Vice President for Research

Position Description
The Opportunity

The University of Michigan (U-M), one of the world’s preeminent research universities, is seeking its next vice president for research.

Now operating in the beginning of its third century, U-M continues its mission to serve the public through preeminence in creating, communicating, preserving and applying knowledge, art, and academic values. Currently, the main campus in Ann Arbor has an enrollment of 46,000 students, about a third of whom are in graduate and professional studies. U-M is consistently ranked among the top institutions of higher education globally with 275 degree programs and 102 graduate programs ranked in the top 10 nationally. With $1.62 billion in research expenditures during FY19, U-M has the largest volume of research of any public university in the country for the ninth consecutive year.

The vice president for research is a position of broad leadership for U-M’s Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses, serving as an executive officer reporting to the university’s president. As the chief research official of the university, this position oversees the University of Michigan Office of Research (UMOR).

Office of Research at the University of Michigan

The vice president for research leads an organization that works with both internal and external partners to catalyze, support, and safeguard research at U-M.

UMOR aims to foster new research through its affiliated interdisciplinary units, novel programs, new initiatives, grants and awards program, and recognition awards. It builds partnerships with industry, government, and academia through work with its Business Engagement Center, Federal Relations for Research team, and international programs.

UMOR provides central research administration from proposal submission through contract development and negotiation to project closeout. UMOR develops a culture of ethical research and compliance at U-M by providing guidance and oversight, and it oversees research policy, including research compliance, guidelines for research faculty, and the implementation of applicable laws and standards.

UMOR includes the following major units which report to the vice president:

Catalyzing Research:
- Exercise and Sport Science Initiative
- Center for Human Growth and Development
- Energy Institute
- M Cubed
- Institute for Research on Women and Gender
- Mcity
The Position

The vice president for research is responsible for providing strategic vision, leadership, and effective management of UMOR, and is an executive officer of the university, serving as a member of the president’s executive team and the provost’s academic program group. The position reports to the university president and works closely with the president, provost, executive vice president for medical affairs, other executive officers, and the deans and directors of U-M’s schools, colleges, and institutes. They also work closely with the provosts and chancellors of the Dearborn and Flint campuses to fully align research with the overall academic mission of the university across the three campuses. The vice president is supported by several assistant and associate vice presidents for research, with approximately 30 staff members in the central office for the vice president for research, more than 300 staff members in UMOR units, and an annual budget of approximately $40 million.

The vice president for research plays a leadership role in national and international activities regarding research policy and helps position the university in defining and meeting emerging research opportunities of the future. The vice president, often in collaboration with the provost, plays a key role in catalyzing interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research; the integration of research and education at both the graduate and undergraduate levels; supporting promotion and facilitation of research from grant submission through technology transfer and business engagement; the affirmation of the integrity of research processes and policies; the stewardship of the special physical and computational infrastructure and analytic support necessary for research leadership; the establishment of national and international collaborative research partnerships at the university; the participation in federal and state research-related policy making; the coordination of activities that promote participation of a broad range of individuals in research, scholarly, or creative activity that strengthen the university’s research enterprise; and the oversight of research faculty policy and implementation.

Required Qualifications

Candidates for the vice president for research position will possess the following qualifications:

• Outstanding profile of intellectual leadership and of distinguished scholarship and teaching, suitable for a tenured appointment as a full professor, and an earned doctorate
or other terminal degree.

- Understanding of the importance of compliance and regulatory matters to the research enterprise, and an ability to develop an effective and efficient organization for dealing with them.
- Deep knowledge of and experience with research faculty affairs, and an ability to promote university faculty for national service and policy engagement and for national/international recognition.
- Ability to articulate a vision that promotes the integration of the research and educational missions of the university and provide leadership in pursuing this vision.
- Commitment and ability to exercise leadership locally, at the state level, nationally, and internationally on scholarly and policy issues related to research.
- Extensive knowledge of and experience with research funding.
- Capacious scholarly interest and an understanding of and commitment to promoting the full spectrum of research and engagement.
- Awareness of the revolutionary potential of technology on the nature of the research university, and an ability to provide leadership in new forms of “knowledge work.”
- Vision for global research issues and how to enhance U-M’s global leadership in research, scholarship and creative work, leveraging the intellectual power of the university.
- Aptitude for identifying novel opportunities and building effective interdisciplinary research teams.
- Service on or with national organizations relevant to providing input into research policy at the national level.

The successful candidate will also possess the following qualities and competencies:

- Personal and professional integrity to the highest degree.
- Demonstrated understanding of and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Appreciation for and ability to lead effectively within a non-hierarchical, de-centralized, and highly collaborative campus community.
- Good political acumen with a keen sense of how and when to engage the participation of different constituencies and the ability to build productive alliances.
- Skill in working with administrators, faculty, staff, and students in a climate of openness and transparency, integrity, trust, mutual respect, and collaborative problem solving.
- Understanding of and commitment to the academic, research, and service missions of a residential public university and to enhancing the quality of student learning at the graduate, undergraduate, and professional levels.
- Outstanding oral and written communications skills with an ability to transform ambiguity into clarity and to articulate campus needs with persuasiveness and conviction; excellent listening skills; and the capacity and willingness to engage in intellectual debate and discussion.
- High degree of energy, initiative, and organization; self-confidence, creativity, and willingness to take risks and to pilot and evaluate new programs with knowledge of national best practices, including the ability to use research, data, and assessment to guide decision-making.
• Approachable, optimistic, and intellectually curious with personal warmth, generosity of spirit, a can-do attitude, and strong resilience in the face of criticism.
• Ability to select, develop, motivate, and win the respect and loyalty of faculty and staff through strong mentoring, coaching, and team-building skills with proven success in developing professional staff and creating an effective team.
• Advanced experience applying management and organizational principles, including budgeting, planning, and personnel management.

**Procedure for Candidacy**

Those interested can apply through the [U-M careers website](#). To submit nominations or ask questions, please email [input-vpresearch2020@umich.edu](mailto:input-vpresearch2020@umich.edu).

The University of Michigan is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.