

# Chapter 3: Administrative Structure

## 3.A General Principles

Founded in 1817 as one of the nation's first public universities, the University of Michigan's mission is "to serve the people of Michigan and the world through preeminence in creating, communicating, preserving, and applying knowledge, art, and academic values, and in developing leaders and citizens who will challenge the present and enrich the future." The [University Mission Statement](#) and information about the University's vision and goals are available online.

The University of Michigan is state-supported University and has been granted constitutional autonomy by the state constitution. The University of Michigan has campuses in Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint, each with its own schools and colleges.

## 3.B Regents

The University of Michigan is governed by an eight-member [Board of Regents](#). Candidates for the board are elected for staggered terms in statewide November elections. Every two years two Regents are elected to eight-year terms. In the event that a Regent cannot fulfill his or her elected term, the governor fills the board vacancy by appointment (Article VIII, Section 5, Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963).

The Regents appoint the president, who serves as an *ex officio* member of the board, and they establish general policies, oversee the budget, and approve the appointments of some instructional and administrative staff, including all tenured faculty.

The Regents, who serve without financial compensation, meet according to the [schedule posted on their website](#), usually on the third Thursday of the month. Meeting agendas are prepared by the Office of the Vice President and Secretary of the University in consultation with the chair of the board and the president. [Meeting agendas](#) are available online and in the Office of the Vice President and Secretary of the University on the Monday before each meeting.

The public comments session is an important part of each monthly meeting. The Office of the Vice President and Secretary of the University schedules speakers for the public comments session. Speakers can [sign up for public comments](#) on the Regents' website or by sending an email to [<publiccomments@umich.edu>](mailto:publiccomments@umich.edu).

Although faculty and staff members may communicate in writing with the Regents at any time, communications regarding academic matters should generally go through the dean or director of the unit to which the staff member belongs or through the chancellors, president, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, or other executive officers. The Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) traditionally reports to the Regents at least once a year. See handbook section [4.D.3 "Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs \(SACUA\)."](#)

All formal meetings of the Board of Regents are open to the public. Regents' committee meetings (Finance Committee, Audit and Investment Committee and Personnel and Compensation Committee) are held in informal session.

The [Regents website](#) provides more information, including the names of current Regents, terms of service, and biographical sketches.

### 3.C President and Executive Officers

As the University's chief executive officer, the [president of the university](#) is responsible for providing general oversight of the University's teaching and research programs; its libraries, museums, and other supporting services; the welfare of the faculty and supporting staff; the business and financial welfare of the University; and for "the maintenance of health, diligence, and order among the students" ([Chapter II. University Executive Officers](#) bylaw 2.01).

The president, who is a member of the University Senate, represents the University at ceremonies and public events and plays a major role in fund raising. The president also recommends the appointment of executive officers who perform their duties under the president's general direction.

Other [executive officers](#) include the [UM-Dearborn chancellor](#), [UM-Flint chancellor](#), and the ten vice presidents.

- [Provost and executive vice president for academic affairs](#)  
(Also see section [3.D "The Office of the Provost \(Ann Arbor Campus\)"](#))
- [Executive vice president and chief financial officer](#)
- [Executive vice president for medical affairs and Dean](#)
- [Vice president and general counsel](#)
- [Vice president and secretary of the University](#)  
(Also see section [3.B "Regents"](#))
- [Vice president for communications](#)  
(Also see section [9.C "Communications and Media Relations"](#))
- [Vice president for development](#)  
(Also see section [9.H "Fundraising and Gifts to the University"](#))
- [Vice president for government relations](#)  
(Also see section [9.B "Government Relations"](#))
- [Vice president for research](#)  
(Also see section [7.B.5 "UM Office of Research"](#))
- [Vice president for student life](#)

### 3.D The Office of the Provost (Ann Arbor Campus)

The [provost and executive vice president for academic affairs](#) is the chief academic and budgetary officer of the University and has responsibility for the University's academic and budgetary affairs. The provost establishes overall academic priorities for the University and allocates funds to carry these priorities forward.

