FACULTY SENATE
SENATE ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1120 Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 1/18/24
Circulated: 2/15/24
Approved: 2/22/24

<u>Present</u>: Derek Peterson, Suresh Madathilparambil, Yulia Sevryugina (Chair), Nathan Qi, Jesse Capecelatro, David Cooper, Orsolya Lautner-Csorba, Mrinal Sarkar, Vaibhav Khanna, Jessica Durkin (OVPR), Tyler Nix

<u>Absent</u>: Marilia Cascalho, Claudia Figueroa-Romero, Quentin Stout, Mohamad Tiba, Heather O'Malley, Rebecca Cunningham (VP for Research)

<u>Guests</u>: Arthur (Skip) Lupia- Gerald R. Ford Distinguished University Professor, Associate Vice President for Large-Scale Strategies; Executive Director, Bold Challenges; Lindsay Mitchell (OVPR)

<u>Faculty Senate Office</u>: Eric Vandenberghe

1:00pm-1:02pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the December RAC meeting were approved.

1:02pm-1:34pm: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research and perspectives

<u>Summary</u>: Professor Lupia introduced the topic, and brought the committee up to speed on the work and research UM and specifically OVPR has done over the past year.

This year saw the formation of a committee tasked with advising OVPR on how to best support UM performance and policies regarding AI-related research. There are three primary focuses of the committee: facilitate collaboration, identify opportunities, and develop recommendations. The membership of the committee is reviewed. There are 3 vice chairs on the committee.

The committee received a charge in September 2023. The two main objectives focused on pulling information on existing AI-related research and gathering information on the current state of the University. The primary goal of the Winter term centers on creating recommendations.

The committee looked internally at UM to find key stakeholders on this topic. 456 AI researchers are identified. The committee looked at the needs of the researchers. The types of areas of research that AI-focused labs focus on was discussed. AI in the healthcare field was shown to be significant.

The committee looked at peer institutions to gauge where UM is at. Approximately half of the reviewed institutions have a central AI initiative. Some universities are working to hire faculty specifically focused on AI. Most of the reviewed institutions who had policies related to AI had those policies focused on teaching, and not research.

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The Ethics subcommittee is discussed. They queried the 12 OVPR units about AI implications. They reviewed academic peer benchmarking for models of AI research policy guidelines. They reviewed authorship guidelines and position statements.

The Competitiveness subcommittee is discussed. How does UM stay competitive on AI? The committee identified relevant researchers via past proposals. Based on this they found 640 AI researchers, and 1123 AI research proposals from 2018 to 2023. The committee conducted several internal expert interviews with UM leaders on the topic of AI.

The committee as a whole found that there is great interest in AI, but also significant concern. UM need to have more and improved expertise, infrastructure, and attention to costs. External partnerships can improve research on this subject. There is a great desire for guidance. Examples and templates in research could be helpful.

The committee is restructuring the subcommittees for the Winter semester. The new subcommittees are Key Investments, Internal Innovations, and Ethics & Compliance.

Action: Presentation

1:34pm-1:58pm: Committee Questions/Discussion

Summary: Would the report be possible to be shared with the committee? The report as of now does not have any conclusions. It should be ready at the end of the academic year, and it is possible that it will be publically available.

Suggestions are made on how to utilize AI on campus to make life easier for faculty. A point is made regarding how different people will utilize AI. How can we make it usable for the layman?

The computational needs of UM are discussed. It is noted as being a challenge at UM.

One member voiced that all units will benefit from AI. Some of the benefits are shared.

Will there be central recommendations to those teaching students? This committee is focused on the research aspect, and will not be addressing teaching.

There is a call for collaboration with other peer universities on this topic. This is particularly important for the ethical consideration.
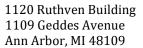
Action: Discussion

1:58pm-2:01pm: Future meetings

Summary: The Chair made a call for topics. The next meeting's topic was discussed briefly.

Action: Discussion

2:01pm: Adjournment

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Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office