

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS' COMMUNICATION
Item for Information

Subject: Faculty Governance Update

Below are the biographical details and SACUA candidate statements of Professor Kim Kearfott, the newly elected Chair of SACUA, and Professor Karen Staller, the newly elected Vice Chair of SACUA, as they appeared in the University Record when they ran for election to SACUA. The 2012-13 voting members of SACUA are: Professors Kate Barald, Kim Kearfott, Rachel Goldman, Rex Holland, Charlie Koopmann, Finn Larsen, Scott Masten, Sally Oey, and Karen Staller.

SACUA Chair Kim Kearfott

Appointment: Professor, nuclear engineering radiological sciences; Professor, biomedical engineering; professor, radiology; Faculty Fellow in Graham Environmental Sustainability and Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institutes.



Kearfott . Scott Soderberg, U-M Photo Services.

Education: Bachelor of Science, general engineering, St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1975; Master of Engineering, nuclear engineering, University of Virginia, 1977; Doctor of Science, nuclear engineering (medical physics and radiation safety), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1980.

Faculty Leadership: Senate Assembly, 2008-11; SACUA Committee for a Multicultural University, 2008-present; SACUA Government Relations Advisory Committee, 2008-present; executive council and/or vice president U-M American Association of University Professors, 2005-present; SACUA Grievance Procedures Task Force, 2006-07; U-M Radiation Policy Committee, 1999-present; adviser to Student Alliance of Gay Engineers, 2008-present; [College of Engineering](#) Diversity Outreach Council, 2006-08; Arizona State University Faculty Senate and Chair of Committee on Committees; Arizona State University Executive Committee (equivalent of SACUA); board of directors, American Nuclear Society; board of directors, Health Physics Society; vice president, International Radiation Physics Society; Society of Nuclear Medicine Positron Emission Tomography Task Force.

Statement of candidate: "As the granddaughter of a gentleman who had his tenure revoked for teaching evolution in a religion class, I hold a deep personal commitment to the concepts of academic freedom. In the modern academic world, these concepts face many challenges, including the protection of intellectual property (patents and copyright policies), and the complexities of funding in an intensely specialized and focused research environment. I am also aware of the need for a completed revision of the faculty grievance process, which I helped initiate several years ago. In addition, continuing economic pressures

within the state and beyond have the potential to impact benefits, salaries, well-being and retention of faculty, not to mention our students.

“In the upcoming years, a strong but reasonable voice for faculty will remain essential for optimal university administrative decision making. I intend to provide a positive, creative voice responsive to the faculty as a whole, irrespective of difference in academic discipline and other circumstances, which can work effectively with the existing administration and executive structures.”



Staller

SACUA Vice Chair Karen Staller

Appointment: Associate Professor, [School of Social Work](#) (SSW)

Education: Bachelor of Arts, art history, Cornell University (1979); Juris Doctor, Cornell School of Law (1985); Doctor of Philosophy, social work, with distinction, Columbia University (1999).

Faculty leadership/governance experience: Secretary of the University Advisory Committee, (2010-present); Senate Assembly representative (elected, 2008-present); Model Faculty Grievance Procedure Task Force (provost appointment, 2009); ombudsman (elected, 2008-09); resolution officer, Office of Student Conflict Resolution (2002-06); SSW Executive Committee (elected, 2006-07; 2009-present); SSW Strategic Thinking Task Force (dean appointment, 2010-present); Student Services Committee (2008-09); SSW Academic Difficulty Committee (2003-06; 2007-08); SSW Children & Youth Curriculum Committee; Student Services; Recruitment, Admissions, Financial Aid (RAFA) (2001-03); faculty grievance officer (2001-03; 2005-06); SSW Student Service Committee (2004-06).

Professional practice experience: Attorney, JASA Legal Services for the Elderly in Queens (1985-88); director, Covenant House Under 21/N.Y. Legal Department (1988-91); project director, VOLS West Side Elderly Project (1991-92).

Candidate statement: “In ‘The Great American University,’ Jonathan Cole argues research universities are indispensable but under threat. We are experiencing increasing corporatization, cost shifting, threats to faculty diversity, academic freedom and tenure among other things. These issues are central to attracting, protecting, sustaining and retaining the best and brightest faculty. Financial pressures are driving decisions that will shape the university community for decades. A strong representative voice is critical. SACUA plays important roles in articulating faculty concerns and balancing collective well-being with individual rights. If elected, I would be honored to represent U-M’s diverse and talented faculties during these exciting but challenging times.”

Submitted: May 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TE Staller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(On behalf of SACUA)