

University of Michigan

Board of Regents Meeting

September 1, 2026 Meeting

The regents met at 11:00 a.m. at University Hall, Ruthven Building. Participating were Regents Acker, Behm, Bernstein, Brown, Hubbard, Ilitch and Meyers. Regent White participated via Zoom.

Call to Order and President's Opening Remarks

President Grasso called the meeting to order and called the roll.

He said, "This is a special meeting of the Board of Regents, called at the request of all Board members. I will now turn over the meeting to Regent Michael Behm, Co Chair of the Presidential Search Committee."

Regent Behm said, "The Board of Regents of the University of Michigan derives its authority directly from the Michigan Constitution, Article VIII, Section 5: The board shall, as often as necessary, elect a president of the institution under its supervision. This person shall be the principal executive officer of the institution.

"We are pleased to have completed that process and today we will formally confirm Cybele Raver as the board's choice to lead the University of Michigan.

"Provost Raver is a developmental psychologist currently serving as provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs at Vanderbilt University, and we are proud to welcome her as the University of Michigan's next president.

"She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in developmental psychology from Yale University. Her academic career began at Cornell University; she also held faculty appointments at the University of Chicago, and New York University before coming to Vanderbilt.

"An instrumental leader at Vanderbilt, she helped grow the research enterprise, recruit top talent, and expand the university network with new locations around the country, and a new college on campus. Vanderbilt Chancellor Diermeir (DEER-my-er) described her impact during her tenure there as "profound."

"Her national reputation for excellence, her transformational accomplishments, and her collaborative approach will benefit us all as together, we face the numerous challenges and opportunities ahead.

"I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues on the Board of Regents, the members of our Presidential Search Advisory Committee, a special thank you to Vice President Kinsey

and his team, and Mary Gorman and Alexis Stiles from Spencer Stuart – all of whom were indispensable in our search process.

“I would also like to thank our students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters - who continually remind us all why we are here, and why this is the best job in higher education.

“And now, it is my great honor to support the election of Cybele Raver to serve as president of the University of Michigan.

Regent Bernstein, Co Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, read the following resolution:

On behalf of the Board of Regents, and pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5 of the Michigan Constitution, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a certain letter of agreement that has been previously agreed upon, with its effectiveness being subject to approval and ratification at this meeting, I present the finalist, and hereby ***nominate*** Cybele Raver as the 17th President of the University of Michigan. The letter of agreement will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

The motion was seconded by all the regents and carried unanimously.

Comments from Regents:

Regent Ilitch spoke of President Elect Raver as a thoughtful listener, accomplished scholar, team builder, and collaborative problem-solver with the strength to lead change. She encouraged the Michigan community to welcome her warmly and give her time to learn its traditions as she pursues a shared goal of developing leaders and changing the world.

Regent Acker noted that Cybele emerged from a talented candidate pool as an exceptional leader and inspiring role model, especially for women and girls. The community can be proud to welcome her as president.

Regent Bernstein echoed the fact that Dr. Raver was elected as Michigan’s next president for her vision, higher-education leadership, understanding of the university, integrity, and commitment to transforming students’ lives and society.

Regent Hubbard thanked President Grasso for his service and welcomed Dr. Raver, praising her experience, team-building skills, and understanding of Michigan’s complex academic, research, medical, and public missions. She expressed her confidence in Dr. Raver’s ability to unite the community and strengthen the university.

Regent Meyers thanked President Grasso for twice stepping up to serve, then welcomed Dr. Cybele Raver as UM’s 17th president and praised her as the right leader for this transformative moment. He also officially welcomed Dr. Raver and her family as Wolverines.

Regent Brown also thanked President Grasso for leading through difficult challenges and welcomed Dr. Raver as the brightest and best candidate. He praised her academic background and commitment to serving which will benefit the people of the state of Michigan and beyond.

President Grasso said, “It is an honor to welcome Dr. Cybele Raver as the University of Michigan’s next president.

“I also want to welcome her mother, Tina, her stepfather, Chris, and her sister, Kim. This is a special day for your family, and for the Michigan family.

“Cybele, you will soon be leading what I never hesitate to call the greatest university in the world, working in the public interest. Our faculty are exceptional – as educators, researchers, clinicians, innovators, and public servants. It is a privilege to interact with them every day.

“Our students are creative, bright, energetic, and opinionated. Michigan has many traditions, including students who engage deeply with their campus. I have experienced that in the best way with our student leaders.

“Michigan staff are the backbone of the institution. They often say, “We Make Blue Go,” and it’s true. We could not operate at the exceptional level we do without their expertise and skills.

“Michigan alumni – including my wife, Susan, and me – are loyal to the point of fierceness. We love our alma mater and always want it to succeed.

