

The University of Michigan Senate Assembly Minutes:

Monday, September 21, 2026, 3:15-5:00 p.m.

The Hybrid meeting was held in Ruthven Building 2000, University Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Information:

Minutes: 9/21/2026

Circulated: 10/22/2026

Approved: 10/26/2026

In-person attendees: Keith Aaronson, Terrill Bravender, Jesse Capecelatro, Lynn Carpenter, Marina Pasca Di Magliano, Francine Dolins, Kirsten Herold, John Magee, Ann Marshall (nonvoting), Luke McCarthy (nonvoting), Rebekah Modrak, Derek Peterson, Rogerio Pinto (nonvoting), Soumya Rangarajan, Giuliano Riccò, Michael Schubnell, Craig Smith, Deirdre Spencer (nonvoting), Eric Vandenberghe (nonvoting), Jalone White-Newsome, Apryl Williams, Jon Zelner

Virtual attendees: Carlos Aguilar, Christina Aplin-Snider, Germine Awad, Lindsay Bornheimer, Yi-Su Chen, Theodora Danciu, Edward Fox, James Gulvas, Mercy Hanson, Pat Herbst, Eric Hetland, Justin Hodge, Geoffrey Hoffman, Grace Kanzawa-Lee, Charlotte Karem Albrecht, Kimberlee Kearfott, Michael Kennedy, Elizabeth Keren-Kolb, Rafina Khateeb, Brad Killaly, Kristin Klein, Leah Litman, Charles Lwanga, Murali Mani, Bruce Maxim, Jakob McSparron, Kara Mizokami-Stout, Genevieve Monsma (nonvoting), Susan Najita, Louise O'Brien, Ivette Perfecto, Jen Proctor, Joanna Quigley, Suzanne Selig (nonvoting), Albert Shih, Ian Shin, Giuliano Sidro (nonvoting), Quentin Stout, Saraellen Strongman, Zahid Syed, Megan Tompkins-Stange, Suleyman Uludag, Craig Wilkins, Julie Wright, Caroline Wroldsen (nonvoting)

Press:

Genevieve Monsma– The University Record

Caroline Wroldsen – The Michigan Daily

Guests:

Christine Snyder, Director, Child and Family Care

Minutes:

3:17 pm Come to Order and Approval of the Minutes

- The meeting was called to order with quorum and the minutes from 04/20/2026 were approved by unanimous consent.

3:20 pm New Member Welcome, Orientation, and Test Vote



- Chair Toyama welcomed [Senate Assembly](#) members to the first meeting of the year and shared slides to orient attendees to U-M faculty governance structures. The [Faculty Senate](#), also referred to as the University Senate, includes 7,800+ tenure track, tenured, clinical, research, lecturers, and librarians. The Senate Assembly has approximately 77 members elected by their unit, and [SACUA](#) serves as the executive committee. U-M Dearborn and U-M Flint faculty have SA representatives as well as their own, separate, faculty governance structures. As stated in [U-M bylaw](#) 4.04, the Senate Assembly is the “legislative arm of the Senate” and, in U-M bylaw 4.08, SACUA has the role to “nominate and supervise” as well as perform “other functions” in relation to the assembly and its committees.
- Chair Toyama spoke about the role of Senate Assembly members. The Senate Assembly is a vehicle for making faculty voices heard. Administratively, faculty power is advisory and consultative. Executive officers meet with faculty governance bodies and listen to issues raised. Faculty have soft power, and administration often responds when a large number of faculty speak up. Senate Assembly members are strongly encouraged to participate as much as possible. If you can’t attend, please ask a colleague to attend in your place. If a SA member misses three meetings, they no longer count for quorum.
- As Senate Assembly members, you represent the faculty in your units. Please seek input from your faculty and provide SA updates to your unit. We will help by providing summaries of Senate Assembly meetings. The Senate Assembly meets eight times per year and you are encouraged to stay informed. If your unit has not yet elected 2026-2027 representatives, please check on the status of your unit’s elections.
- As Senate Assembly members, please help faculty governance leadership understand the Faculty Senate as a whole by writing resolutions, completing surveys circulated by the Faculty Senate Chair, speaking with your colleagues, and providing nuance on how issues are experienced in your unit.
- Your rights as a Senate Assembly member include proposing resolutions, calling for a vote, and putting an item on the SA agenda. Robert’s Rules, as well as efforts to minimize bureaucracy, are followed.
- A test vote was held using the SimplyVoting platform with Senate Assembly members voting at <https://vote.umich.edu/>.

