Rackham Executive Board 2025-2026 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 2025–26 was Dean Michael J. Solomon of the Rackham Graduate School. A listing of the 2025–26 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 2025

Board Actions

- The Population and Health Sciences program within the School of Public Health requested closure of the online Master of Science program. Approved. (10/8/2025)
- The Biostatistics department within the School of Public Health requested closure of the Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis Master of Science in Biostatistics program. Approved. (10/8/2025)
- The Department of Epidemiology within the School of Public Health proposed an admissions requirement change to the Master of Science in Epidemiology program. Approved. (10/8/2025)
- The Information program within the School of Information requested a change to candidacy requirements for the Ph.D. program. Approved. (11/5/2025)
- The Certificate in Survey and Data Science program within the Institute for Social Research requested closure of the program. Approved. (11/5/2025)
- The Certificate in Urban Informatics program within the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning requested closure of the program. Approved. (11/5/2025)
- The Certificate in Precision Health program within the Medical School requested an admissions moratorium. Approved. (11/5/2025)
- The Rackham Working Group on Policy proposed new language approval regarding the cognate course timing. Approved (11/5/2025)

- The Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP) program within the Marsal Family School of Education requested to close the standalone ELP Master of Arts program and reintegrate ELP as a subplan within Educational Studies. Approved. (11/19/2025)
- The Sport Management program within the School of Kinesiology requested to change the number of credit hours required to advance to candidacy. Approved. (11/19/2025)
- The Movement Science program within the School of Kinesiology requested to change the number of credit hours required to advance to candidacy. Approved. (11/19/2025)
- The Cell and Developmental Biology program within the Medical School requested to change the required credit hours for the exit Master of Science. Approved. (11/19/2025)

Board Discussions

- Discussion of Rackham Fall 2025 admissions data. (10/8/2025)
- Update regarding the Rackham Merit Fellowship program. (10/8/2025)
- Presentation: Proposed Principles for the Rackham Block Grant Program. (10/22/2025)
- Discussion with Provost McCauley. (10/22/2025)
- Follow-up regarding the Rackham 995 (candidacy course) assessment. (11/5/2025)
- Discussed supporting academic progress through changes to the Extended Time to Degree Policy. (11/19/2025)
- Discussion following the 2025 Rackham Certificates Review report out to the Board. (11/19/2025)
- Discussed contingency planning for potential changes in federal immigration policy. (11/19/2025)

Winter Term 2026

Board Actions

- The Integrative Design program within the Stamps School of Art & Design requested a name change to the Master of Design in Integrative Design. Approved. (1/21/2026)
- The Musical Arts in Cello program within the School of Music, Theatre and Dance requested an admissions pause for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Cello. Approved. (1/21/2026)
- The faculty of Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering program and the School of Environment and Sustainability submitted a proposal to add a Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (MSE) / Sustainable Systems (MS) Engineering Sustainable Systems dual degree option. Approved. (1/21/2026)
- The Department of Pharmacology within the Medical School requested approval for a new Graduate Certificate in Cardiovascular Research Education. Approved. (2/4/2026)
- The Medicinal Chemistry program within the College of Pharmacy requested a change to candidacy requirements. Approved. (2/4/2026)

- The Master of Public Administration program at the University of Michigan Flint submitted a proposal for a new subplan. Approved. (2/4/2026)
- The Data Science program within the Michigan Institute for Data and AI in Society requested a name change to the certificate program. Approved. (03/18/2026)
- The Department of Learning Health Sciences within the Medical School requested an admissions moratorium on the Precision Health Certificate. Approved. (04/1/2026)
- The Program in Chemical Biology, which spans the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; the College of Pharmacy; and the Medical School, requested a revision to the process by which doctoral students advance to candidacy. Approved. (04/1/2026)
- The Department of Architecture within the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning requested approval of programmatic changes to the Master of Science in Architectural Design Research and a name change for its Digital and Material Technologies subplan. Approved. (04/01/2026).
- The Dean brought a motion before the Board to amend the language of the Rackham Graduate School Bylaws, Appendix 3: Policy and Process to Address Allegations of Failure to Uphold the Professional Standards of the Rackham Graduate School. The motion passed. (4/1/2026)
- The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science within the College of Engineering requested changes to the candidacy process for the Doctorate in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Approved. (04/15/2026)
- The Department of Mathematics within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts proposed to establish an Accelerated Master's Degree Program (AMDP) in Actuarial Mathematics. Approved. (04/15/2026).
- The departments of Composition and Theory within the School of Music, Theatre and Dance requested to suspend admissions to the doctoral degree in Composition and Music Theory for two years. Approved. (4/15/2026)
- The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences within the College of Pharmacy requested changes to the candidacy process for the Doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Approved. (04/15/2026)

Board Discussions

- Presentation and update regarding Rackham Graduate Faculty Values, Privileges, and Responsibilities of the Rackham Graduate Faculty. (1/21/2026)
- Presentation regarding disability accommodations and universal design of milestones in candidacy. (2/4/2026)
- Highlights from the 2025–26 Rackham Program Review from Division I: Biological and Health Sciences were presented to the Board. (2/18/2026)
- Highlights from the 2025–26 Rackham Program Review from Division II: Physical Sciences and Engineering were presented to the Board. (2/18/2026)
- Presentation regarding Block Grant Principles. (2/18/2026)

- Highlights from the 2025–26 Rackham Program Review from Division III: Social Sciences were presented to the Board. (03/18/2026)
- Highlights from the 2025–26 Rackham Program Review from Division IV: Humanities and the Arts were presented to the Board. (03/18/2026)
- Discussion of revisions to the Rackham Bylaws Appendix 3: Policy and Process to Address Allegations of Failure to Uphold the Professional Standards of the Rackham Graduate Faculty. (03/18/2026)
- Discussion of supporting academic progress through the Extended Time to Degree policy and processes. (04/1/2026)
- Discussion of ADA compliance and dissertation digital accessibility. (04/15/2026)
- Discussion of the Council of Graduate School's April 15 Resolution. (04/15/2026)

2025-2026 Rackham Executive Board Membership

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

Julie Biteen
Janine Maddock Collegiate Professor of Chemistry and Biophysics, Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Biophysics, 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

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

Joy Knoblauch
Associate Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Ishani Maitra
Professor of Philosophy and Professor in the Honors Program, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Anne Pitcher
Joel Samoff Collegiate Professor of Political Science and Afroamerican and African Studies, Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, Professor of Political Science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Research Professor, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research

Joan Remski

Associate Provost for Integrative Learning and Faculty Development, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Interim Vice Provost, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Mathematics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts, Sciences and Letters, The University of Michigan-Dearborn

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

Nathan Sanders
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 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

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