



Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC) Minutes for 9/23/26 Meeting

Meeting information:

Circulated: 10/7/26

Approved: 10/14/26

Members present: Francine Dolins (Chair), John Tropman, Daniel Deacon, Paul Kileny, Caitlin Moriarty, Kim Kearfott (SACUA Liaison), VP Jon Kinsey, Liz Rohan

Members absent: Barbara Klein, Samantha Kreklau, Audrey Bennett

Faculty Senate Office staff present: Luke McCarthy, Eric Vandenberghe

Minutes:

10:04am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the April meeting are approved. Introductions are made.

10:10am: Update from VP Jon Kinsey

Summary:

C. Cybele Raver was [named](#) as the choice for the 17th President of the University of Michigan in August. The Board formally voted to confirm this at a special meeting on September 1. President-elect Raver will take office on December 1. She is currently serving as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Vanderbilt University. She will continue in this role until later this Fall. President Grasso will continue in his role until November 30.

Upon arrival, President-elect Raver will make decisions regarding several open and interim positions within the leadership at UM. Members discuss that this leadership turnover has slowed some of the work at the University that will hopefully accelerate once positions are permanently filled.

Members discuss their initial impressions of the decision to bring in President-elect Raver. A member indicate they feel curious optimism and acknowledges the challenge of being the President of the University of Michigan. Members express relief that a new president has been selected. The committee continues to discuss challenges that the University is facing, as well as the media attention the UM garners from national and international institutions.

Action: Discussion

10:13am: Charge

Summary: The Chair introduces the charge, which had been shared with the members prior to the meeting. The committee is asked to offer feedback and suggestions. A member voices

support for cross-committee collaboration.

A member indicates that a charge item focused on the UM presidential search is dated and should not be a major focus of the committee. The member indicates that faculty governance should be represented in all leadership searches at the university. Members indicate displeasure with the lack of faculty from Dearborn and Flint on the Presidential Search Committee. A member discusses that having faculty involved in major decision-making efforts at UM will benefit the university community.

A member discusses press coverage of the university, and the need for the university to put its best foot forward on all fronts. Another member indicates that more coverage of UM should be contained within Michigan Public, UM's radio station.

A member discusses funding at UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint. The members indicate that there should be more financial support coming from the Ann Arbor campus. It is important that we understand what the new president's view/plans for Flint/Dearborn, and what Regents are thinking.

A member expresses interest in reviewing the functionality of the Board of Regents' online archives. Also talks about the archive- need to have access

A member suggests that the president-elect should meet with the SAC. The FSO Director discusses initial efforts to meet with President-elect Raver. Given that she has not started at this time, no meetings have been set.

A member expresses support for having the SACUA Chair provide regular updates to the Board of Regents at their regularly scheduled public meetings.

Action: Updates and discussions

10:32am: Regent bylaw update project

Summary: VP Kinsey provides an overview of the ongoing review of the Regent's bylaws for the new members of the committee. Progress on this matter stalled due to other pertinent matters affecting the university, including the presidential search.

The current Regent's bylaws are ~78 pages. Peer institutions are often around 20 pages. The bylaws have grown to this bloated state because items have been added, but rarely have portions been removed throughout the University's history. With support from the Secretary's Office, former VP Sally Churchill reviewed the bylaws and provided a draft of recommendations. The committee met with her each of the prior two years and received updates. The Chair requests a copy of the proposed changes to the bylaws so that the committee can provide feedback.

FSO Director McCarthy indicates that the RPP committee has worked on revisions to the Faculty Senate rules, which also addressed portions of the rules that appear in the Regent's bylaws. VP Kinsey indicates optimism that the project can be picked up.

The committee discusses the proper approach to continuing this project. A member voices support for completing small portions of the bylaws at one time before moving on to the



next one. They indicate that this incremental approach will lead to more success. Another member indicates that the bylaws should possibly be more in line with how constitutions operate.

Members discuss the need to clarify the bylaws for them to be more accessible to the UM community. Currently, there are certain sections that are confusing.

The committee agrees to continue pursuing this topic.

Due to time constraints, the committee will pick up next meeting with the final topic on this meeting's agenda: Binge-free Campus initiative.

Action:

11:00am: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office