3:50 pm SACUA Chair Update

- Chair Toyama and Vice Chair Herold met briefly with U-M President-elect Cybele Raver, and SACUA sent the President-elect a welcome message of congratulations. President-elect Raver has expressed eagerness about meeting with the Senate Assembly.
- The [first event](#) of the [Open Questions series](#) was held on September 17th on the topic of institutional neutrality. The intent of the series is to allow for civic discussion of moderately controversial topics such that speakers can deeply engage with each other. The series is not currently being recorded, but that might be reconsidered in the future.
- On September 22nd, the Provost will host a dinner for Senate Assembly members in the Michigan League and all SA members invited to participate.



- The [2026 Regent Candidate Forum](#) will be held on September 24th, with five regent candidates participating. The forum was recorded and is available online: https://www.youtube.com/live/sg143WrWQmE?si=NpL_PABFTQ8XK4CL.
- Chair Toyama highlighted several 2025-2026 Faculty Senate accomplishments. Faculty Senate efforts succeeded in making the [Collegiate Travel Planners \(CTP\) travel booking system](#) optional for faculty. However, faculty in some units do not yet have the P-Card access needed to book travel without CTP. Another accomplishment was the return of [CSCAR](#), which provides statistical consulting services to faculty, staff, and graduate students. Similar to last year's Faculty Senate work on clinical faculty issues (see [white paper](#)), Chair Toyama hopes to pursue similar efforts for research track faculty this year. A soon to be released Model Grievance procedure for the units will incorporate the majority recommendations that came out of faculty governance efforts.
- Chair Toyama shared a slide with the results of the latest Faculty Senate poll asking faculty about the issues they cared most about. The top issues on the list were: 1) ensure faculty salaries keep up with inflation, 2) develop a comprehensive policy for AI at UM, 3) issues regarding the U.S. Compact for Academic Excellence, 4) international community members' immigration challenges, 5) increased support for faculty childcare/family-care needs, 6) increase flexibility for booking and reimbursing travel (CTP and related issues).

3:50 pm Guest: Christine Snyder, Director, Child and Family Care

- Christine Snyder presented on [U-M child care](#) (see also [Record article](#)). Snyder is a parent and is passionate about these issues. Child care is complex and it is good to hear of interest from faculty. From 2005-2010, U-M expanded child care from four small locations (200 spaces, 1 location with infant care) to three larger locations (450 spaces, with 54 total infant care spaces across all locations).
- [Backup Child, Adult, and In-home Care](#) was expanded in 2024 and includes: SitterCity replacing Care.com, subsidized care for all regardless of income, with growth to 3,000 uses per year. U-M provides Bright Horizons Back-up Care with 15 days of annual backup care for kids, adults, elder relatives, and individuals (you), with copays of \$15 child/day or \$25 family/day or \$8/hour for in-home care. U-M provides a Sittercity Premium membership to search their database for babysitters, housekeepers, pet care services, and more.
- In-progress changes include 1) a new child care center (N Ingalls and Cornwell) for Michigan Medicine that is expected to offset demand at the other U-M child care sites, with an estimated 150-170 spaces, 2) an increase in state-funded spaces at Ann Arbor child care centers, and better integration of programs covering food costs. The U-M community is also invited to attend the October [2026 Connecting the Dots Conference](#).
- Discussion covered the following topics: An LSA faculty spoke to six colleagues and only one out of the six used U-M child care. In this one case, both parents were employed at U-M with two children in the program and the cost of care was one of the parent's entire salary. A Medical School faculty shared needs for more flexibility in hours covered, noting that 9-5 care doesn't cover faculty needs. A Stamps faculty shared two

