



Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) Minutes
November 12, 1:45 – 3:15 pm (Provost attending 2-3 pm)
Ruthven Conference Room 1140 and via Zoom (hybrid)

Minutes of Meeting: 11/12/2025

Circulated: 12/06/2025

Approved: 12/12/2025

Present: Silke Weineck (Chair), Hayley Bedell, Netta Berlin, Ceren Budak, Bilal Butt, Christine Gerdes (Special Counsel to the Provost), Gavin LaRose, Ann Marshall (FSO), Laurie McCauley (Provost), Mireille Roddier, Scott Spector

Absent: Colleen Conway, Robert Deegan, Mick Kennedy, Albert Liu, Rahul Mannan, Luke McCarthy (FSO), Rafael Neis, Soumya Rangarajan (SACUA liaison), Jon Wargo, Yi-Li Wu

1. In preparation for the arrival of the Provost, the minutes from 10/22/2025 were approved, and AAAC members briefly discussed AAAC agenda items.

2. Challenges facing international students and faculty, with AAAC chair Silke Weineck presenting on behalf of AAAC

- A number of sources were consulted, including Rackham, the International Center, Enrollment Management, OAMI, LSA's International Partnerships, English Language Institute, LSA Global Scholars Program, a GEO event featuring immigration lawyers, Office of Budget and Planning, Student Life Research, School of Information, and SEAS among others.
- The top policy concerns include: 1) proposed rule changes for duration of stay, program switches and OPT, 2) new H-1B restrictions, 3) surveillance and collaboration with ICE, DHS, and the State Dept, 4) visa delays and restrictions, and 5) climate and support.
- Guiding principles: 1) international students, faculty, clinicians, and staff are core to U-M's status as a premier research and healthcare institution, 2) universities have always been an international enterprise and a xenophobic campaign has targeted the very nature of the university, 3) U-M has an ethical responsibility to support and fight for international community members.
- Facts and figures: 1) U-M supports over 13,700 students, scholars, employees, and their dependents, 2) 146 countries are represented, 3) 8,635 international students enrolled at U-M in fall 2024, 4) U-M is #6 among U.S. public research institutions hosting international students, 5) U-M is #1 among public U.S. universities regarding the number of H-1B visa holders, 6) U-M is #5 nationally for alumni serving in the Peace Corps since 1961.
- While international students report high satisfaction with U-M overall (2019, 2022, & 2024), they may also be over-represented at the extremes, both very satisfied and very dissatisfied.
- The last year has been incredibly frightening for the international community given the SEVIS turmoil and politically motivated surveillance and visa denials/delays. The intent of these policies has been to instill fear and to change the demographic makeup of universities. Students are no longer eligible for a visa interview waiver, and the travel ban for 19 countries remains.



- There are concerns over proposed rule changes that would 1) limit the duration of status to four years (many doctoral degrees cannot be completed within four years) and, 2) require students to return to their home country to change majors, programs, or to add degrees.
- International students have experienced high stress, and support for international students often falls short. Impacts have included international students not considering any U.S. university, students limiting their summer travel/research plans, and decreased U-M engagement with international visitors. Preliminary data suggest that international enrollment is down by over 6% in fall 2025.
- Anecdotes were shared about how these policy changes are affecting students.
- A discussion on recommendations was postponed until the next AAAC meeting.

3. Additional Committee Discussion

- After the Provost left the meeting, there was brief committee discussion about AAAC next steps.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marshall, Faculty Governance Coordinator (FSO)