

Minutes of 18 September 2017

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
September 18, 2017
Monday, 3:15 pm
Forum Hall, Palmer Commons

Present: Alam, Atzmon, Azizi, Beatty, Burzo, Campbell, Chen, Costa, Djuric, Duffy, Erickson, Finlayson, Fenno, Fraser, Friesen, Ghaferi, Herbert, Indjejikian, Kaartinen, Kahle, Larson, Lenk, Lippert, Malek (by Virtue), Marsh (by Virtue), Mao, Meek, Ortega, Pecina, Princen, Rao, Sanchez, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schultz (by virtue), Skolarus, Szymanski (by virtue), Tonomura, Traynor, Wright (by virtue)

Alternate Requested: Aidala, Blackburn, Myers, Orady, Schwank

Alternate: Bertacco (Engineering)

Absent: Bagley, Bruch, Carlos, Cattaneo, Chatterjee, Checkoway, Eaton, Freeman, Gaggio, Gallo Greve, Hartley, Jacobsen, Li, Likosky, McInnis, Menon, Mortenson, Moss, Noll, Roddier, Shah, Vinkur, Welsh, Zimmerman

3:20 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Chair Ortega called the meeting to order
- The agenda was approved
- The minutes of April 17 were approved

3:21: Announcements

Chair Ortega discussed President Schlissel's September 11 meeting with SACUA, which focused on changes in the Federal Government's guidance with respect to Title IX enforcement, campus life and the problem of maintaining a respectful community discourse at a time when feelings are running very high as well as the best way for him to respond to incidents in which members of the community were victims of hate speech. President Schlissel will attend the December 12 Senate Assembly meeting. Provost Philbert will be the guest on October 23, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Robert Sellars will be the guest at the November 20 meeting.

Chair Ortega invited Senate Assembly members to send issues of concern to SACUA, which could be used to structure discussions with the guests.

Chair Ortega announced that the Davis/Markert/Nickerson Lecture will be October 3 at 4pm. The speaker will be Michael Mann, Professor of Atmospheric Science at Penn State. The title is "The Mad House Effect Climate: Change Denial in the Age of Trump."

Chair Ortega announced that the faculty Ombuds website has been updated (<http://facultyombuds.umich.edu/>), and discussed the role of the Ombuds.

Chair Ortega introduced the following goals for the Senate Assembly in the coming year.

1. Strengthen faculty voice through committee work, response of faculty to serve has been exceptional; noted that the Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Committee has been reactivated pointing to issues of free speech and civility looks to have a faculty position to finding the delicate balance
2. Look at Title IX reviews by the Office of Internal Equity (OIE) with a goal of establishing clear policies for protection in the OIE process through greater transparency in the investigation and appeals policy
3. Examine issues connected with the student experience including the impact of new scrutiny from Homeland Security on overseas students, the status of students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, and campus climate issues, especially those connected with civil expression.
4. Continue the Tri Campus Governance Task Force
5. Work with closely with Vice Provost Sellers to clarify the role of the faculty in advancing the University's DEI objectives

3:27: Tri-Campus Task Force

Chair Ortega introduced the Tri Campus Task Force resolution saying that the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) wishes to continue the effort and reconstitute the task force. The resolution is as follows

.....
RESOLUTION SA091817-1

Be it resolved, that the Senate Assembly reconstitutes the Tri-Campus Faculty Governance Task Force for one academic year by electing at least 2 Senate Assembly representatives from each campus to form it.

Chair Ortega said that two members from Dearborn (Robert Fraser and Joy Beatty) were interested in serving on the committee and there are three members from Flint (Laura Friesen, Sarah Lippert, and Mihail Burzo) who would like to serve. Chair Ortega will continue to serve and will be joined by Professor William Schultz from Ann Arbor.

Professor Wright asked what was the overlap with last year and would the Task Force select its own chair? Chair Ortega, the only person continuing from last year's group, said there is a draft report from last year and the committee would be building on the report from last year. He said Task Force meetings would take place before or after Senate Assembly meetings, the task force should decide on leadership.

Chair Ortega moved the resolution and that the Senate Assembly accept the proposed membership. The motion carried unanimously.

