FACULTY SENATE
SENATE ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1120 Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC) Minutes for 10/14/26 Meeting

Meeting information:

Circulated: 11/6/26
Approved: 11/11/26

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

Members absent: Barbara Klein, Liz Rohan

Guests present:

Erin Katz, Associate Secretary of the University

Chloe Outman, Project Manager

Faculty Senate Office staff present: Eric Vandenberghe

Minutes:

2:03pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda is approved. The minutes for the September meeting are approved. Brief introductions are made.

2:06pm: Update from VP Jon Kinsey

Summary: President-elect Raver was on campus last week. She met with the leadership team, as well as all of the Deans. She spent significant time at Michigan Medicine. There are many high-level leadership positions that are currently in transition. She is meeting with many members of the UM community. President-elect Raver will speak to the University at Winter commencement. There are plans to have a State of the University address sometime during the winter term.

Action: Discussion

2:10pm: Update on meeting with RPP Chair, Jon Brennan, about Regental Bylaws revisions

Summary: Chair Dolins met with the Chair Jonathan Brennan of the Rules, Practices and Policies Committee (RPP) and discussed the ongoing regental bylaws revisions project. The RPP had previously submitted to SACUA a list of revisions to the Faculty Senate Rules. Some of the suggested revisions would require updating the Regent's bylaws. As work continues on the project, the two committees may hold a joint meeting, or collaborate in some other way.

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VP Kinsey indicates that his team will share with the committee the appropriate materials needed to consider revisions to portions of the bylaws. Two areas will be part of the initial consideration. The first will center on executive committees and other areas in which the Board has delegated authority. The second area of consideration will include areas concerning faculty.

Members of VP Kinsey's office explain the logistics involved with changing an executive committee. Since it is part of the Regent's bylaws, all changes must be put in The Record for public consideration. This is a cumbersome process for something that many feel should be under the purview of the unit and the Provost. Members discuss this point. It is not clear why executive committees came to be housed in the Regent's bylaws. A peer review of other institutions' bylaws showed that UM's inclusion of executive committees is an outlier.

The committee will continue working on this project as the year continues.

Action: Discussion

2:30pm: 9/24 Regent Candidate Forum

Summary: The committee briefly discusses the Regent Candidate Forum hosted by the Faculty Senate Office on 9/24/26. Five of the six candidates attended and answered pre-selected questions posed by faculty members. Members in attendance indicated it was a good event.

Action: Discussion

2:33pm: Binge-free Campus initiative

Summary: Member Tropman leads this portion of the meeting and suggests that the committee offer support for the University to create an initiative meant to combat binge-drinking on campus. He indicates reasons why this is an important initiative to consider at this moment. Some of these reasons include the negative health effects, as well as recent high profile criminal cases across the country in which alcohol consumption was a factor.

Members discuss what action should be taken, including writing a statement, which will be drafted and considered at a future meeting. Director McCarthy indicates that collaboration with the SRAC Chair may be a good idea for such an initiative. The FSO will work with member Tropman to draft a statement that the rest of the committee will consider at the next meeting.

Action: Discussion

2:46pm: Faculty Salaries

Summary: Chair Dolins leads a discussion examining issues of merit salary increases across each of the UM campuses. She presents to the committee showing how each campus is not allocating funds equally for salary increases, and that faculty are not receiving appropriate merit salary increases. The presentation continues with data from the Dearborn campus, which shows that faculty are consistently receive inadequate and unacceptable merit

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increases.

The faculty proceeded to discuss this matter. A member indicates that Dearborn is balancing the budget on the backs of faculty. A point is made that administrative salaries are increasing at a larger rate than that of faculty. A member discusses compensation including cost of living adjustment, merit pay, and equity adjustment.

Members discuss the negative ramification on faculty and the institution if regular and satisfactory raises are not provided. Director McCarthy indicates that this has been a big issue raised by many faculty to the Faculty Senate Office and that there will be a SACUA sub-committee that will look at salary issues.

The committee will consider this matter further at subsequent meetings.

Action: Discussion

3:03pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office