

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

**Hybrid Meetings held in Ruthven 1120 and on Videoconference**

**SUBJECT: September 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:**

- During the summer, SACUA met on July 25, August 15, and August 29. Between meetings, SACUA communicated via email. In September, SACUA plans to meet on the 12, and 19. In addition, it plans to hold a Senate Assembly (SA) Committee Chairs luncheon on the 12 and a lunch with all committee members on the 21. A busy month, as befits the start of the academic year.
- At its **July 25** meeting, Chair Silvia Pedraza introduced everyone to the new Director of the Faculty Senate Office (FSO), Lucas J. McCarthy. Luke holds both a JD Law degree and a Ph. D. in an academic field, and has a lot of work experience. At the end of the meeting, SACUA welcomed him with wine or lemonade and a cake. A photo was taken, in the Ruthven Building lobby, which later became a part of the handout on “University Senate: Are the Voice of the Faculty,” for the New Faculty Orientation. Our expectations are high.
- In Executive Session, in a discussion led by Simon Cushing, SACUA discussed the concerns generated at UM-Flint by the transfer of various departments housed under the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to the College of Innovation and Technology (CIT) without knowledge of the faculty or its input. SACUA wrote a letter to the Regents, the Provosts and the Chancellors on the three UM campuses, the interim President and the newly chosen President. In that letter, SACUA decried the loss of mission clarity for both CIT and CAS faculty and the lack of input from the faculty on their campus regarding the direction the institution would take in the future as well as the consequences for the departments left behind in CAS.
- At its **August 15** meeting, SACUA met with Provost Laurie McCauley (in person) and Rob Ernst, Chief Health Officer and Executive Director of the University Health Services (virtual). In Executive Session, SACUA members Sergio Villalobos and Tom Braun led

the discussion on the concerns regarding the COVID-19 situation and mandate for the new academic year. In addition, the Syllabus Insert was discussed, an effort by SACUA members Rebekah Modrak and David Potter to protect the students from sexual abuse, in the future. The Syllabus Insert is optional for faculty to add to their syllabus, if they so wish, specifying the boundaries of the student-faculty relationship outside of the classroom.

- An article on Silvia Pedraza’s perspective as Chair of SACUA can be found in *The University Record*, August 29, 2022, Vol. 78, No. 1 -- <https://record.umich.edu/articles/luke-mccarthy-named-director-of-faculty-senate-office>.

Interviewed by Jaime Iseler, the article points out that we are now at a crucial moment in the history of the university, with both a new President about to arrive and a new Provost at once. It is a chance for the faculty to establish a new relationship with them that could grow out of shared effort and new trust.

- On July 27, FSO Director McCarthy and Coordinator Marshall joined other staff at Ruthven on their Campus History Walk, led by Kim Clarke – a nice introduction to the university’s history and to others in the building.
- At its **August 29** meeting, in Executive Session, SACUA met with faculty representatives from the UM-Flint campus regarding the concerns there – Mairlyn S. Filter (Flint Senate Council), Jason Kosnoski (Flint AAUP), James Schirmer (Flint AAUP) and Jacob Lederman (Flint AAUP), as well as Simon Cushing (Flint SACUA).
- SACUA will be holding a Retreat for its members on October 21 at the Matthei Botanical Gardens. Planning for the Retreat is now underway. SACUA has also begun to work on the Regents’ Forum, which it will host on October 3 at Ruthven. Questions for the Regents have been widely solicited from the faculty.
- Chair Pedraza and Vice Chair Singer attended the New Student Orientation on August 28 and were pleased to be part of the welcome. However, in the past the SACUA Chair gave a brief speech representing the faculty, a practice that we need to return to in the future.

## 2. SENATE ASSEMBLY:

- The Senate Assembly will hold its first meeting of the year on September 26, under Chair Pedraza, the first in the Ruthven Building.
- With the help of the excellent staff of Executive IT, Chair Pedraza and FSO Director McCarthy are looking at how to improve the voting process at hybrid meetings for members of the Senate Assembly and the University Senate. As pointed out in her article in *The University Record*, the effort is to bring together the new – the technologies of online meetings, videoconferencing – that have improved the participation of the faculty in its

governance together with the old – arriving at the Senate decisions through a parliamentary process of deliberation. Our excellent IT staff in Ruthven are assisting us in the process.

### **3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:**

- Senate Assembly committees continue to turn in their yearly Reports, which are approved by SACUA. Chair Pedraza and Director McCarthy have worked with the newly appointed Chairs regarding their new charge for this 2022-23 year.
- The SA Committees, each of which has a separate charge and works on different issues important to the faculty, constitute an important part of the work of faculty governance. They can be found at: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu>
- Chair Pedraza and Director McCarthy will host a luncheon for the new Committee Chairs on September 12, welcoming them, at Ruthven. They will be given advice regarding how to be a good Chair.

### **4. FACULTY SENATE:**

- SACUA chose the faculty who will receive the Faculty Governance Awards at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration:

The Distinguished Faculty Governance Award went to both David Potter, Professor of Greek and Latin, Department of Classical Studies, former SACUA Chair, and Neil Marsh, Professor of Chemistry and Biological Chemistry, former SACUA Chair.

The Regents' Award for Distinguished Public Service went to A. Ovetta Fuller, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical School, and the African Studies Center, International Institute.

The Jackie Lawson Memorial Faculty Governance Award went to Caitlin Finlayson, Associate Professor of English Literature, Culture, and the Arts, University of Michigan-Dearborn, former SACUA Vice-Chair.

### **5. FACULTY SENATE OFFICE:**

Director McCarthy and Chair Pedraza continued the process of hiring a new staff Coordinator (full-time) of the FSO. The Office has been very short staffed.

The FSO has just hired a new Coordinator to help with its many tasks. Eric Vandenberghe will be coming from MIT, where he worked very ably in a similar position in their Organic Chemistry department. He is both capable and humble, a breath of fresh air. He will start at U of M in about three weeks. We look forward to welcoming him.

Submitted: September 2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Silvia Pedraza". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Silvia Pedraza, SACUA Chair