



**Committee on Anti-Racism (CAR) Minutes:
January 15, 2026, at 1-2 pm (regular meeting), via Zoom**

Meeting Information:

Circulated: February 11, 2026

Approved: February 16, 2026

Present: Germine Awad (Chair), Solomon Adera, Nora Krinitsky, Ann Marshall (FSO), Scott Martin, Deirdre Spencer, Kristen Verhey, Denice Vliet

Absent: Mark Allison, Nicole Boucher, Emad Abou-Arab, Mary Byrnes, Stephanie Hicks, Rogério Meireles Pinto (SACUA liaison)

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order.
2. CAR member updates and discussion
 - a. There was discussion about the newly appointed U-M president, Kent Syverud, to begin at U-M by July 1, and CAR members expressed interest in meeting with him. There is hope that the new president will have vision and a willingness to lead, including to be a leader in relation to the Regents. There were questions about whether there might be other leadership changes when the new president begins his term. The firing of Rachel Dawson and U-M administration's treatment of Dr. Tabbye Chavous have had an enduring impact. There was discussion about how faculty recommendations in support of unit-level discretion over diversity statements was not implemented due to pressure from the regents and other challenges.
 - b. There are efforts by faculty to be engaged in more public-facing activities, including work with a higher education caucus, educating MI residents, and encouraging participation in the electoral process, including upcoming regent elections. In other states, faculty have been involved with providing data to policy makers that might further social justice bills. There's interest in whether such models might also work in Michigan.
 - c. There was discussion about the extent to which CAR might formally or informally advise an executive officer(s) and how the committee can be most impactful.
 - d. CAR decided not to pursue a written statement at this time.
3. Action Items
 - a. CAR members brainstormed next steps and identified the following possible action items. The goal of the meetings below is to build connections, to offer support, and to be a resource.
 - b. Meet with newly appointed President Kent Syverud if possible.
 - c. Meet with Adele Brumfield, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
 - d. Meet with ECRT leadership
 - e. Hold a listening session with students who are very active with Trotter, La Casa, and other organizations:
 - i. Chair Awad will reach out to Steven Ward to brainstorm a list of students to invite.
 - ii. Nora Krinitsky will work on brainstorming a list of questions for the students
4. Adjournment



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Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Marshall, Faculty Governance Coordinator