



**Government Relations Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

Minutes of October 27, 9:15-10:00 am, regular meeting  
Circulated: 11/28/2022  
Approved: 12/1/2022

**Present:** Ruth Person (Chair), Chris Kolb (VP for Government Relations), Andrea Lewis (Government Relations Specialist), Dana Sitzler (Associate Director of State Outreach), Eesha Acharya, Larry Gant, Erin Kahle, Mark Kushner, Teri Rosales, Michael Thompson, Ann Marshall (FSO, secretary)

1. 9:05 am Chair Person called the meeting to order
2. Minutes for the previous meetings will be approved by email
3. Government Relations Updates
  - VP Chris Kolb Update: VP Kolb provided a preview of the upcoming election and noted the many nonpartisan voter education activities on campus. There are [two locations](#) at UM-Ann Arbor where students can register and vote. There will be an event on November 4<sup>th</sup> where some VIPs will be present. Competitive elections include a seat in Lansing where there is no incumbent running and the Governor's race that has tightened. The role of the Office of Government Relations is to represent UM well regardless of who is elected. It is a particularly fascinating election to watch and VP Kolb encouraged attendees to vote so that your voice is heard.
  - Dana Sitzler, Associate Director of State Outreach, presented on the "Michigan Road Scholars Tour." Please see attached slides for details. Key points include that this year's application will be open November 14-28 and that the tour will occur the week after commencement, May 1-5, 2023. All faculty, including tenured/tenure-track, research, clinical, and librarians can apply. LSA has been underrepresented in the application pool. Discussion included suggestions on getting the word out about this opportunity, including working with affinity groups and whether there was ever a post-event participant presentation. Dana is available to give this presentation to other groups and attendees are encouraged to help get the word out.
4. Chair Ruth Person encouraged GRAC committee members to send her agenda items for future meetings.

Next meeting is December 1, 9:15-10 am. Winter term dates TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am

Submitted by Ann Marshall, Secretary



# Michigan Road Scholars Tour



# Purpose

This educational tour exposes participants to the state's economy, government, culture, educational systems, health and social issues, history, and geography

Designed to increase mutual knowledge and understanding between the university and the people and communities of the state. The tour introduces participants to:

- the places our students call home
- encourages university service to the public
- suggests ways faculty can help address state issues through research, scholarship and creative activity

In addition, the experience is expected to develop beneficial ties and promote interdisciplinary discussion among the touring faculty



# Goals

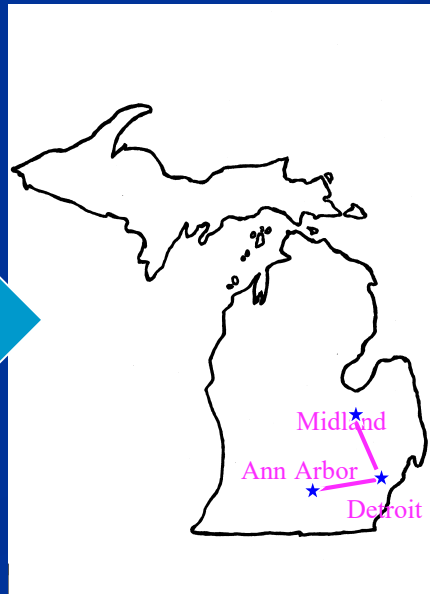
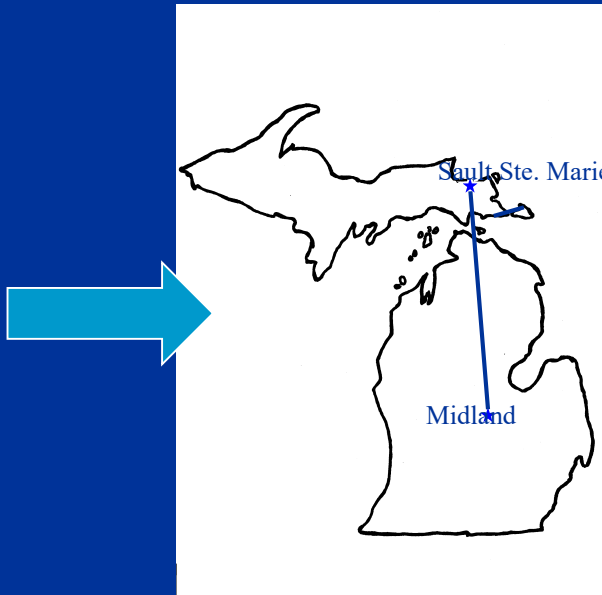
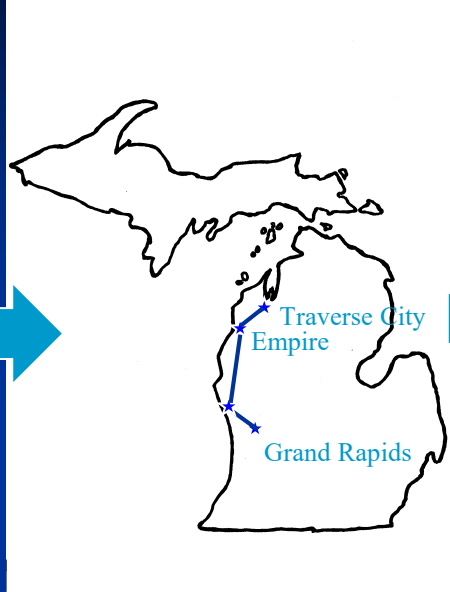
- Introduce faculty to Michigan by connecting to people and organizations in communities from different regions of the state
- Give faculty an opportunity to **listen and learn**
- Get faculty to think about their work differently – UM in the context of the state – what do you have to offer?
- Provide an opportunity to meet new colleagues from all 3 campuses
- Spark an interest and willingness to engage – provide support after the trip to connect back to communities
- **Have fun**



# Overview

- Application open in November (November 14-28, 2022)
- Selections made by committee of past scholars
- Funded jointly by the Provost's office and the Office of the Vice President for Government Relations
- 30 scholars + 5 staff (including grad student)
- Provost Dinner and Orientation – opportunities to meet fellow travelers
- First week after spring commencement (May 1-5, 2023)





**City of Grand Rapids – Equitable  
Development**  
(Grand Rapids)

**Empowerment Plan**  
(Detroit)

**UM Biological Station**  
(Pellston)

**Bridgewater Interiors**  
(Warren)

**Breakfast w/State Policy Makers**  
(Lansing)

**Precision Edge Surgical Products**  
(Sault Ste. Marie)

**Grand Traverse Industries**  
(Traverse City)

**Sleeping Bear Dunes**  
(Empire)

**Bay Mills Community College**  
(Sault Ste. Marie)

**Downtown Boxing Gym**  
(Detroit)



Questions?

