

To: SACUA

From: John Mansfield, Chair, Development Advisory Committee (DAC)

Subject: Report on Activities of the Development Advisory Committee (DAC) for 2024-2025

Members:

Vinay Aakalu
Nakhiah Goulbourne
Kimberly McKee
Stefan Szymanski
Lori Tschirhart
Chaz Vander Horst
Ivy Wei
Jefferson Williams
Alexander Zaslavsky

SACUA Liaison:

Derek Peterson

Meeting Dates:

Tues. 10/8 from 12pm-1pm
Fri. 11/8 from 1pm-2pm (Members only)
Mon. 1/13 from 12pm to 1pm
Tues. 2/11 from 12pm to 1pm
Mon. 3/10 from 12pm to 1pm
Mon. 4/7 from 12pm to 1pm

Committee Charge

1. Continue efforts to develop recommendations for better clarifying how faculty can assist with OUD and unit-level development initiatives.
2. Investigate how the funding of university scholarships work, including how the University manages a scholarship fund's principal balance and the returns on that principal, how costs are charged to a scholarship, and other relevant policies and practices determining how a scholarship is dispensed.
3. Explore the relationship between donors and the university regarding the setting of university policy, including policies that impact academic freedom or students.

4. Consider emergent issues or topics brought forward by the DAC committee members and/or the VP for Development for discussion over the course of the year.

Committee Actions

Committee members raised concerns about donor influence over setting University policy.

A call is made for further financial support for student wrap-around services that go beyond just tuition and books. Suggestions include affordable housing, more funding for paid internships, stipends for food, among others.

Committee members discussed how the Development Office can help make up for the shortfall created by a potential loss of federal funding. It is recognized that Development would be part of the solution, and not the sole avenue of addressing this issue.

Information Obtained

The committee learned about the structure of the Office of University Development (OUD), with the central office, and the 36 unit level offices.

The committee was briefed on the safeguards in place to prevent the undue influence of donors. Gifts go through a due diligence process, with a more in-depth process for gifts of over \$5,000,000. Should a donor advocate for priorities that are not in line with University values, or in ways that are not acceptable, their gifts will not be accepted. OUD has a code of conduct in place.

Committee members learned of the process by which buildings are named. There is a different process for buildings that are named based on honorifics rather than those named in recognition of a gift.

The committee learned about university fundraising initiatives and cross-unit collaboration strategies. These initiatives can often run into barriers due to the decentralized nature of the university.

The committee learned how unit level fundraisers can support faculty. The committee met with the Chief Development Officer in the School of Public Health, as well as a faculty member who has had success fundraising in collaboration with their team. The fundraising team meets with faculty and attends many faculty meetings within each department in the School of Public Health. Faculty are often invited to fundraising events. Once the fundraising team is aware of a faculty member's research, it can be easier to identify funding opportunities

Recommendations

- SACUA should consider the possibility of combining several advisory committees.
- The DAC should continue to engage with until level fundraisers, and consider creating informational materials for interested faculty members
- The DAC should focus on how to address issues coming forth as a result of changes made by the federal government, and how Development fits into the solution.