



## Government Relations Advisory Committee (GRAC) Minutes

**Minutes of March 30, 2023, 9:15-10:00 am**, regular meeting

Circulated: 04/24/2023

Approved: 04/27/2023

**Present:** Ruth Person (Chair, presiding), Ramiro Garcia, Larry Gant, Chris Kolb (VP for Government Relations), Andrea Lewis (Government Relations Specialist), Ann Marshall (FSO, secretary), Teri Rosales.

1. 9:00 am, Chair Person called the meeting to order and the minutes from the February meeting were approved.

### 2. VP Chris Kolb Update:

- Two major recent issues in the MI legislature include, first, the repeal of the right-to-work law and, second, the bill package of gun safety legislation, where UM faculty have been called upon to [testify](#). UM's approach is to typically not take a position, but to inform. A rare exception might be an issue very close to UM's mission such as academic freedom.
- The recent [Congressional Breakfast](#) was very successful and included a reception at the alumni association, a meeting with White House staff on climate policy, a meeting with MI's two senators, and an engaging conversation with the Department of Education, where mental health policy was discussed as a particular area of interest, along with higher education affordability and accessibility.

**3. Brainstorming Session:** GRAC members discussed areas of UM faculty expertise having potential to inform policy making.

- Teri Rosales -- Rural issues in MI, including [three recently-funded interdisciplinary projects](#) that combine the social sciences and engineering and focus on water management, electric vehicles, and diabetes in rural areas.
- Larry Gant – Detroit, including being captivated by the many neighborhood-based activities; efforts linking neighborhoods with funding; a revitalized City government. UM Social Work students intern with the City. See also the Detroit [State of the City](#) presentation and UM [Detroit Engagement Census](#). An update to the census is coming soon.
- [The Egalitarian Metropolis: Towards an Inclusive Recovery for Detroit](#), March 2023 symposium.
- [TRAILS](#)
- Government Relations efforts include: 1) connecting policy makers to researchers on an individual level, either with a legislator or agency, e.g. the Dept. of Agriculture, 2) helping to bring a researcher's expertise to a legislative committee, 3) promoting communication, e.g. newsletters, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am

Next meeting is Thursday, April 27, 9:15 am

Submitted by Ann Marshall, FSO, Secretary