

Committee Template: Reports

To: Joy Beatty, Chair, SACUA, 2019-2020

From: Ellen Bauerle, Chair, Government Relations Advisory Committee

Subject: Report on Activities of Government Relations Advisory Committee
for 2019-2020

Members:

Ellen Bauerle, UM Press, Chair
Kara Charbarneau, Michigan Medicine
Vincent Glud, ITCS
Lucca Henrion, President, Rackham Student Government
Justin Hodge, School of Social Work
Daniil Manaenkov, LSA
John Mansfield, Engineering
Dorene Markel, Michigan Medicine
Renee Nguyen, ISR
Alexandra Rivera, UM Library

SACUA Liaison: Annalisa Manera, SACUA Liaison

Meeting Dates: 8 November, 6 December, 17 April (planned March meeting canceled due to COVID)

Summary: We had a particularly lively and involved group of committee members this year, who were attentive to issues at local, state, and national level. The distribution of represented UM units was also helpful, and the mix of faculty and staff. In addition to the larger topics noted below, we also touched on pedestrian safety and the lighting at crosswalks, some actions by regional government, seeking sustainability on campus, and the complexities of the modern political landscape. Attendance by all concerned was very good, and committee members seemed happy to share their views and experiences, comments that derived from their campus situations, and information they had gleaned from various news sources.

VP Wilbanks provided helpful information about the budget process, UM's liaison with different levels of government, and information provided on UM's website from the Office of Budget and Planning.

The topics of focus for the year included:

- Presidential debate, and possible UM/student involvement with it
- Budget process, and UM's strategy for involvement

- UM construction projects on campus, including new hospital, “South Fifth” site, etc.

Topics to be continued or carried forward to next year are:

- Presidential debate, whether held in person or virtually
- Corona virus in general, esp. UM’s role in providing medical and scientific information to Michigan’s state government for decision-making purposes (via Michigan Medicine and the School of Public Health)
- UM’s budget, and Legislature’s budget process