The following positions report to the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs:

- Vice provost for academic and budgetary affairs
- Vice provost for academic and faculty affairs
- Vice provost for academic affairs – graduate studies and dean of the Horace H. Rackham School

of Graduate Studies

- Vice provost for academic innovation initiatives
- Vice provost, biosciences initiative
- Vice provost for diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Vice provost for global and engaged education
- Vice provost for enrollment management
- University librarian and dean of libraries
- Director of the Life Sciences Institute
- Director of the Institute for Social Research
- Deans of the schools and colleges on the Ann Arbor campus

### 3.E Chancellors (UM Flint and UM Dearborn)

Both the UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint campuses have a chancellor who is the highest ranking academic and budget officer on that campus and reports directly to the president of the University. See section [3.C “President and Executive Officers.”](#)

### 3.F Faculty/Governing Faculty

The faculty at the University of Michigan includes members of the teaching and research staff; the executive officers; the directors of various teaching, research, and library units; librarians, curators, and archivists ([Chapter V. The Faculties and Academic Staff](#) bylaw 5.01). See handbook sections [5.C “Instructional Faculty: Classifications”](#); [5.D “Research Faculty”](#); [5.E “Librarians, Archivists, and Curators.”](#)

The term “governing faculty,” when used in connection with a school, college, or degree-granting division, includes those members of the school, college, or degree-granting division who are professors, associate professors, and assistant professors, and where authorized by that unit’s bylaws, certain clinical faculty, certain research faculty, and instructors and lecturers who hold appointments of half-time or more. In the Medical School, the governing faculty is called the Executive Faculty. For more information about policies regarding voting rights in a given unit, contact the dean, department chair, or director. Management of the educational affairs of individual units is delegated to the governing faculties, executive committees, and deans of the schools and colleges, and to the directors of the University’s libraries and institutes ([Chapter V. The Faculties and Academic Staff](#) bylaws 5.01, 5.02).

For more information on faculty participation in governance, see [Chapter 4 “Faculty Roles in Governance”](#).

### 3.G Deans and Directors (Ann Arbor Campus)

Deans of the schools and colleges and the University librarian and dean of libraries, the heads of departments and research units, and the directors of the William L. Clements Library, the Bentley Historical Library, and the Museum of Art are appointed by the Regents on the recommendation of the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs to act as the executive officers of their respective units and *ex officio* chairs of their respective executive committees. (See [Chapter V. The Faculties and Academic Staff](#) bylaw 5.06.) Heads of other libraries are appointed by the dean or director

of the school, college, or institute to which the library belongs.

## 3.H Executive Committees

The executive committees of the schools, colleges, or departments assist the dean or director in formulating educational, instructional, and research policies for consideration of the faculty and act on the behalf of the governing faculty in matters of budget, appointments, and promotions. They also assist with administrative functions. In some units, the dean or director performs executive duties without an executive committee ([Chapter V. The Faculties and Academic Staff](#) bylaws 5.02 and 5.06).

Rules for the composition of the executive committee, the ways in which governing faculty members vote for executive committee members, and the specific responsibilities and operating procedures of the executive committee vary in individual units and are typically set forth in that unit's bylaws. Most academic units also have other standing committees, such as a curriculum committee and a tenure and promotion committee. It is important for faculty members to be aware of their units' policies and procedures concerning the functioning of all of its committees and to participate as is appropriate in unit level committees. For more information on faculty participation in governance, see [Chapter 4 "Faculty Roles in Governance."](#)

## 3.I Academic Units

The following lists of academic units on the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses provide an overview of the breadth of scholarship and teaching represented at the University of Michigan.

