

**The University of Michigan
Regents Communication**

Action Request

Approved by the Regents
June 21, 2007

Subject: Public Comments Policy

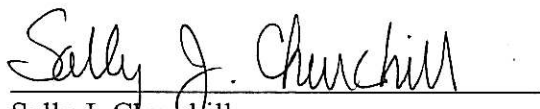
Action Requested: Approval of Revised Policy

In March 1977 the Regents adopted guidelines that established a process by which members of the public may address the board. In light of changes in communication methods and meeting practices that have occurred in the past 20 years, it seemed advisable to revisit and update this policy.

The proposed revised policy maintains the public comments session as an essential forum for the Regents to hear from students, faculty, staff, and others. It updates the 1977 guidelines to conform to current practices with respect to signing up speakers, and it allows for a broad array of speakers.

I therefore recommend adoption of the revised and renamed "Public Comments Policy" (attached) to take effect with the September 2007 Regents' Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

Attachment

June 2007

Public Comments Policy*

Adopted by the Regents in June 2007
Effective with September 2007 Meeting

1. As a part of their regular monthly meeting agenda, the Regents will set aside time for the purpose of enabling individuals to address the Board. It should be understood that the Board will not necessarily respond to such comments, since they may require study and recommendations on the part of others at the University.
2. Speakers will have up to five minutes to address the board. There will be a limit of ten speakers per session and five speakers on the same topic, except as provided in paragraph 6.
3. Requests to address the Board of Regents must be submitted to the vice president and secretary of the University prior to the Regents' meeting. The requests must be in writing, preferably through the form provided on the website www.regents.umich.edu. Requests to speak must identify the individual making the presentation, the subject matter of the presentation, the individual's relationship, if any, to the University, and the organization they are representing, if any. There shall be no substitutions of speakers without approval by the vice president and secretary, which may only be granted prior to the deadline for signing up to speak that is referenced at www.regents.umich.edu.
4. All requests to address the Regents must be received before the deadline posted on the website. Requests will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis until the available time is used up. No waiting list will be kept from month to month.
5. Speakers who have addressed the board within the previous two months may submit a request to speak, but the request will only be granted if there are available slots remaining after the signup deadline has passed.
6. Two additional speaker slots will be available to individuals who sign up to speak after the agenda book is posted to the website to speak about an item on that month's agenda. The other provisions of this policy are applicable to these two additional speaker slots.

*Supersedes "Formal Guidelines for Members of the Public Who Wish to Address a Meeting of the Regents," adopted March 1977.