



GENERAL CHARGE FOR STANDING SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Standing committees are established by Senate Assembly as mandated in Section 4.06 of the Regents' Bylaws. In collaboration with the Faculty Senate Office and SACUA, standing committees advise and consult with the vice presidents of the university on matters within the areas of their respective responsibilities. Senate Assembly standing committees are charged with bringing faculty voice and perspective to a broad range of university activities including policy and procedure. Senate Assembly standing committees shall strive to provide advice and consultation to their respective vice presidents in a timely fashion so that faculty perspectives are considered during the decision-making process.

General Counsel's Advisory Committee (GCAC)

Advisory to: Tim Lynch, Vice President and General Counsel

Committee Chair: Sybil Biermann, Michigan Medicine

SPECIFIC CHARGE 2024 – 2025

1. Consider emergent issues or topics brought forward by the GCAC committee members and/or the General Counsel for discussion over the course of the year.
2. Consider continuing efforts and issues related to the [University of Michigan Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression](#) adopted by the Regents on January 16, 2024, including the ongoing work of the [advisory committee](#) considering how the university shall put the new statement of principles into action.
3. Inquire into the extent that changing legal considerations are impacting the university's commitment to DEI and to providing an inclusive and positive academic environment, including (1) the impact of the June 2024 Department of Education resolution [letter](#) and [agreement](#) involving alleged incidents of harassment during the 2023-2024 school year and (2) the University's new Title VI policy.
4. Consider the university's legal posture in relation to the prosecution of student protestors and its overriding obligation to defend students' freedom of speech.
5. Consider the role of the Office of the Vice President and General Counsel throughout the faculty grievance process in representing the interests of the University to investigate potential policy violations and to ensure accountability.

Approved by the Senate Assembly on September 23, 2024