FACULTY SENATE
SENATE ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1120 Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP) Minutes for 10/21/26 Meeting

Meeting information:

Circulated: 11/3/26
Approved: 11/10/26

Members present: Jonathan Brennan (Chair), Sun-Yung Bak, Mitchell Sollenberger, Ken Alfano, Nick Montgomery, Lynette Hoelter, Kim Kearfott (SACUA Liaison)

Members absent: James Gulvas, Solomon Adera, James Cranford

Faculty Senate Office staff present: Luke McCarthy, Eric Vandenberghe

Minutes:

3:02pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda is approved. The minutes for the September meeting are approved.

Chair Brennan met with Chair Dolins of the SAC. They discussed the ongoing update to the Regent's bylaws. The SAC is expected to receive a few sections for further review before the end of the term from the Secretary's Office. They will pass the suggested update onto the RPP. The two committees may have a joint meeting In the Winter term.

3:07pm: Charge Item 2

Summary: Chair Brennan continues the conversation from the last meeting on Faculty Senate composition issues. Currently faculty appointments can shift, particularly for faculty who take on administrative roles. These shifts can sometimes put faculty below a 50% appointment level for their faculty role, which then removes them from the Faculty Senate.

Chair Brennan offers a few options for consideration. The committee can do nothing, recommend that determining faculty appointments take place on a fixed date each term, alter the percentage threshold of membership, among other options.

A member describes real world examples of individuals who experience these types of shifting appointment levels. The member suggests that the Faculty Senate follow similar considerations to that of the tenure-track faculty.

A member suggests incorporating specific job titles into the rules to help determine who is eligible. The committee proceeds to discuss this point. A point is raised that the creation and removal of titles by the administration may make this an arduous task that would need to be reviewed frequently. Members voice support for being inclusive.

A member voices support for having a one-time per semester review of membership. It is suggested that the review take place early in the semester. This review is currently taking place most frequently preceding a University Senate meeting.

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A member asks if these changes would require a change to the bylaws. It is determined that they will not.

Members discuss altering the appointment percentage requirements for membership. Members suggest non-zero appointments for full-time employees, and at least a 75% overall employment level. Further discussion occurs on this matter.

Chair Brennan summarizes the discussion and lays out three points that the committee appears to be coalescing around.

- Have a set date where faculty appoints levels are considered, and have that be set for the semester.
- Change the language in the rules where someone with FTE at UM is a member of the faculty senate if they have non-zero appointment as faculty. For PTE, have at least 50% faculty appointment.
- Set up a process for individuals deemed ineligible to be able to petition for their inclusion in the Faculty Senate.

The committee agrees to further consider these three points. Chair Brennan will draft points for further consideration by the committee.

Action: Discussion

3:59pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office