

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

SUBJECT: March 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 February 21 and March 7. At its **February 21** meeting, during executive session Provost Susan Collins discussed funding initiatives to address COVID impacts on research, anti-racism cluster hiring, anti-racism research training and professional development opportunities, and the Provost Office's P&T procedures; the latter was part of a continuing conversation with SACUA to clarify processes and policies. President Mary Sue Coleman was a guest. She discussed three key roles of her interim presidency, including meeting with university groups and stakeholders about rebuilding trust, ensuring continuity, and working with the Regents as requested, to help with a smooth transition process for the next president. President of the Lecturers' Employee Organization (LEO), Kirsten Herold, attended the meeting to discuss LEO data as part of the consideration by SACUA and the Senate Assembly Rules, Policies, and Practices Committee of the issue of expanding membership in the Faculty Senate. At its **March 7** meeting, the Senate Assembly Administration Evaluation Committee co-chairs Professor Emeritus Galip Ulsoy and Professor Semyon Meerkov and committee members Professor Keith Riles and Don Winsor attended to discuss the transition of the administration of the AEC survey to ITS. Executive Director of ITS, Bob Jones, also attended the meeting along with Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Ravi Pendse. The Chair of the Committee on Anti-Racism (CAR) and SACUA Secretary, Deirdre Spencer, gave an update about the activities of CAR. Chair of the Senate Assembly Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC), Jessica Pasquale, gave an update on FAAC's activities.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY: The Senate Assembly met on February 14. At its **February 14** meeting, Regent Jordan Acker and Provost Susan Collins were guests. Flint Provost Feist-Price was also a guest. Regent Acker gave an update about the presidential search, and he engaged in a discussion with the Senate Assembly. Provost Susan Collins discussed faculty retention and student well-being.

The Senate Assembly considered three motions. Voting was completed the following day. The three motions were approved as follows:

Motion to Endorse Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion's recommended Definition of Inclusion

Committee for Fairness, Equity, and Inclusion (CFEI) Proposed Definition of 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.

Motion Passed: Yes: 40 No: 5 Abstain: 4

Motion to Support a Resolution to Expand the Presidential Search Committee

Whereas the University of Michigan must face ongoing and well-founded demands for racial justice;

Whereas the University administration must also face well-founded criticism concerning the long-term presence of sexual abusers in the institution's upper ranks;

Whereas the Presidential Search Committee has been charged with identifying a new president of the University of Michigan;

Whereas the Presidential Search Committee, as currently composed, is weighted toward scholars in the sciences, engineering and medicine;

Whereas no scholars of the humanities or interpretive social sciences have been appointed to serve on the Presidential Search Committee; and

Whereas the University of Michigan is home to some of the world's leading scholars engaged in the critical study of race, inequity, and oppression;

Be it resolved that the Presidential Search Committee should be expanded to include at least two additional members of the faculty. These newly-appointed members should be appointed on the basis of their expertise in the study of race, gender, injustice and/or institutional inequity, seen historically or in contemporary times.

Motion Passed: Yes: 31 No: 20 Abstain: 0

Motion to Support the SACUA Resolution on the Proposed UM-Flint Post-Tenure Review Workload Policy

[Link to Resolution Text](#)

Motion Passed: Yes: 35 No: 6 Abstain: 8

3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES: Senate Assembly committees continue to meet. The Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC) recently completed its work on the amendment process for the Statement of Students Rights and Responsibilities. The Rules, Practices and Policies Committee is preparing to make recommendations to SACUA concerning the potential expansion of Faculty Senate to include clinical faculty and/or lecturers among its membership.

4. FACULTY SENATE: The Faculty Senate hosted the Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom on March 14. [Dima Khalidi](#), founder and director of Palestine Legal, delivered the lecture, *A New McCarthyism? Academic Freedom and Palestine*. The lecture was hosted in person and made available for remote participants through Zoom webinar and live stream. Regrettably, President Mary Sue Coleman was unable to deliver opening remarks as originally scheduled. Professor Anton Shamma, Professor of Middle Eastern Literature, introduced Ms. Khalidi and SACUA Chair Allen Liu gave opening remarks. Honoree Chandler Davis also gave remarks via Zoom.

5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE: The Faculty Senate Office received twelve nominations of candidates to run for a seat on SACUA. Nine candidates have confirmed their intent to run in the election that will take place at the March 21 Senate Assembly meeting. A part-time Faculty Governance Coordinator was hired. She will begin working the first week of April.

Submitted: March 2022



Allen Liu, SACUA Chair