/21/20206 and 3/20/2026 GCAC meeting are approved.

Vice President Lynch thanks the committee for the great conversations he and the committee have had this year. He believes that these conversations were very helpful and informative to his work.

Vice President Lynch proposes that the committee incorporate a half hour “get to know you” session into the agenda of the first meeting of the 26-27 academic year.

8:50: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Teaching

Summary: The committee discusses their personal experiences and perspectives on how artificial intelligence impacts teaching at the University of Michigan. This topic was incorporated into the agenda in response to [a current lawsuit being brought against the University of Michigan](#).

9:50: Accessibility of teaching materials

Summary: The committee asks for clarification on individual’s legal liability in cases where accessibility requirements for course materials are not met. Vice President Lynch emphasizes that faculty should make a good faith effort to make their course materials accessible.

The committee expresses concern that there are not enough resources to assist them in making their course materials accessible, especially by the April 24, 2026, deadline specified by the [ADA Title II Compliance guidelines](#). Vice President Lynch encourages the committee to continue working with their deans and the Provost on this topic.

Action: Discussion

9:55: Employment contracts

Summary: The committee discusses the university's position on faculty employment contracts. Vice President Lynch emphasizes that signed offer letters are taken very seriously by the University.

Action: Discussion

9:57: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Summary: The committee discusses [the court ruling](#) that prevents the upholding of the [contents of the "Dear Colleague" letter published on February 14th, 2026](#).

Action: Discussion

10:00: The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Summary: The committee asks for clarification regarding what information from the university can be accessed via FOIA requests.

Action: Discussion

10:05: Gender Violence

Summary: The committee discusses the contents of [Motion 4: Motion on Accountability for the Handling of Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination at the University](#), passed by the Senate Assembly on April 17, 2025. The committee asks for updates on requests laid out in the motion document.

Action: Discussion

10:10: Surveillance

Summary: The committee discusses surveillance on campus, specifically related to new cameras installed on The Diag and changes made to [SPG 606.01](#).

Action: Discussion

10:15: 1940's Statement from the American Association of University Professors

Summary: The committee clarifies phrasing from the [1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#) from the American Association of University Professors.

Action: Discussion

10:17: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Blanchard
Operations Lead
Faculty Senate Office