comments from colleagues, 1) child care is one of the most urgent needs for faculty. This faculty couldn't afford care.com at \$25 an hour, and 2) What plans are there to open more child care centers? The U-M center opens at 8:30 am, but the faculty teaches at 8 am. There is also a need for more Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP).

- A Nursing faculty shared that a colleague appreciated the opportunity to join the wait list, but has now given up on U-M child care because of the length of the waitlist. The faculty asked if there could be more transparency about where you are on the list. Snyder shared that the data is complex – there are 1000 people on the wait list, but some on the list will have other plans if a spot opens. While U-M child care might go through the entire wait list for preschoolers, it isn't likely they'll make it through the entire list for infants.
- A faculty in Public Health had their child at Towsley and appreciated the very high quality care and had an overall positive experience. For the new center built in collaboration with an outside vendor, how will quality be ensured? Snyder responded that such decisions are beyond her area of responsibility, but that she will advocate and stay in contact with the vendor. A law faculty similarly asked how to best balance quality and cost. Snyder shared that U-M child care invests many resources into infant care (high cost and high liability) with a low staff child ratio. In addition, while there is no sliding scale, 20-30% of participants receive some kind of financial support. A School of Social Work faculty asked how family is defined. Snyder responded that they follow legal requirements, such that they work with whomever has custody or legal guardianship.
- A Medical School faculty shared a colleague's comment that a major gap is when kids are sick and can't be at school when there is a need for someone to be with the sick child. Christine said that Bright Horizons has data on this and she will follow-up. A SEAS faculty wasn't able to get on the list for child care as a graduate student. In addition, she asked if U-M works with smaller firms, especially to help fill gaps of care? Snyder shared that Bright Horizons will engage with smaller companies and Snyder can help connect the faculty with Bright Horizons. Snyder expressed interest in fostering new partnerships. In addition, the President-elect Raver has a background with child care and Snyder is excited about potential new investments in child care. Snyder shared information about the [MI Tri-Share program](#) – U-M investigated this possibility MI Tri-Share as a pilot, but the cost would be millions of dollars and funds were not available. Snyder shared she would be happy to return to the Senate Assembly and noted that the forty minutes spent on the topic indicated a high level of interest. Chair Toyama raised a question about whether increased salaries or child care should be pursued as a top issue/s.

4:31 pm Committee Charges

- Chair Toyama reviewed the process of developing committee charges, including charge meetings with all the committee chairs and an initial review by SACUA.

Approval: A vote was taken to approve all sixteen committee charges. The charges were approved unanimously with no abstentions.

4:30 pm New Business

Action Items from New Business:

- In response to a question from a U-M Dearborn faculty, Chair Toyama will follow-up with Interim OVPR Patricia Hurn to ask about the status of the federal administration's threats to overturn peer-review decision making processes for NIH grants.
- In response to a question from a School of Public Health faculty, it was shared that the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) will discuss, as previously planned, the gap funding that had been provided by OVPR in the prior academic year. These funds had been underutilized. and the faculty is interested in hearing more clarification about how such funds might be made available to faculty.
- A Senate Assembly member raised two issues, which Chair Toyama noted will be put to SACUA for future consideration:
 - Previously eliminated block grant funding from Stamps, Taubman, and SMTD.
 - Given the ruling by a federal judge that the executive branch's cuts to DEI were unlawful, what is the path forward for diversity, equity, and inclusion at U-M? For example, what are the plans of the Office of Access & Opportunity and what are faculty needs and goals?

4:43 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério M. 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."