

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

SUBJECT: December 2023 Faculty Governance Update

Overview of items discussed:

1. SACUA
2. Senate Assembly
3. University Senate

1. SACUA:

- On October 9, 2023, SACUA met with Provost Laurie McCauley and Christine Gerdes, Special Counsel to the Provost to discuss progress on a study of UM tenure-track salaries, the last of which occurred in 2016. SACUA then closed the meeting with a discussion of developing a Resolution for the Senate Assembly (SA) regarding creation of a SA Nominating Committee.
- On October 30, 2023, met with Tabbye Chavous, Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, to discuss the contents of the recent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) 2.0 report. SACUA also discussed and edited a draft document regarding faculty sanctions, working to further define what administrative actions could be considered as sanctions, as a definition currently does not exist in Regents' Bylaw 5.09. SACUA then approved development of a survey that would be sent to all University Senate members to assess current dependent care needs, with the goal of providing data for ongoing discussions SACUA is having with President Santa Ono.
- On November 20, 2023, SACUA met with President Santa Ono and Executive Vice President Geoff Chatas to discuss the results of the dependent care needs survey, strategies for meeting those needs, as well as current plans for meeting the increasing needs of affordable housing for graduate students. SACUA also discussed whether to pursue the creation of faculty committee charged with reviewing and submitting proposed updates to existing UM Standard Practice Guides (SPGs). SACUA also discussed the recent challenges of a UM tenure-track faculty member who was being wrongfully accused by a student and their parent via Instagram of making antisemitic statements in class and being punished by administration. SACUA drafted statements to both LSA Dean Anne Curzan, and Provost McCauley and President Ono. The meeting closed with finalizing plans to create an inaugural set of Assistant Faculty Grievance Monitors.


2. SENATE ASSEMBLY:

- The Senate Assembly had its second meeting of the academic year on October 23, 2023. Tom Waldecker presented the services provided by the Faculty and Staff Counseling and Consultation Office (FASCCO) and answered questions from Assembly members. Chair Braun then presented the draft Resolution created by SACUA for formation of a Senate Assembly Nominating Committee, receiving further input from Assembly members, with a planned vote at the November 13 Assembly meeting. The meeting concluded with Assembly members breaking into groups and discussing the current demands and challenges that faculty are experiencing around classroom accommodations for students.
- The Senate Assembly had its third meeting of the academic year on November 13, 2023. The Resolution to form a Senate Assembly Nominating Committee was discussed, and then was approved, with amendments. Chair Braun then led a discussion of the draft “University of Michigan Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression,” seeking faculty input on the next steps that will occur as the draft is finalized. The meeting then concluded with Chair Braun presenting the faculty sanctions document being created by SACUA and the background motivating the creation of the document.

3. UNIVERSITY SENATE:

- The University Senate Assembly had its annual meeting on November 6, 2023. Chair Braun presented a summary of the accomplishments of SACUA and Senate Assembly since the last Senate Assembly meeting in May 2023.
- Chair Braun then presented information on the UM Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship (UMFUS), which was created by the University Senate in 2006 and funded through faculty donations. The UMFUS currently funds students on one UM campus, rotating among the three campuses each year, and provides need-based scholarships for undergraduate students. There will be an upcoming funding drive to increase awareness of the UMFUS and hopefully to increase the fund to a level that allows students on all three campuses to be awarded each year.

Submitted: November 27, 2023



Tom Braun, SACUA Chair
SACUA Regents Update December 2023