



**Martin A. Philbert** • Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Deborah Ball, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, William H. Payne Collegiate Professor of Education, Professor of Education, School of Education

Susan M. Collins, Edward M. Gramlich Collegiate Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and Professor of Economics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

James Duderstadt, President Emeritus and University Professor of Science and Engineering

Deborah Goldberg, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Margaret B. Davis Distinguished University Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Don Herzog, Edson R. Sunderland Professor of Law, Law School and Professor of Political Science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Bill Lovejoy, Raymond T. J. Perring Family Professor of Business Administration, Professor of Technology and Operations, Associate Dean for Specialty Programs, Stephen M. Ross School of Business and Professor of Art and Design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design

**FROM:** Martin A. Philbert

**DATE:** April 19, 2019

**RE:** Blue Ribbon Panel – Next Steps

I am in receipt of the Blue Ribbon Panel Report submitted March 21, 2019. I have read it and carefully considered your approach and analysis. I accept the report and its recommendations which address the charge I gave to consider what ought to be the intersection between political thought/ideology and a faculty member's responsibility to students. Your willingness and diligence in reviewing the relevant University of Michigan policies and your examination of peer campuses across the nation add value to the reframing of the charge and the articulation of a primary guiding principle and its logical corollary.

Thank you for your diligence in clear articulation of our shared values as teachers and learners at the University, and for your tireless willingness to engage with faculty, students, and staff on the campuses in Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint. This outreach provided all members of our community with multiple opportunities to share their perspectives on this question.

Of note are your concluding remarks: "What we found from our outreach efforts suggests that we would benefit as a community from discussing these issues, our proposed principles, and how they might apply in specific cases. We recommend a process that respects the decentralized nature of the University of Michigan by creating opportunities for discussions at the departmental as well as college levels to build great common awareness and understanding."

To that end, I shall undertake a process to initiate unit-level discussions of the Report. This process will include the following actions:

1. The Report will be made publicly available through a story in the University Record; the full report will be posted on the Provost's Office's website.
2. The deans have agreed to facilitate discussions of the Report within their schools and colleges in the coming months. These discussions will include faculty, staff, and students, and will seek to gather reactions to the principles articulated in the Report and input on how these principles can best be operationalized within each school/college. The deans will discuss this feedback collectively during the fall semester, with a goal of developing common practices across campus that both share core features and also take into account the unique aspects of culture and practice in the various units.
3. I will be reaching out specifically to key groups on campus, including SACUA, Rackham Student Government, and Central Student Government, to encourage them to share their feedback with me.
4. I have also encouraged the Chancellors at Flint and Dearborn to undertake similar engagement processes as appropriate to their individual campuses.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful work and deliberations on this nuanced and important topic.

MAP/cmg