### Ann Arbor Campus Academic Units

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning  
[taubmancollege.umich.edu](http://taubmancollege.umich.edu)

Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design  
[stamps.umich.edu](http://stamps.umich.edu)

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
[michiganross.umich.edu](http://michiganross.umich.edu)

School of Dentistry  
[dent.umich.edu](http://dent.umich.edu)

School of Education  
[soe.umich.edu](http://soe.umich.edu)

College of Engineering  
[engin.umich.edu](http://engin.umich.edu)

School for Environment & Sustainability  
[seas.umich.edu](http://seas.umich.edu)

Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies

[rackham.umich.edu](http://rackham.umich.edu)

School of Information

[si.umich.edu](http://si.umich.edu)

School of Kinesiology

[kines.umich.edu](http://kines.umich.edu)

Law School

[law.umich.edu](http://law.umich.edu)

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

[lsa.umich.edu](http://lsa.umich.edu)

Medical School

[medicine.umich.edu/medschool/](http://medicine.umich.edu/medschool/)

School of Music, Theatre & Dance

[smtd.umich.edu](http://smtd.umich.edu)

School of Nursing

[nursing.umich.edu](http://nursing.umich.edu)

College of Pharmacy

[pharmacy.umich.edu](http://pharmacy.umich.edu)

School of Public Health

[sph.umich.edu](http://sph.umich.edu)

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

[fordschool.umich.edu](http://fordschool.umich.edu)

School of Social Work

[ssw.umich.edu](http://ssw.umich.edu)

### **University of Michigan-Dearborn Academic Units**

College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

[umdearborn.edu/casl](http://umdearborn.edu/casl)

College of Business

[umdearborn.edu/cob](http://umdearborn.edu/cob)

College of Education, Health & Human Services

[umdearborn.edu/cehhs](http://umdearborn.edu/cehhs)

College of Engineering and Computer Science

[umdearborn.edu/cecs](http://umdearborn.edu/cecs)

### **University of Michigan-Flint Academic Units**

College of Arts and Sciences

[umflint.edu/cas](http://umflint.edu/cas)

College of Health Sciences

[umflint.edu/chs](http://umflint.edu/chs)

School of Education and Human Services

[umflint.edu/sehs](http://umflint.edu/sehs)

School of Management

[umflint.edu/som](http://umflint.edu/som)

School of Nursing

[umflint.edu/nursing](http://umflint.edu/nursing)

### **3.J Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies**

The [Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies](#) is an academic and administrative unit. Graduate degree programs leading to the master's, doctoral, and related degrees, and graduate certificates are offered by the schools and colleges on all three campuses through the agency of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. (Other University of Michigan schools and colleges offer graduate professional programs and first professional degrees.) See [Chapter VI. Schools and Colleges: Program Definitions](#) bylaw 6.02.

In its oversight of post-baccalaureate academic programs, the Graduate School and its faculty executive board have a range of responsibilities including the establishment of policies regarding graduate education, the formation of new graduate programs, and oversight of student-related services (including admissions, course approvals, academic petitions, maintenance of the student academic record, program review, and the conferral of degrees). Of special interest is the variety of resources Rackham provides to faculty. These resources include:

- Support for faculty research projects (aimed primarily at new faculty in the early stages of their research careers)
- Discretionary funds for faculty work
- A faculty mentoring handbook
- Interdisciplinary initiatives
- Advice on questions of student academic and professional integrity
- Advice and support with regard to international education

Faculty may also refer students to Rackham for various types of support such as, fellowships and other financial assistance, writing and other workshops, diversity initiatives, and social events; and may nominate students for Rackham teaching and dissertation awards. In addition, Rackham promotes a sense of community in graduate education by bringing people together for presentations, discussions, and debate. The dean of the Graduate School also holds the appointment of vice provost for academic affairs-graduate studies. The dean ensures that the Graduate School meets its mission and represents the interests of graduate education in the Office of the Provost, throughout the University, and in national and international venues where graduate education policy and practice are discussed and debated. Faculty oversight of the Graduate School is provided by an elected Rackham Executive Board made up of the dean, a representative from each of the two regional campuses, and 12 Ann Arbor campus faculty members.

