For many years Faculty Women’s Club members have sought ways to become more involved in University service activities. Although some FWC interest sections do participate in important service projects each year, there has long been an interest for developing mechanisms for broader Club participation in University service activities.

To this end, in 1996-97 an ad hoc FWC committee was established to explore with University financial and legal staff how best the Club could become more involved in service activities that would benefit the University community, taking into consideration the Club’s bylaws and non-profit status. After extensive discussions, it was concluded that the best mechanism was to establish an Endowment Fund with the explicit purpose of supporting activities of the Club aimed at providing service to the University.

Guidelines for the administration of the Faculty Women’s Club Endowment Fund were developed with the assistance of University financial and legal staff and approved by the University in late fall of 1999. The initial funds necessary to establish the FWC Endowment were provided by an anonymous donor.

The Faculty Women’s Club Endowment Fund was designed to allow future donors to designate charitable gifts to the Regents of the University of Michigan for the purpose of furthering the Faculty Women’s Club’s service role within the University community. The University may accept gifts of cash or other property acceptable to the University to enhance the Fund. The income distribution from the fund will be used to foster collaboration between the University, as it carries out its public service, teaching, and research mission, and the Faculty Women’s club, as it promotes its community building and service activities. The Secretary of the University was designated as the authority to approve distribution of the income from the FWC Endowment in response to specific proposals from the FWC.

As the FWC Endowment Committee completes its task of establishing the Endowment, we would like to make the following recommendations to the FWC Board for its consideration:

- The FWC Endowment should be announced in a special letter to the membership explaining its purpose as clearly as possible. Here it is important to stress that the purpose of the FWC Endowment is not to support the Club’s operations, but rather to support its service activities benefiting the University community.

- It is our expectation that further contributions will be made to the FWC Endowment by past, present, and future FWC members. Our Committee did not envision a fund-raising campaign, but rather simply informing our members how they might contribute at some future time. The FWC Endowment was established to accept both small and large gifts, and both contributions to the FWC Endowment Fund and the management of its assets will be the responsibility of the University, just as with its other endowment funds.

- Since the FWC Board of Directors already has well prescribed duties, we suggest that it might be appropriate to establish an Endowment Committee, reporting to the Board that can help with the initial planning and use of the FWC Endowment income.
Such endowments are intended to benefit the University in perpetuity. The Faculty Women’s Club has a long legacy of serving the University and the faculty community. It is our hope that this endowment will enable both present and future generations to continue this important service role.

Anne Duderstadt
Mona Jones
Shirley Kauper
Jane Warner
Jerry Weidenbach