SACUA SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1120 Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079

Minutes of Meeting: 10/12/26
Circulated: 10/30/26
Approved: 11/2/26

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs
Monday, October 12, 2026, 3:00pm
The hybrid meeting was held in 1100 Ruthven and via Zoom

Present: Kentaro Toyama (Chair), Kirsten Herold (Vice Chair), Steve Buchman, Jesse Capecelatro, Kim Kearfott, Derek Peterson, Soumya Rangarajan, Michael Schubnell, Melanie Tanielian

Absent: Rogério Meireles Pinto (Senate Secretary)

Faculty Senate Office: Luke McCarthy, Meaghan Blanchard, Eric Vandenberghe

Press:

Genevieve Monsma- University Record
Aliana Ritter- Michigan Daily

3:03pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the 10/5/26 meeting were approved.

3:05pm: Chair's Update and Committee Liaison update

Summary: The Chair provides SACUA with updates:

- President Grasso has rescheduled his visit to meet with SACUA and will join the meeting on 11/16.
- SACUA members voted unanimously to approve its Resolution to Reaffirm Shared Governance in Instruction.
- SACUA members are currently drafting a statement related to the recent handling of a high-profile sexual assault case at Cornell University. This statement will be considered by SACUA at a later date.
- President Grasso has responded to Chair Toyama's letter regarding proposed off-cycle amendments to the Student Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. President Grasso will consider 22 of the 28 proposed amendments prior to his tenure concluding on 11/30.
- The University of Michigan is welcoming a record number of students this academic year. Related demographic information has been released, with concerning declines in enrollment among some groups. We will host Vice Provost of Enrollment, Adele Brumfield, at a SACUA meeting in November.

The SACUA committee liaisons provide their colleagues with updates:

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AEC

- The committee is considering how to improve the evaluation response rate.
- A sub-committee on data security & design has been formed.

SRAC

- The committee has been informed that President Grasso will consider 22 of the 28 proposed off-cycle amendments to the Student Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.
- The committee met with Judith Pennywell, Director of the International Center, at the most recent meeting. Director Pennywell discussed the effect of recent actions taken by the federal government that have impacted international members within the UM community. The liaison suggests inviting Director Pennywell to a future SACUA meeting to further discuss this subject.

Action: Updates and discussion

3:15pm: SA Agenda Approval

Summary: Chair Toyama shares the draft agenda for the upcoming Senate Assembly meeting, which is scheduled for 10/26. Following an explanation of each portion of the meeting, a motion is made by member Kearfott to approve the agenda as written. Member Rangarajan seconds the motion. The motion carries with unanimous approval.

3:17pm: Housing for Faculty: Open Discussion

Summary: Chair Toyama provides SACUA with data on how different institutions of higher education assist faculty financially with housing. Stanford has a program where faculty can potentially purchase housing directly from the university. Columbia University has university-owned apartments available for rent. Similar practices at other peer institutions with expensive real estate markets are shared. No such assistance is available currently at the University of Michigan. Given the rising real estate market in the Ann Arbor area, it is suggested that this type of assistance is something the university administration should consider.

A member suggests that a down-payment assistance program could be considered. Another member suggests that the University should open apartments in Northwood IV and V up to faculty for rental. A member laments that junior faculty who cannot afford to live in Ann Arbor are limited in how they can participate in unit activities due to commute-related issues. Members offer further suggestions as to potential avenues the university could pursue.

Members discuss how this type of financial assistance provided by the university could be used as a recruiting tool. A member discusses the cost of living in Ann Arbor compared to other Midwest cities.

Action: In terms of next steps, it is suggested that a one-page informational memo be prepared and shared with the CFO to help start a dialogue on this matter. As part of this information given to the CFO, a member suggests a peer review of fellow BTAA institutions

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may be beneficial. It is also suggested that U-M could have a webpage for faculty that brings together even some basic housing-related information.

3:38pm: Further Work on "Declaration of Faculty Rights & Responsibilities"

Summary: Chair Toyama indicates that he has incorporated suggested changes to the draft of the "Declaration of Faculty Rights & Responsibilities." He describes how the document will be framed. The purpose of the document is discussed among the members.

The members proceed to work on the document during the meeting. Chair Toyama proceeds to describe how SACUA will vote to approve portions of the document, with more information to follow. Once reviewed and approved by SACUA, the Senate Assembly will review the document, followed by the full University Senate.

Action: Share document with Senate Assembly members for comment. Continue to work on the document in future meetings.

4:03pm: SACUA's Faculty Grievance Monitor

Summary: This portion of the meeting was held in executive session.

During the executive session, Chair Toyama calls a vote to approve Rebekah Modrak as the next Faculty Grievance Monitor. The motion carries unanimously.

During the executive session, Chair Toyama calls a vote to approve a survey prepared by the FAAC for dissemination pending minor possible changes. The motion carries unanimously.

4:21pm: New Business

Summary: This portion of the meeting was held in executive session.

4:45pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rogério Meireles 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 polices 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

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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.”