

Rackham Executive Board 2024-2025 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 2024–25 was Dean Michael J. Solomon of the Rackham Graduate School. A listing of the 2024–25 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 parenthesis.

Fall Term 2024

Board Actions

- The College of Engineering requested to eliminate the exception to master’s degree credit hour requirement. Approved. (09/25/2024)
- The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering requested to reduce the required credit hours from 30 to 26 credits for its M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering, in Environmental Engineering, and in Construction Engineering and Management. Approved. (09/25/2024)
- The Department of Biomedical Engineering requested to close the Microfluidics in Biomedical Sciences Certificate program. Approved (09/25/2024)
- The Ford School of Public Policy requested to expand access to the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Certificate to Non-Candidate for Degree participants. Approved. (10/09/2024)
- The School of Information requested to close the Extended Reality Certificate program. Approved. (10/09/2024)
- The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the Center for Judaic Studies requested to close the Judaic Studies Master’s Program. Approved. (10/09/2024)
- The Pharmacology Department requested a decrease in the minimum required credit hours for the M.S. program from 33 to 26 credit hours . Approved. (10/23/2024)
- The Pharmacology Department requested a credit hour change for the Pharmacology Ph.D. program. Approved. (10/23/2024)

- The Department of Human Genetics at the Medical School requested the addition of a direct admission mechanism to their existing degree-granting Genetics and Genomics Graduate Program. Approved. (11/6/2024)
- The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the Department of English proposed a credit hour change to the English Language and Literature Ph.D. program. Approved. (11/20/2024)
- The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the Department of English proposed a candidacy requirement change to the Ph.D. programs in English Language and Literature, Joint Program in English and Education, and English and Women’s and Gender Studies. Approved. (11/20/2024)

Board Discussions

- Review of the expanded language in the Rackham application that describes ethical use and guidance related to generative AI. (09/25/2024)
- Report out to the Board on the status of the Statement of Values, Privileges, and Responsibilities and the Policy and Process to Address Allegations of Failure to Uphold the Professional Standards of the Rackham Graduate Faculty. (09/25/2024)
- Discussion of guidance for the Rackham 995 course required of all doctoral candidates. (10/09/2024)
- Briefing provided regarding graduate student funding and Rackham financial aid. (10/09/2024)
- Discussion of the October 21 and 22, 2024, Rackham Chairs and Directors Meetings. (10/23/2024)
- Discussion of possible changes to the Special Member Process for Dissertation Committees. (10/23/2024)
- Presentation and discussion regarding Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshops. (11/6/2024)
- Presentation and discussion of Rackham graduate student admissions and enrollment data. (11/6/2024)

Winter Term 2025

Board Actions

- Ford School of Public Policy proposed two new subplans—Science, Technology, and Public Policy (STPP) and Environmental, Climate, and Energy Policy (ECEP), within the Master of Public Policy. Approved. (2/5/2025)
- School of Environment and Sustainability requested changes to the curriculum and delivery mode for the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability. Approved. (2/5/2025)
- School of Kinesiology proposed a new Master of Science in Intraoperative Neurophysiology. Approved. (2/26/2025)
- College of Literature, Science, and the Arts International Institute requested the closure of the Graduate Certificate in European and European Union Studies. Approved. (2/26/2025)
- College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Department of Chemistry requested approval of a new subplan in Chemistry Education. Approved. (3/19/2025)

- University of Michigan-Flint requested closure of Health Care Administration subplan in the Master of Public Affairs. Approved. (3/19/2025)
- University of Michigan-Flint proposed course reorganization and format changes to the Master of Arts in Arts Administration. Approved. (3/19/2025)
- School of Public Health proposed a new Master of Science in Health Behavior and Health Equity. Approved. (4/2/2025)
- College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and School of Public Health proposed a new Accelerated Master of Science in Biostatistics. Approved. (4/2/2025)
- College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and School of Public Health proposed a new Accelerated Master of Science in Health Data Science. Approved. (4/2/2025)
- The College of Engineering and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering proposed new subplans within the existing Master of Science in Engineering (M.S.E.) in Civil Engineering. Approved. (4/16/2025)
- The College of Engineering and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering proposed a new subplan within the Master of Science (M.S.) in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Approved. (4/16/2025)
- A motion came before the Board to amend the Candidacy Course Registration (Policy 4.4.2) language. The motion passed. (4/16/2025)

Board Discussions

- Presentation and discussion regarding Rackham Master's Education Initiative. (1/22/2025)
- Update and discussion regarding the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA). (1/22/2025)
- Update and discussion regarding Rackham's policy for extending time to degree limits. (2/5/2025)
- Board discussion of current status. (2/5/2025)
- Highlights from the 2024–25 Rackham Program Review from Division I: Biological and Health Sciences were presented to the Board. (2/26/2025)
- Highlights from the 2024–25 Rackham Program Review from Division II: Physical Sciences and Engineering were presented to the Board. (2/26/2025)
- Discussion of guidance around honoring offers of admissions. (3/19/2025)
- Highlights from the 2024–25 Rackham Program Review from Division III: Social Sciences were presented to the Board. (3/19/2025)
- Highlights from the 2024–25 Rackham Program Review from Division IV: Humanities and the Arts were presented to the Board. (3/19/2025)
- Discussion of the academic goals of 995, Rackham's required course for Ph.D. candidates. (4/2/2025)
- Discussion of Rackham's proposed steps to respond to the directive of March 27, 2025, from university leadership. (4/2/2025)
- Discussion of Rackham's proposed interdisciplinary research and teaching initiative. (4/16/2025)

2024-2025 Rackham Executive Board Membership

Some members served only part of the academic year.

Eric Bell

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Professor of Astronomy, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Susan V. Brooks

Christin Carter-Su Collegiate Professor of Physiology, Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, Medical School and Professor of Biomedical 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

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

Nicholas Kingsley

Myron and Margaret Winegarden Professor, Professor of Computer Science, 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

Sunitha Nagrath

Professor of Chemical Engineering and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering

Kimberly Saks

Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities and Program Director, M.P.A. Program, College of Arts, Sciences, and Education, The University of Michigan-Flint

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

Megan Sweeney

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Professor of English Language and Literature, Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Natalie Tronson

Associate Professor of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Angela Violi

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering

Donald Zak

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Alexander H. Smith Distinguished University Professor of Ecology, Professor of Natural Resources, School for Environment and Sustainability, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Professor of Program in the Environment, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Armen Zakarian

Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, College of Engineering and Computer Science, The University of Michigan-Dearborn