

Rackham Executive Board 2023–2024 Academic Year Annual Report of Executive Board Minutes

In fulfilling its charge as established in the bylaws of the Rackham Executive Board (Board), the Board carried out the following activities. The Chair of the Board during 2023–24 was Dean Michael J. Solomon of the Rackham Graduate School. A listing of the 2023–24 Board members is included at the end of this document. All meetings were held in hybrid form with a Zoom option and an in-person option at the Rackham Graduate School. This public summary is published at the end of each term.

Note: Items are listed chronologically in each section. Meeting dates are in parentheses.

Fall Term 2023

Board Actions

- School of Public Health requested to change the name of the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education to Health Behavior and Health Equity. Approved. (9/27/2023)
- School of Music, Theatre & Dance requested to extend the degree length from 3 years to 4 years for the Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) program in Piano Performance and for the D.M.A. program in Piano Pedagogy and Performance. Approved. (9/27/2023)
- School of Dentistry requested to close the Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology master’s and residency program. Approved. (9/27/2023)
- A motion came before the Board to amend the Rackham Executive Board Bylaws Appendix 3 with more detailed text for the appeal process. The motion passed. (9/27/2023)
- School of Social Work proposed a new standalone Ph.D. program in Social Work and Social Welfare. Approved. (10/11/2023)
- The School of Social Work and the Department of Political Science within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts proposed closing the Joint Program in Social Work and Political Science. Approved. (10/11/2023)
- The School of Public Health and the Department of Epidemiology requested to close the Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR) program. Approved. (11/29/2023)

Board Discussions

- Public announcement of Rackham Graduate Faculty Statement (9/27/2023)
- Draft of Executive Board Summary of AY22–23 for public viewing (9/27/2023)
- Review of the admissions resource for Rackham Admissions Committees (10/11/2023)
- Review of resource on Rackham Graduate Student Ph.D. Funding (10/11/2023)
- Review of report on 12-Month Ph.D. Funding Policy (10/25/2023)
- Discussion of opportunities for academic progress made available by 12-month Ph.D. funding (10/25/2023)

- Visit from Provost McCauley (11/8/2023)
- Overview of Holistic Admissions Expansion (11/8/2023)
- Adjustments to Winter Term Grace Period beginning in 2024 (11/8/2023)
- Creation of Rackham Academic Policy Section 2.4.1, Continued Student Funding as a modification to policy 2.4 Within-Semester Medical Accommodation (11/29/2023)
- Program policies and practices for change of advisor/dissertation committee chair (11/29/2023)

Winter Term 2024

Board Actions

- Stamps School of Art and Design requested the moratorium on admissions to the Master of Integrative Design (MDes) be lifted. Approved. (02/21/2024)
- School of Kinesiology's proposal to change credit hours within the Athletic Training Master of Science program came before the Board. Approved. (04/10/2024)

Board Discussions

- Discussion of the program policies and practices for change of advisor/dissertation committee chair (01/24/2024)
- Review of the time limit for completing doctoral degrees (Rackham Academic Policy Section 4.4.1) (01/24/2024)
- Discussion of generative artificial intelligence and graduate education (01/24/2024)
- Highlights from the 2023–24 Rackham Program Review from Division I: Biological and Health Sciences were presented to the Board (02/21/2024)
- Highlights from the 2023–24 Rackham Program Review from Division III: Social Sciences were presented to the Board (02/21/2024)
- Presentation on the International Student Diversity Initiative (02/21/2024)
- Highlights from the 2023–24 Rackham Program Review from Division II: Physical Sciences and Engineering were presented to the Board (03/13/2024)
- Highlights from the 2023–24 Rackham Program Review from Division IV: Humanities and the Arts were presented to the Board (03/13/2024)
- Discussion of the program policies and practices for change of advisor/dissertation committee chair, proposal, and program request (03/13/2024)
- Discussion of the Reimagining Master's Education Initiative (03/27/2024)
- Review of the Time to Degree/Completion Plan Policy (03/27/2024)
- Discussion of the landscape that programs face in accommodating the increasing costs of doctoral education (04/10/2024)
- Review of the Rackham funding program for change of advisor (04/10/2024)
- Discussion and feedback regarding a web resource for ethical use of AI on the Rackham application (04/10/2024)
- Review of the definition of graduate faculty (04/24/2024)
- Discussion of Ph.D. student time away (04/24/2024)

2023–24 Rackham Executive Board Membership

Some members served only part of the academic year.

Name	Title
Eric Bell	Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Professor of Astronomy, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Marina Epelman	Professor of Industrial and Operations Engineering, College of Engineering
Sara Forsdyke	Josiah Ober Collegiate Professor of Ancient History, Professor of Greek and Latin, Department of Classical Studies and Professor of History, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Rachel Goldman	Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering, Professor of Physics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Scott Greer	Professor of Health Management and Policy, Professor of Global Public Health, School of Public Health and Professor of Political Science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Marouane Kessentini	Myron and Margaret Winegarden Professor, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor of Computer Science, College of Innovation and Technology, The University of Michigan Flint
Nicholas Kingsley	Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Innovation and Technology, The University of Michigan-Flint
Joy Knoblauch	Associate Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Anuj Kumar	Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Maureen Linker	Associate Provost, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Philosophy, Department of Literature, Philosophy and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences and Letters, The University of Michigan-Dearborn
Nestor Lopez-Duran	Associate Professor of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Acrisio Pires	Professor of Linguistics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Emily Scott	F. F. Blicke Collegiate Professor of Pharmacy, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, Professor of Pharmacology, Medical School and Professor of Biophysics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Charles Shipan	J. Ira and Nicki Harris Professor of Social Science, Professor of Political Science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Michael J. Solomon	Dean and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Rackham Graduate School
Chuanwu Xi	Professor of Environmental Health Sciences and Professor of Global Public Health, School of Public Health
Armen Zakarian	Professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, College of Engineering and Computer Science, The University of Michigan-Dearborn