

Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 11/12/25

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Present: William A. Calvo-Quirós, Orsolya Lautner-Csorba (Chair), Arthur Lupia (Vice President for Research and Innovation), Alena Stocking (OVPR), Greg Rybarczyk, Fadhl Alakwaa, Tyler Nix, Quentin Stout, Karen Downing, Jesse Capecelatro (SACUA)

Absent: Audrey Bennett, Seth Guikema, Magda Ivanova, Mrinal Sarkar, Nina White

Guests: Trachette Jackson, Vice President for Research-Strategic Partnerships and Inclusive Excellence

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

1:02pm-1:04pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, Announcements

The agenda was approved.

1:04pm-1:11pm: Introductions and Review of the Charge

Summary: Introductions and announcements are made. The Chair goes through the [Charge](#) for AY 2025-2026.

1:11pm-1:27pm: Federal Funding Update

Summary: VP Lupia provides the committee with an update on federal funding at UM, as well as an overview of efforts in Washington D.C. He indicates that the work done at the University of Michigan has the power to improve people's lives.

It was recently [announced](#) that UM's research spending in FY25 is \$2.16B, which is a record for the University. There has also been a steady number of grant submissions, as well as patents granted to faculty.

Since January of last year, 168 grants have been terminated by the federal government. For the 110 the University of Michigan is the primary awardee, there has been an offer to appeal the termination. Of those, 30 cases have been resolved: 15 have been restored, and 15 have not been restored. For the remaining appealed awards, the university is waiting for a response from the government. There have been fewer termination letters over the last several months.

VP Lupia proceeds to provide an update on federal indirect costs. The current rate is 56%. This was negotiated. There was earlier effort by parties in the federal government to cap indirect cost rates at 15%. The University of Michigan has been engaged in legal action that challenged this. The University was successful in their efforts, which saved the University approximately \$110M.



There is an expectation that there will be further efforts by the federal government to cap indirect costs at a rate below 56%. Indirect cost is challenging for those not in higher education to understand, which makes it necessary to explain its importance. The FAIR model is discussed, which could replace the current method of determining the indirect cost rate.

The number of new awards is lower this year than it has been in the past. This will have financial implications across the university. VP Lupia describes ongoing investigations that UM is subject to. Discussion ensues on this.

Action: Update, Q&A

1:27pm-1:49pm: OVPR Overview (including CSCAR/Block Grants)

Summary: VP Lupia presents the committee with an overview of the work that OVPR does. There are three primary functions of OVPR: to catalyze, to support, and to safeguard. OVPR supports faculty in every phase of the research lifecycle. VP Lupia emphasizes the importance of compliance and research integrity.

OVPR focuses significant effort on research development. They work to connect faculty to sponsors and funding opportunities. They develop and provide resources, including grant writing and editing workshops.

University of Michigan faculty and staff work with partners from all over the world. China is the largest collaborator with the US. Changes with the federal government have created challenges for international collaboration.

Research safeguards are discussed. UM maintains the highest standards of animal welfare, It is of the utmost importance to protect the health and safety of researchers and participants. External partnerships and research commercialization are briefly discussed.

The Bold Challenges program is discussed. This has been a successful means of creating cross-unit collaboration. Return on investment figures are shared.

UM's budget model is discussed. The decisions to close CSAR and discontinue funding of block grants are discussed. The costs associated with this, coupled with the budgetary changes at the university, made these decisions necessary. VP Lupia indicates that further information will be announced in the next month related to the functions that CSAR served.

A member asks about federal funding of NSF and if cuts are expected. This is not known currently.

Action: Discussion

1:49pm- 2:00pm: New programs - research launchpad

Summary: VP Lupia introduces the guest. VP Jackson presents the new Michigan Research Launchpad ([Michigan Research Launchpad - U-M Research](#)) to the committee. This Launchpad provides visibility for OVPR initiatives and communicates their value.



The Launchpad is designed to serve as a comprehensive, one-stop shop for faculty, offering support through workshops and various events. To date, over 300 faculty members have participated in these offerings. Metrics of success are shared with the committee. These metrics include: 118 faculty supported, 28 major honors, and 33 medals and prizes earned.

Further discussion ensues on this topic, and the meeting concludes.

Action: Discussion

2:00pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office