



Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Minutes for 1/16/26 Meeting

Meeting information:

Circulated: 3/16/26

Approved: 3/23/26

Members present: Lori Tschirhart (Chair), Vinay Aakalu, John Mansfield, Ivy Wei, Jefferson Williams, Erika Hathaway, Conor Neville (Office of Development)

Members absent: Nakhiah Goulbourne, Sergey Gutor, Kimberly McKee, Stefan Szymanski, Tom Baird (VP for Development)

Guests present: Communications Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair Henry Seeger

Faculty Senate Office staff present: Eric Vandenberghe

Minutes:

3:02pm-3:04pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the October and December meetings are approved.

3:04pm-3:30pm: Discussion on how the University promotes faculty research and facilitates community engagement to the wider Michigan public

Summary: Introductions are made.

Chair Seeger provides context for work that the Communications Advisory Committee (CAC) is currently undertaking. Part of their work includes exploring what the University does to promote faculty research. Each School and College has their own Communications team. That team works in tandem with the Central Communications Office. The local communications offices have a significant amount of autonomy. The Central Communications Office primarily promotes faculty research through The Record.

The CAC met last semester with Director of Strategic Communications Chris Sebastian. Director Sebastian oversees the Record. He encouraged the CAC members to encourage colleagues to provide stories to the Record, and Chair Seeger extends that invitation to the DAC membership. Chair Seeger indicates that the units need further resources, including training and contacts to better promote their research.

A member discusses similarities in the work completed by the CAC and DAC. The member provides historical context of the period in which the two committees were combined, along with the Government Relations Advisory Committee.

Chair Tschirhart talks about their exposure to the Record. The members discuss the necessity for the University to disseminate news to the public as well as to inform



individuals of the life-improving work that takes place at UM. Chair Seeger indicates that the Record is internal-facing and agrees with Chair Tschirhart that getting the community engaged in the work at UM is imperative. He suggests extension programming like that of Michigan State University as being a means of achieving this. Many people not associated with the University directly encounter athletics or the hospital system.

A member brings up the [Life-Changing Education initiative](#), which corresponds with the conversation.

The committee proceeds to update Chair Seeger on the work that the DAC has worked on over the past year. The Chairs agree that collaboration between the two committees is prudent. Chair Tschirhart accepts an invitation to attend a future CAC meeting as a guest.

Chair Seeger is thanked for joining the meeting and exits.

Action: Discussion

3:30pm-3:33pm: Preparations for the next meeting

Summary: Chair Tschirhart provides an overview of what will take place at the next meeting and asks the committee members to think of tips for new faculty to engage with the Office of Development.

Action: Discussion

Time: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office