

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

SUBJECT: May 2020 Faculty Governance Update

Overview of items discussed:

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

1. SACUA

SACUA met electronically on April 6, April 13, April 27, May 4, and May 11 with an additional meeting planned for May 18. During the **April 6** meeting, SACUA was joined by Interim Provost Susan Collins. Topics discussed included continuing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts amid the pandemic, and implications of COVID-19 for the academic side of the University. During the **April 13** meeting, the election of Faculty Senate Officers took place. Colleen Conway was elected as Chair and Annalisa Manera was elected Vice Chair for 2020-2021. Their terms began on May 1 and will continue through April 30, 2021. Faculty Ombuds Robert Ortega and Michele Hannoosh were guests. During the **April 27** meeting, Joy Beatty gave final remarks to SACUA as outgoing chair. SACUA recognized Beatty's contributions as Chair. SACUA finalized a suggested list of names to provide to the President's Office for the Honorary Degree Committee. Outgoing SACUA members Joy Beatty, Sami Malek, and Neil Marsh provided reflections about their time on SACUA. During the **May 4** meeting, SACUA prepared a statement and request for the Regents concerning the proposed revisions to Bylaw 5.09/5.10, stated below. The referenced documents prepared by the [Tenure, Promotion, and Professional Development Committee](#) and by the [Academic Affairs Advisory Committee](#) are available on the Faculty Senate Office website.

**The University of Michigan
Regents Communication
Action Request**

Subject: Proposed Bylaw 5.09/5.10 Revisions

Action Requested: Incorporate Faculty Feedback Regarding Suspension of Pay in Revisions to Bylaws 5.09/5.10

SACUA, as the representative of the Faculty Senate, appreciates your attention to the important matters of Bylaw revision. At the same time, SACUA joins with our colleagues across all three campuses in calling attention to the fact that the proposed Bylaw revisions do not reflect the substantial objections faculty have raised concerning the pay suspension process. These include the imprecision of language defining "job abandonment," the possibility that the process can be initiated prior to an indictment, and the fact that two processes will be running simultaneously. While we agree that the actions described are not protected by any reasonable definition of tenure, these aspects of the pay suspension process open the door to the possibility of flawed procedures. Additional documentation is provided in the attached statements from the Tenure, Promotion and Professional Development Committee and the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee. We respectfully request that the Board of Regents take account of faculty input on this matter that was obtained through several in-person town halls as well as through the University's online survey.

Submitted by:

MaryJo D. Banasik, Director

Signing on behalf of current SACUA Officers,

two past Chairs, and a strong majority of SACUA Members

During the **May 11** meeting, SACUA discussed Faculty Awards in light of financial restrictions and promotion timeline policies. SACUA finalized the candidate slate for the Police Oversight Committee.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY

On **April 20**, the last Senate Assembly meeting of the Senate year was held via Zoom. President Schlissel gave updates on COVID-19 and the impact on the University. Over 135 faculty were in attendance. Joy Beatty, outgoing Chair, made final remarks to the Assembly.

3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Several Senate Assembly committees have continued to meet regularly.

Meeting agendas are available on the Faculty Senate Office website on the [Committees page](#) for each individual committee. The following committees recently met:

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee	April 17
Secretary of the University Advisory Committee	April 8, May 15
Student Relations Advisory Committee	April 3
Tenure, Promotions, and Professional Development Committee	April 9, April 27

4. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

On May 1, the Faculty Senate Office launched a new [website](#) with interactive and visual elements. The new format is designed to make the structure and role of central faculty governance more clear while presenting information in a visually appealing way.

Faculty governance leadership was invited to participate in a faculty governance conference conducted via Zoom on May 1 hosted by MIT. The Faculty Senate Chair, Colleen Conway, and Faculty Senate Office Director, MaryJo Banasik, attended. Sixteen institutions were represented in the consortium, including Brown, Caltech, Carnegie-Mellon, Columbia, Dartmouth, MIT, NYU, Princeton, Rice, Stanford, UC Berkeley, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, UT Austin, and Yale. Faculty senate leadership participants shared with each other how their institutions are handling various issues, including response to COVID-19. A follow up meeting is scheduled for May 15.

Submitted: May 2020



Colleen Conway, SACUA Chair