

**The University of Michigan**  
**University Senate**  
**Motion #042726-7**

**Motion to Update Research Track Faculty Senate Membership Language**

**Whereas** in 2023 the University Senate was expanded to include clinical professors, lecturers, archivists, and curators;

**Whereas** research-track faculty were already members of the Faculty Senate, and therefore the research-track membership language in the Senate Rules was not considered as part of the 2023 Senate expansion;

**Whereas** the language defining research-track faculty membership is older language that differentially treats research-track faculty compared to other tracks;

**Whereas** after the 2023 Senate expansion, LAC faculty, lecturers, and clinical faculty membership is defined based on having at least a 50% appointment:

- Faculty who have a regular, primary appointment of at least 50% as a Librarian, Archivist, or Curator of any rank shall be designated as members of the University Senate;
- Faculty who have a regular, primary appointment of at least 50% as a Lecturer I, Lecturer II, Lecturer III, or Lecturer IV shall be designated as members of the University Senate;
- Clinical Faculty who have a regular, primary appointment of at least 50% as a Clinical Assistant Professor, Clinical Associate Professor, or Clinical Professor shall be designated as members of the University Senate;

**Whereas** the older research-track faculty membership instead requires a “full-time appointment”:

- Research personnel who hold Primary Research rank (Assistant Research Scientist, Associate Research Scientist, Research Scientist, Senior Associate Research Scientist, Senior Research Scientist, Distinguished Senior Research Scientist) and have a full-time appointment as a regular staff member shall be designated as members of the University Senate;

**Whereas** the Faculty Senate’s Rules, Practices, and Policies Committee has recommended that the research-track membership language be updated to be parallel with the other tracks;

**Whereas** the Faculty Senate Office has determined that changing the research faculty membership to parallel the other tracks by requiring a 50% appointment, rather than a “full-time appointment,” will only add 41 faculty to the Faculty Senate;

**Whereas** the older research-track faculty membership has also not been updated to include, explicitly, research professors, even though the Faculty Senate has nonetheless long included research professors as a matter of practice; and

**Whereas** a change of the University Senate membership rules requires a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> affirmative vote of the University Senate;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the research-track membership language in Article I, Section 1 of the University Senate Rules is now updated to be the following:

- Research Faculty who have a regular, primary appointment of at least 50% as an Assistant Research Scientist, Associate Research Scientist, Research Scientist, Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, or Research Professor;

*Adopted by the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs on April 14, 2026.*

*SACUA Approval Certified by Derek Peterson, SACUA Chair, Ali Mazrui Collegiate Professor of History and African Studies, Associate Chair, Department of History, Professor of History and Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.*