

University of Michigan Regents Communication: June 2026 Faculty Governance Update

Item for Information

Subject: June 2026 Faculty Governance Update

Executive Summary

- 1) What do faculty do over the summer? Work they can't easily do when classes are in session.
- 2) Preparation for 2026-27 Senate Assembly activities is underway.
- 3) A second request for presidential search committee seat(s).

1. What do faculty do over the summer?

It is widely believed that faculty take off on a long vacation over the 3-4 months of the UM summer. But while many faculty do of course take some time off, most use the summer to push forward on scholarship, course preparation, and professional activities, some of which are impossible to do when classes are in session.

Not everyone is paid throughout the summer. Though those with full-time, year-round appointments as Clinical faculty, Librarians, Archivists, Curators, and Lecturers receive a salary each month, some Lecturers are paid by term, and tenure-track faculty have their [baseline salary](#) paid only over the 8 (Dearborn) or 9 months (Ann Arbor and Flint) of the academic year. Research faculty earn most of their salary through external grants ("soft money"), which may not always cover the summer. Faculty can apply grant funds or do clinical work to cover some of their otherwise unpaid "summer months."

Regardless, summer offers long periods of focused time, and many faculty use it to travel internationally to, e.g., archaeological digs, remote archives, "big science" facilities; to visit or collaborate with non-UM research colleagues; to write books; to participate in conferences; to design new courses; to lead or teach in summer programs; and so on. Many also continue their routine work – advising PhD students, continuing research, performing clinical work, and updating courses.

2. Preparation for 2026-27 Senate Assembly activities is underway.

With a new SACUA in place starting May 1, summer is when Faculty Senate bodies prepare for the upcoming academic year. Each college or unit elects their Senate Assembly members, with new members starting their terms on September 1. (Terms are for 3 years, so each year about a third of the 77 members of the Senate Assembly are replaced.) We are currently filling rosters for the Senate Assembly committees – many of which meet regularly with our Executive Officers during the academic year. From now until August, the Faculty Senate Chair and SA Committee Chairs will discuss potential charges for the coming year, which the Senate

Assembly will approve in August/September, and begin scheduling meetings with EOs as needed.

3. Second Request for Presidential Search Committee Seat(s)

On June 1, SACUA [reaffirmed](#) the wish of [88% of 2592 faculty](#) who voted on a similar motion last November, to request that SACUA be allowed to name one or more elected Faculty Senate members to the search committee for the next UM President. We will of course honor any requirements of the search process.

Respectfully submitted: June 12, 2026



Kentaro Toyama

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