## 3.K University of Michigan Libraries and Museums (Ann Arbor Campus)

### 3.K.1 Libraries

Within the purview of the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus library system is administered centrally through the University librarian and dean of libraries and is composed of the following locations:

- [Biological Station Library](#)
- [Buhr Shelving Facility](#), which includes [Michigan Publishing](#)
- [Duderstadt Center](#), including:
  - Art, Architecture and Engineering Library
  - Digital Media Commons
  - Imageworks
  - Fine Arts Library
  - MLibrary @ North Campus Research Complex
  - Museums Library
  - Music Library
- [Hatcher Graduate Library](#), including:
  - Area Programs
  - Asia Library
  - Clark Library
  - Faculty Exploratory
  - Knowledge Navigation Center
  - Papyrology Collection
  - Special Collections Library
- [Shapiro Library](#), which includes:
  - Askwith Media Library
  - Science Library
  - Tech Deck
  - Undergraduate Library

The University Library, which has direct oversight over these [libraries and collections](#), posts information about each of them on its website (e.g., about the library, the collections, contact information and location, staff listings, and news and events).

In addition, four major library units are maintained and administered separately from the University Library. They are:

- The Kresge Business Administration Library, reporting to the dean of the Stephen R. Ross School of Business.
- The Law Library, reporting to the dean of the Law School.
- The Bentley Historical Library, which houses the Michigan Historical Collections and the University Archives, reporting to the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.
- The William L. Clements Library of Americana, reporting to the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

[Chapter XII. The University Libraries](#) bylaw 12.05 establishes a Libraries Advisory Committee to serve as a medium for discussion and advice concerning matters of common interest to the University library and to the Clements, Bentley, Law, and Business libraries.

The following independent libraries are also found on the Ann Arbor campus:

- [Lemuel Johnson Center](#) (Center for Afroamerican and African Studies)
- [Center for the Education of Women+ Library](#)
- [Foster Library](#) (LSA, Economics)

The librarians, curators, and archivists in these units usually report to the director of their particular University facility or the chair of their college department.

Independent libraries are located on the University's UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint campuses. The director of the Mardigian Library on the UM-Dearborn campus reports to the UM-Dearborn provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. The director of the Frances Willson Thompson Library on the UM-Flint campus reports to the UM-Flint provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

In addition, the Gerald R. Ford Library, a presidential library operated by the National Archives and Records Administration (an agency of the United States Government), is physically housed on the University's North Campus.

For more information on libraries, see handbook section [21.L "Libraries"](#) or [library locations and hours](#).

### **3.K.2 Museums**

The following six museums on the Ann Arbor campus are administratively part of LSA:

- Museum of Natural History
- Herbarium
- Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
- Museum of Anthropology
- Museum of Paleontology
- Museum of Zoology

The directors of these museums are faculty members and are appointed by the dean of LSA. The museum curators are also faculty members and usually hold joint appointments as both curators and faculty within an academic department. The Herbarium and the Museums of Anthropology, Paleontology, and Zoology are research museums; the Kelsey is both a research and an exhibit museum, and the Museum of Natural History serves the public as an exhibit museum.

The Museum of Art, also on the Ann Arbor campus, is primarily an exhibit museum and reports to the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

There are many other museums and similar services on the Ann Arbor campus associated with the various units. See handbook sections [21.O "Museums and Galleries"](#), [21.P "Natural Areas"](#), [21.P.1 "Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum"](#), [21.P.2 "Forests/Reserves"](#), and [21.Q "Observatories and Planetariums."](#)



## 3.L Institutes and Centers

The University supports more than 100 centers and institutes, all of which have research, service, and in some cases, teaching missions, and are typically run by a director and an executive committee. As a general rule, institutes are separate administrative units reporting to a major University unit, whereas centers are units within a school or college or sometimes spanning several departments within a school or college. Many centers and institutes are established by the Regents on recommendation of the president ([Chapter VI. Schools and Colleges: Program Definitions](#) bylaw 6.03).

The provost office provides a [list of most centers and institutes](#) as well as material on [Best Practices for Centers and Institutes](#).