

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

**SUBJECT: September 2023 Faculty Governance Update**

**Overview of items discussed:**

1. SACUA
2. Senate Assembly, Senate Assembly Committees, University Senate

**1. SACUA:**

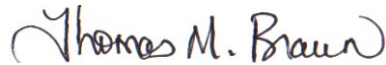
- SACUA tends to meet infrequently during the summer months, although two informal meetings did occur. Several members of SACUA met with Graduate Employee Organization (GEO) leaders in June to hear GEOs perspective on the contract negotiations. SACUA also met in July to discuss the occurrence of faculty sanctions applied by unit administrators through means that appear to lack formal process or documentation. SACUA summarized its opinions and a set of action plans in a letter that I sent to the UM Provost, President, and Regents.
- During the summer, some additional efforts were underway. I, along with SACUA Vice Chair Damani Partridge and Faculty Senate Office Director Luke McCarthy, met with members of the Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX (ECRT) Office to develop a stronger connection between ECRT and faculty governance. Of note, we were informed that there is a new Michigan law that makes it a criminal offence for a person in a position of authority to “prevent or attempt to prevent” a person in a lower status from filing a Title IX report. There are concerns about how this new law, even if well intentioned, may impact faculty approached for advice.
- SACUA did meet formally twice on August 14 and August 28. In those meetings, several topics were discussed, including:
  - The Davis, Markert, and Nickerson (DMN) Lecture is scheduled for Thursday November 9, 2023. The guest speaker will be Jonathan Friedman, Director of Free Expression and Education Programs for Pen America.
  - There will be a vacancy on SACUA from October 9th to January 22nd due to a maternity leave. After a vacancy election process is approved, nominations would open on September 12th and continue through October 2nd. From October 3rd to October 6th, the Senate Assembly will vote to fill the position.
  - LS&A has a working group to address external threats and harassment of faculty and has produced a report of recommendations. I, Julie Boland, president of our local chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), and the Provost will be meeting to discuss how the recommendations might be implemented.

- President Ono met with SACUA on August 28 and discussed a number of issues posed by SACUA, including the search for a new UM-Flint Chancellor, an update on the status of the new Ethics, Integrity, and Compliance Office (EICO), and building a stronger connection between Senate Assembly and the President.
- Outlining the vast number of improvements that could be made to existing faculty grievance procedures, as well as prioritizing those improvements into “quick fixes” and those that will take much more time and effort to implement.

**2. SENATE ASSEMBLY, SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES, UNIVERSITY SENATE:**

- The Senate Assembly, Senate Assembly Committees, and the University Senate were on summer recess for May through August.

Submitted: September 2023



Tom Braun, SACUA Chair  
SACUA Regents Update September 2023