3:35 Latinx Resolution

Chair Ortega introduced SACUA's resolution concerning the anti-Latinx graffiti that had been painted on the rock on Hill/Washtenaw:

.....
In light of the recent anti-Latinx graffiti, the University of Michigan's Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs hereby affirms its support for the Latinx members of the University community. Our collective commitment to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect extends to all members of all ethnic communities. We call on all members of the University of Michigan to unequivocally oppose and condemn all attempts to discriminate against, marginalize, or denigrate students, faculty, and staff based on national origin or ethnic belonging.

Chair Ortega invited comment from Senate Assembly members about the wording. Professor Szymanski said that while he was happy to support the resolution, there had been a further incident this past weekend (<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/crime/racial-slurs-written-dorm-door-name-tags>). He suggested that felt that the motion should be made more encompassing. A Senate Assembly member said that passing a measure for each incident might serve the purposes of the instigators of these events, who are seeking publicity for their views. Professor Schultz said while President Schlissel felt he had to respond to all such incidents, a more deliberative body such as the Senate Assembly could issue a more general statement. A Senate Assembly member said such incidents traumatize the whole university community. Professors Beatty and Atzmon raised the question of student response to such resolutions, which might seem disingenuous because the expression of sentiment does not appear to deter offensive behaviors.

After discussion, the following motion was proposed:

RESOLUTION SA091817-2

In light of the recent racially motivated attacks on members of our community, the University of Michigan's Senate Assembly hereby affirms our collective commitment to open and civil discourse, equity, inclusion, and mutual respect extending to all members of all ethnic communities. We call on all members of the University of Michigan to unequivocally oppose and condemn all attempts to discriminate against, marginalize, or denigrate students, faculty, and staff based on national origin or ethnic belonging.

Chair Ortega moved the resolution, which passed unanimously.

Chair Ortega invited Senate Assembly members to send him suggestions about ways to enhance a climate of mutual respect that could be included in committee charges

4:00: Senate Assembly Committees/Charges

Chair Ortega asked for approval of the SA committees and charges (<https://facultysenate.umich.edu/senate-assembly/committees/>).

The committee and charges were approved

4:30 Senate Assembly Member Survey Summary/Goals

Chair Ortega reviewed the result of the survey sent to Senate Assembly members asking them to describe their perceptions of their roles as Senate Assembly members. The results were as follows:

- To represent the interests of my [unit] to the wider university audience, and to share with my colleagues the issues and challenges facing the greater UM community.
- As representative of the interests of the faculty members at the University; to listen and try to understand faculty issues at the University level. Then, share that information with my colleagues at the School & department level. Make sure as large issues are discussed that [my unit] is part of the discussion.
- As conduit: To represent the interests and needs of my school, faculty and students as well as share information learned at University Senate with my own school's faculty.



- As contributor: To provide input on University policy
- As advocate: Help promote the values of the faculty on scholarship, academic freedom and atmosphere on campus.
- As support: Give SACUA input and support its activities on important issues.

Responses to Chair Ortega's invitation to discuss the role of Senate Assembly in the coming years elicited discussion of:

1. The flexibility of the University's faculty governance structures and their capacity enough to manage the needs of faculty on all three campuses;
2. The role of unit executive committees as representatives of faculty governance if they are more tightly controlled by administrators, limiting the independence of faculty voices;
3. The effectiveness of Senate Assembly committees and the need to enhance the perception that their membership represents a wide range of faculty opinions;
4. The difficulty that faculty in one unit have knowing concerns held by faculty in other units
5. Methods to enhance engagement between SACUA and Senate Assembly and the University faculty (including enhanced use of Social Media);
6. Ways in which Senate Assembly meetings might be changed to improve discussion and the flow of information.

4:25 The meeting adjourned

Next Senate Assembly Meeting – October 23, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Potter
Senate Secretary

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.01:

The University Senate

The 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.

University of Michigan Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Sec. 4.04:

The Senate Assembly

The Senate Assembly shall serve as the legislative arm of the senate.

The assembly shall have power to consider and advise regarding all matters within the jurisdiction of the University Senate which affect the functioning of the university as an institution of higher learning, which concern its obligations to the state and to the community at large, and which relate to its internal organization insofar as such matters of internal organization involve general questions of educational policy.

Rules of the University Senate, the Senate Assembly and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs: In all cases not covered by rules adopted by the Senate, the procedure in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed.