UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Item for Information

Subject: Faculty Governance Update

At its first meeting of the academic year, Senate Assembly voted on the priority of various current issues it would like to address this year. They are listed below in rank order. Benefits and Teaching exceed the other issues as the highest priorities for Senate Assembly while Benefits even surpassed Teaching by a substantial margin as the most important of all.

Thus far regarding the Benefits issue, Provost Martha Pollack, Chief HR Officer Laurita Thomas, and key members of the benefits advisory committee have met formally and informally with SACUA, Senate Assembly and Senate Assembly's Provost Advisory Committee on Budgetary Affairs (PACBA) and generously answered questions of concern from these committees.

Senate Assembly's Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) chair Mika LaVaque-Manty, Vice Provost for Digital Initiatives James Hilton, and Vice Provost for Global and Engaged Learning James Holloway are expected to present to Senate Assembly in the near future.

More efforts on these two priorities are anticipated later this year as well as on addressing, to some extent, the remaining other eight topics.

SENATE ASSEMBLY
Prioritizing 2013-14 Issues
September 23, 2013

1 **Benefits** (to assess and affect the outcome of HR reviews of current retirement and health benefits)

2 **Teaching and Teaching Evaluations** (to address the changes technology has brought to teaching, to assess faculty teaching performance e.g., MOOCs, teaching evaluations, etc.)

3 **Searches** (to promote more direct participation of central faculty governance in presidential and executive officers' searches)

4 **Tenure, Promotion and Post-tenure Reviews** (to determine the fairness and transparency of tenure and promotion criteria and policies)

5 **Due Process** (to review the fairness of existing procedures that assess faculty such as tenure appeals, grievances, fitness for duty, the Office of Institutional Equity, etc.)

6 **Faculty Rights** (to review the current status of academic freedom, free speech and civil liberties at the University)

7 **Faculty Support Changes** (to monitor the implementation of IT Rationalization and Shared Services administrative support plans)

8 **External Relations** (to monitor and react to outside perceptions of the University particularly in the areas of the bicentennial celebration, town and gown relations, the capital campaign, athletics, etc.)

Submitted: November 2013



(T E Schneider on behalf of SACUA)