

Secretary of the University Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes - Thursday Oct 3 – 1-2:45p
Location: Fleming Bldg, 5th floor

Present: Churchill, Schimpf, Rickard, Wu, Kabo, Banasik (observing), Rama, Hsieh, Marsh
Anticipated Absence: Stewart

Minutes:

Welcome to the new semester and committee members was done by Dr Schimpf and introductions were conducted by those present.

Topics discussed:

- Upcoming retirement of E. Royster Harper, long time Vice President for Student Life, in early 2020
 - She has been well loved and highly regarded
 - Interim is anticipated with search committee being formed to find permanent replacement
- There is also a search being planned for a VP of Research, which is currently being filled by an interim (Dr Rebecca Cunningham)
- Secretary Churchill reviewed some of the items President Schlissel discussed at the Leadership Breakfast this morning
- Other items discussed:
 - Named buildings/schools in the setting of legacy honorific namings and gift agreements
 - Stephen Ross was in the news over the summer for sponsoring a fundraiser for President Trump, and students have started petitions, etc. to remove his name from the multiple locations it is present on campus (<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/campus-life/calls-continue-%E2%80%98u%E2%80%99-remove-ross%E2%80%99s-name-campus-buildings-ongoing-debate-free>)
 - Comparisons were drawn to Taubman and Epstein (at MIT)
 - Commonality of goals for education, science, research, etc are prioritized, and freedom of expression/will with regard to donations
 - 2 University locations (1 auditorium, 1 building) have been renamed recently in new process that begins with a petition and then a detailed investigation
 - Declining high-school-age student population will have implications for college enrollment – while this is not yet impacting the Ann Arbor campus, it has started to affect applications at some of the other public universities in the state of Michigan
 - Housing on campus remains a concern given the aging of the buildings, especially on North Campus – this will need focus and resources in coming years
 - Carbon neutrality is a University goal but will pose logistic, financial hurdles

- Concerns nationally about international students and research with regard to the valuable contributions they provide and also value of the data, results domestically