Dear Beth Yakel,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the continued presence of a particular board member within the University of Michigan School of Information's governance structure. It is with great respect for our institution and its values that we seek your attention to address this matter promptly.

As you have heard, there was an incident on campus on Oct. 13, 2023, regarding Carin Ehrenberg, a long-time donor and board member, who was invited to campus to attend a meeting of the UMSI advisory board. In a video shared by a U-M student on Oct. 31, 2023, Ehrenberg is seen verbally harassing and intentionally intimidating an Arab student. In one video, Ehrenberg asks the student, "Are you going to send one of your terrorists after us?" In another video, according to a further comment by the student, Ehrenberg scratches the student while attempting to grab the student’s phone, then shouts "Rapists and murderers" at a crowd of students who are peacefully protesting. The rampant Islamophobia directed at U-M students does not align with our school’s core values — including “civility and respect in public discourse” and “pursuit, integration and respect of diverse intellectual perspectives” — or our mission of building a better world.

This type of rhetoric, left unchecked, leads to more violence. It escalates instances of Islamophobia and hate speech on our campus. Furthermore, it directly puts our students in danger. The stated purpose of the University of Michigan School of Information’s board is to advance the mission of the school by providing expertise to UMSI leadership, engaging with UMSI graduates and students and providing philanthropic support for the school. By remaining silent in the wake of a board member’s verbal and physical assault of a student and allowing this board member to continue in a role that provides access to — and requires engagement with — students, UMSI facilitates violence toward its own student body.

We are writing to demand the following from leadership at UMSI:

- For Carin Ehrenberg to be removed from the UMSI advisory board, effective immediately, as we are concerned for student safety, particularly given the potential for future harm toward U-M and UMSI Muslim and Palestinian students.
- For the Ehrenberg name to be removed from the Ehrenberg Internship Fund and the Roger and Carin Ehrenberg Diversity Scholarship Fund and withheld from future public recognition by UMSI.
- For UMSI leadership to request that Carin Ehrenberg issue a formal apology.

Thank you for your support and your cooperation.