

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Item for Information**

SUBJECT: February 2022 Faculty Governance Update

Overview of items discussed:

1. SACUA
2. Senate Assembly
3. Senate Assembly Committees
4. Faculty Senate
5. Faculty Senate Office Update

1. SACUA: SACUA met on December 6, January 10, January 31, and February 7. At its **December 6** meeting, SACUA discussed SPG 601.38 Required Disclosure of Felony Charges and/or Felony Convictions. Rich Holcomb, Associate Vice President for Human Resources; Sascha Matish, Associate Vice Provost and Senior Director, Academic Human Resources; Tim Wood, Sr. Director, University Human Resources; Ashley Lucas, Professor, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, Stamps, LSA and Carceral State Project were guests. Representatives from the provost's office and U-M Office of Research attended the meeting to discuss revisions to SPG 201.65-1 Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Commitment. At its **January 10** meeting, SACUA discussed the reconstitution of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) chapter in Ann Arbor. Professor and SACUA member Kentaro Toyama is serving as the chapter president, and Professor Emerita June Howard is serving as vice president. SACUA approved a Nominating Committee Ballot to prepare for the March 2022 SACUA election. SACUA discussed with Committee on Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion chair Mark Allison on the committee's revised university's working definition of inclusion. At its **January 31** meeting, Regent Jordan Acker attended in executive session to give an update on the presidential search process. The Clinical Faculty Working Group co-chairs Howard Bromberg, Michigan Law, and Phil Rodgers, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine, attended the meeting to give an update on the Clinical Faculty Working Group's Report that was being prepared to share with the Rules, Practices and Policies committee concerning the potential inclusion of clinical faculty in central faculty governance bodies, including Faculty Senate and Senate Assembly. Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Ravi Pendse and Sol Bermann, Executive Director of Information Assurance and Chief Information Security Officer, attended the meeting in executive session to discuss IT security and privacy. SACUA discussed a proposed Post-Tenure Review Teaching Load Policy that was recommended by the provost at the Flint campus. Two Three U-M Flint faculty members attended the meeting to discuss the proposed policy. At its **February 7** meeting, SACUA discussed standard operating procedures for handling endorsement requests from constituents. SACUA [approved a resolution](#) concerning the proposed Flint Post-Tenure Review Policy, with which SACUA has serious concerns.

SACUA has agreed to co-sponsor an event with the National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) on academic freedom and responsibility in a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus community, which is part of U-M's Democracy and Debate Initiative. SACUA member Kentaro Toyama will participate as a panelist. The event will take place on February 22, 2022.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY: The Senate Assembly met on December 13 and January 24. On **December 13**, the Senate Assembly hosted a Provost Search and Advisory Committee Listening Session. Twelve members of the Committee were present along with former President Dr. Mark Schlissel. The Senate Assembly voted to pass a resolution (25 Yes, 12 No, and 4 Abstentions) that reads "*The Senate Assembly respectfully suggests that the Provost Search Committee should be chaired by a UM faculty member or a member of the administration who is not currently employed at the Office of the President*" The Senate Assembly also voted to approve a revised charge document for the Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Committee and a charge document for the Rules, Practices and Policies committee. Robert Ziff, Chair of the Development Advisory Committee gave an update. At its **January 24** meeting, the **Senate Assembly discussed and passed a resolution recommending to rescind SPG 601.38 Required Disclosure of Felony charges and/or Felony Convictions**. The motion passed with 51 Yes votes, 5 No votes, and 3 Abstentions. The text of the resolution follows:

SA RESOLUTION RE: SPG 601.38

Whereas, the University adopted the language of Standard Practice Guide 601.38 in the wake of highly negative publicity about an individual faculty member,

Whereas, the University already has a policy of criminal background checks of its prospective employees,

Whereas, SPG 601.38 requires the reporting of a charge, whether proven or not,

Whereas, BIPOC individuals in the United States are statistically disproportionately charged for a crime and involved in the criminal carceral system than non-BIPOC individuals, which renders this policy inherently discriminatory, a fact borne out by the ethnographic breakdown of those who have reported under SPG 601.38,

Whereas, the very existence of SPG 601.38 acts as a deterrent for formerly incarcerated people to apply to work at UM,

Whereas, numerous formerly incarcerated individuals work at the University and hugely benefit the University, and numerous University employees have friends and family impacted by the carceral system,

Whereas, formerly incarcerated and disproportionately policed current and prospective university employees have testified that this new SPG is unwelcoming, harmful, and threatening to those who already feel a sense of precarity in their employment at the university,

Whereas, SPG 601.38 serves little practical purpose, as charges and convictions of violent crimes are a matter of public record and reliably reported by the press, as was true with the cases that most likely led to SPG 601.38,

Be it resolved, that SPG 601.38 be rescinded.

Senate Chair Allen Liu sent this resolution and the results of the vote to President Mary Sue Coleman.

3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES: Senate Assembly committees continue to meet. Professor Mark Allison, Chair of the Committee on Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion (CFEI), presented a new definition of inclusion to SACUA.

Inclusion: We commit to ensuring that our university is a place where differences are welcomed, different perspectives are respected, and every individual has equal access to opportunities and resources.

Professor Allison will present the definition to Senate Assembly at its February 14 meeting.

4. FACULTY SENATE: In collaboration with the Faculty COVID Council, Senate Chair Allen Liu surveyed faculty with instructional responsibilities on the Ann Arbor campus about their sentiment concerning COVID policies and university communications this term. Over 1,500 responses were recorded. The [results are available here](#).

President Mary Sue Coleman will deliver opening remarks at the Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Lecture on March 14, 2022. The lecture will take place from 4:00 to 5:30 in person at Forum Hall, Palmer Commons, and via Zoom and livestream. The lecture will be delivered by [Dima Khalidi](#), founder and director of Palestine Legal and Cooperating Counsel with the Center for Constitutional Rights.

The Faculty Senate Office is currently accepting nominations of faculty to run for a seat on SACUA. Volunteers are also being accepted to serve on Senate Assembly committees beginning in the next academic year.

5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE: The Faculty Senate Office completed its move to the Ruthven Building in January. Finalist interviews are underway to fill the open part-time faculty governance coordinator position.

Submitted: February 2022



Allen Liu, SACUA Chair