UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESIDENT MARY SUE COLEMAN TO CHAIR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

The Association of American Universities (AAU) today elected Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan, as its chair. Her one-year term begins today, the final day of the association’s semi-annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

AAU is a nonprofit association of 59 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

“The contributions and discoveries of research universities are integral to the forward momentum of our country. I look forward to giving voice to our important work in the upcoming year,” Coleman said.

Coleman succeeds Jared L. Cohon, president of Carnegie Mellon University. Coleman served during the past year as vice chair of AAU. Scott S. Cowen, president of Tulane University, was elected today as vice chair for the 2011-2012 term.

As AAU chair, Coleman will serve as a spokesperson for the association, particularly on issues of special concern to research universities. She will represent AAU in meetings with national policymakers and help to develop national policy positions on issues that relate to university research and graduate, professional, and undergraduate education.

Coleman is in her 10th year as president of the University of Michigan. In addition to her AAU duties, she is co-chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a commission established in 2010 by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Coleman previously served seven years as president of the University of Iowa. She holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

The University of Michigan is a founding member of AAU. It was one of only three public universities among the 14 institutions that agreed to establish the organization in 1900.

# # # # #

The Association of American Universities is an association of 59 U.S. and two Canadian research universities organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education, and public service in research universities.