“This profound and universal commitment to excellence is why there is such enthusiasm for your appointment as the next president. Leadership and excellence are part of Michigan’s DNA.

“Being president of the University of Michigan is both the best job in higher education and the most challenging. The spotlight on Michigan always burns bright because society looks to us for answers, cures, and leadership.

“When the search began, we were looking for the very best, and we found her in Cybele. She has impressive accomplishments as a scholar and academic leader and is an alum of what JFK called the Michigan of the East.

“Please know that the Michigan community, across all three campuses and beyond, is here to support and cheer for you in the months and years ahead.

“I want to thank the faculty, staff, students, and alumni who served on the Presidential Search Committee. Your service has helped shape our university’s future.

“Cybele, as you prepare to become Michigan’s 17th president, I encourage you to consider the motivating words of our first president, Dr. Henry Philip Tappan. ‘This young university,’ he

wrote, 'should we not carry it forward to perfection?' This is the conviction of the Leaders and Best.

"Congratulations again, and Forever Go Blue. I'm now very pleased to invite Dr. Raver to the lectern.

President Elect Raver

President Elect Raver said, "Thank you, Chair Behm, members of the Board of Regents, President Grasso.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as the 17th president of the University of Michigan. It is an extraordinary honor, and I am thrilled to join this community.

"I thank President Grasso for his dedication and his leadership over these past years. I am also grateful for the incredibly warm welcome shown to me by the Regents. Thank you to my colleagues, friends and students at Vanderbilt University who made my time there so meaningful. Lastly, I thank my family, including my stepfather who is from Flint and a proud Michigan alum. I am so grateful to each of them (and to my daughter, Natalie who couldn't be here today) for their love and unwavering support through every step of the journey that has led me to this incredibly special moment, today.

"Why does this moment mean so much? To paraphrase so many of Michigan's renowned alumni and leaders, Michigan truly represents greatness, in every sense of the word. This university is a research powerhouse with a deeply held public mission. Michigan attracts the most talented and energetic students from across the nation and the world and it demonstrates a profound commitment to opportunity through the Go Blue Guarantee. You – now I can say 'we!' – have a truly wonderful way of building a lifelong sense of community while also channeling such fierce pride in winning. Across Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Flint, and Michigan Medicine – this University's faculty, students and staff are doing important work that changes lives -Michigan is a powerful engine of discovery - driving security, democracy, health care and economic prosperity across Michigan, the region, and across this nation.

"That is truly why this moment means so much to me - throughout my career, I have been profoundly inspired by the impact that universities can have, bringing talented people together across disciplines and supporting them to pursue bold ideas. Michigan does this better than any other university that I can name, and at a truly remarkable scale. My vision is for us to build on that vision, that mission, and those values. We have the opportunity to make clear to the world all that Michigan can offer to this great state and to our nation through education, patient care and discovery.

"I know I can count on you to join in that mission: I am just beginning to understand the vast reach and deep devotion of the Michigan community. I have already begun wearing my baseball

hat with the Block M in airports in the last few weeks, and so many people have given me a huge smile and greeted me with “Go Blue!” I am incredibly proud to be welcomed into this community as your newest Wolverine.

“And what should you expect from me? One thing you should know about me is that as a quantitative social scientist, I love to understand and solve complex problems by listening carefully. I look forward to learning about your perspectives, your viewpoints, across our faculty, our students, our staff, our alumni and our Michigan community.

“You can also expect me to take swift and decisive action after weighing your input and the evidence. I have carried that style of decision-making from my life as a researcher to my career as a university leader. Equally importantly, I lead by investing in the people and ideas that undergird the university’s greatness. I can’t wait to bring that style of leadership, that dedication, and that commitment to Michigan.

“Most of all, you can expect me to be “all in” for all things Michigan, both in the first months of my presidency and for the long haul. As my friends and family will tell you, I am the kind of person who loves to be everywhere, all the time.

“You will see me around campus, at performances and events, talking with students, faculty and staff, and, of course, on Saturdays at the Big House.

“I also have a growing Michigan to-do list: running through the Arb, spinning the Cube, attending concerts at Hill Auditorium, a hockey game at Yost, basketball at Crisler, softball at Carol Hutchins Stadium, and learning to sing what I understand is, objectively, the best fight song in college sports. I’m always looking for additions to that list, so if there’s something I’m missing, please let me know.

“I’m also happy to take a few questions after we formally adjourn. Please know that I am likely not to have all the answers quite yet. I don’t officially start until December 1, and I have a lot of listening and learning ahead of me.

“In sum, I can’t wait to experience it all, to see what we can accomplish together, and to continue to discover all that makes Michigan so truly great. Go Blue!”

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.