

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

SUBJECT: March 2025 Faculty Governance Update

1. Communicating the Importance of Faculty Research

As you know, UM faculty conduct life-saving and life- and culture-changing research and creative work. Faculty are already receiving notices that their federal funding has been frozen. The disruptions to research caused by Trump's executive orders will be devastating in many disciplines: medicine, engineering, urban planning and architecture, education, the environment, the sciences, and the humanities, not to mention the impacts to the Michigan workforce.

The Faculty Senate Office surveyed faculty, asking them to describe their research in layman's terms, and to communicate the devastating impact these disruptions will have to individuals and communities, locally and nationally. We are sharing this information with elected representatives and through social media; our goal is to get this compelling evidence to share to the public so that they understand the value of the work faculty are doing, and the devastating effects of federal grant cuts.

[The survey can be viewed here at this link.](#)

2. SACUA- and AAUP-sponsored series on Resistance and Reality Checks

The UM Ann Arbor chapter of AAUP and SACUA invite you to the seminar series, Resistance and Reality Checks. These three seminars will highlight the work of UM scholars who offer alternative models and counter-analyses to the executive orders being issued from the Trump administration.

Seminar #1, on Wed., March 12, 1-2pm, will feature Professors Julian Mortenson and Samuel Bagenstos of the Michigan School of Law, speaking on the topic of "On Executive Orders."

Seminar #2, on Wed. April 2, 1-2pm, will feature Dr. Demetri Morgan and Dr. Beth Berman, speaking about "Federal Funding Threats and the Independence of Universities."

Seminar #3, on Wed., April 23, 1-2pm, will feature historian Dr. Geoff Eley, describing models of resistance to authoritarianism during World War II.

You may join the events in person (Seminar #1 - 4448 East Hall; Seminars #2 and #3 - 2435 North Quad); or via zoom: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/93502539371#success>

3. Winter Davis, Markert, Nickerson Events: March 13 and 14

SACUA, in partnership with the National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID), will sponsor two events in the series “The New McCarthyism: The Future of DEI and Academic Freedom in Higher Education.”

On Thursday, March 13, from 3-4:30pm, please join us for the panel event “Manufactured Rage Against DEI as an Affront to Academic Freedom.” During this lecture and panel, Isaac Kamola, Associate Professor of Political Science at Trinity College, will give a speak on the genesis of current attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and their implications on academic freedom, followed by a panel where panelists will consider why attacks on DEI are an affront to academic freedom, how such attacks impact critical areas of research, and the impact on higher education and society at large. Lastly, the panel will imagine possibilities for collaborative strategies within and outside of the academy to counteract these attacks.

On Friday, March 14, from 9:30-11am, please join us for the panel event “The New McCarthyism: Authoritarianism and the Future of Academic Freedom.” This panel discussion will consider historic and contemporary political and governmental attacks on higher education, campus speech, and institutional responses, and it will offer suggestions toward counteracting such authoritarian efforts to limit academic freedom.

You may join the events in person or watch it on youtube. For registration and more information, please visit: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu/the-new-mccarthyism/>

4. LS&A DEI Resolution

At the LS&A Faculty meeting on February 3, 2025, faculty presented [a resolution](#) that “reaffirms that the principles of diversity, equity and inclusions as outlined in LSA DEI 2.0 are fundamental to our mission as Faculty.” The faculty voted to approve the resolution and it passed by an overwhelming majority.

5. LS&A Natural Sciences Resolution

Faculty in LSA are concerned about reports that the administration plans to move the LSA Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, and Earth and Environmental Sciences departments to new buildings on North Campus, as part of the “Campus Plan 2050” North Campus development plan. Among the concerns that have arisen in this context are the fact that key stakeholders, including faculty in the potentially affected departments, have not been consulted on the potential impact on the research and teaching mission of the affected departments; the motivation for such a move is unclear; in particular, no compelling intellectual or pedagogical arguments have been put forward for relocating important LSA departments to North Campus; Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, and Earth and Environmental Sciences are highly interdisciplinary departments that collaborate extensively across LSA and other units on Central Campus; and the

integrity of the liberal arts enterprise as a unified endeavor may itself be at stake when LSA units are relocated.

The faculty presented a [resolution](#) at the LSA Faculty Meeting urging the LSA Dean and LSA Executive Committee “to oppose any and all efforts to move any LSA academic departments off Central Campus.” ask that the university administration have thorough, open discussions with all LSA units, faculty, and administration to determine the best way to support the research and teaching mission of natural science departments within the College of Literature, Science and the Arts.

6. Need for Clarity about the Institutional Neutrality Policy

The faculty are still seeking clarification about the policy. We ask that the administration share the FAQs with the University community as soon as possible to cut through the ambiguity and to prevent future misusages of the policy.

7. Faculty request research support.

The faculty request information about research support:

- Provide information about emergency funding to mitigate loss of federal funding;
- Transition staff positions funded by federal grant money to a permanent university funding source;
- Develop criteria for advancement and promotion that are not based on externally funded research and supports public scholarship and other non-academic forms for the dissemination of knowledge;
- Provide optional extensions to the tenure clock for faculty who encounter cuts to federal funding or disruptions because of Executive Orders;
- Ensure that the University of Michigan Press remains committed to publishing research manuscripts by faculty who are positioned within targeted communities. The publishing of these materials is crucial for tenure.

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