Dean’s Priorities for 20-21 Academic Year

**LSA FUND FOR NEED-BASED STUDENT SUPPORT**

More than ever, students face mounting challenges as they pursue their college education. Those in the most difficult financial situations have been profoundly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The LSA Fund for Need-based Student Support has benefited thousands of students, and this year when the need is greatest, it will provide resources for deserving students to be able to continue their studies at Michigan.

Expendable gifts to the LSA Fund for Need-based Student Support make it possible for engaged, high-achieving students to grow and thrive. About 70% of LSA undergraduates receive some sort of financial support, and these students help form the character and diversity of our institution, strengthening LSA’s contribution to the world. These young people will educate future generations, shape public policy, make new discoveries in every field, and continue the important work of building society. The real value of their scholarship support is not only what they accomplish during their time at Michigan, but also what they contribute to their communities and the world over the course of their lifetimes.

The LSA Fund for Need-based Student Support is a top priority because it provides access to all facets of an LSA education, including tuition and room and board, as well as opportunities for engaged-learning experiences. Right now, this is more critical than ever so that all of our students, regardless of their financial situation, begin their careers with the advantage of a degree from the University of Michigan.

**LSA STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND**

Because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, many students face unanticipated financial hardship. The LSA Student Emergency Fund provides resources for students who need extra help as a result of lost income from COVID-19 shutdowns, for technology support for online classes, or for emergencies that arise while they are on campus. Students may apply for funding due to extraordinary circumstances to help with rent, utilities, food, emergency travel, or emergency medical assistance. The fund also provides resources for laptops and laptop repairs, as well as high-speed internet access, so that all students are able to fully access online learning to engage in their studies and focus on their education. Expendable gifts of any size enable the college to meet these needs and ensure that our most vulnerable students are prepared and equipped with the resources they need to succeed in this challenging environment.
LSA FUND FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT

The LSA Fund for Program Support provides resources for the groundbreaking curriculum innovation that is a hallmark of an LSA education. It also funds interdisciplinary courses, technology upgrades, and enhances experiences in the arts to enable the college to lead and respond to change. The Fund for Program Support is helping the college adapt to the needs of hybrid and remote education as well as ensuring access to different modes of learning for LSA students, including people with disabilities. It also supports the development of college-wide initiatives such as those that address systemic racism and racial justice. Gifts have supported the optiMize program, Semester in Detroit, Opportunity Hub programs, and more. Your expendable gift to this pooled fund will support the mission of the college while maintaining our deeply held values of exploration, common good, and inclusion.

THE OPPORTUNITY HUB STRATEGIC FUND

LSA is committed to transforming the way our students translate their world-class liberal arts education into success in today’s competitive marketplace. The LSA Opportunity Hub encourages students to explore and develop the connection between their liberal arts education and their aspirations and goals. The Hub provides access for all students through mentoring, coaching, employer engagement, internships, networking with alumni, workshops, and other programs that empower undergraduates to make the choices that lead to satisfying careers. From their first days on campus, students can engage in forward-looking classroom learning paired with hands-on career exploration and preparation at the LSA Opportunity Hub.

Expendable gifts to the Opportunity Hub Strategic Fund make it possible for Hub staff to respond to ever-changing world circumstances, such as moving internships online and building a virtual mentorship network, enabling students to meet and learn from alumni working in a variety of organizations and in all parts of the globe. Many emerging ideas are valuable enhancements to existing programming, and we need to be able to respond in a timely way to provide these experiences for our students. The Opportunity Hub Strategic Fund gives flexible funding to continue creating ways for the Hub to enrich students’ experiences, form their professional identity, and prepare them for success after graduation.

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