



Government Relations Advisory Committee (GRAC) Minutes

Minutes of October 11, 2024, 9:15-10:00 am, regular meeting

Circulated: 11/8/2024

Approved: 11/14/2024

Present: Mike Shriberg (Chair), Shevon Desai, Nakhiah Goulbourne, Chris Kolb (Vice President for Government Relations), Andi Lewis (Government Relations Specialist), John Mansfield, Shahzad Mian, Soumya Rangarajan, Sara Samuel, Beth Wilensky, Jeffrey Yackley

Absent: Sue Anne Bell, Jowei Chen, Anouck Girard

1. Chair Mike Shriberg called the meeting to order:

- Introductions, and the 2/22/2024 meeting minutes were approved.
- The [GRAC Charge 2024-2025](#) was reviewed.

2. VP Kolb Update

- For Congress and the MI legislature, the focus is on the election and there is currently not legislative activity. The entire Michigan House is up for election. After the election, more will be known about legislative agendas, and Congress and legislature will be in lame-duck session.
- Higher education has been at the forefront of some federal committees, much more so than in the recent past. The increased focus on research and security is likely to continue regardless of the outcome of the election.
- Discussion included the following topics: whether federal bills affecting higher education financing might be raised during the lame-duck session; MI legislature may rush to pass legislation if party control changes; NIH funding as a priority for Medical School faculty and whether such funding could be tied to political issues; Title VI and higher ed's mission to enable everyone to thrive and to look deeply at difficult issues; generational questions about the ROI of higher ed; U-M graduates from China being investigated by the FBI; Government Relations' role with communicating to legislators about the importance of investing in research.

3. Jenna Bednar Remarks and Update, Faculty Director of [UMICH Votes](#) Democratic Engagement, a Co-chair of [Year of Democracy](#), Professor of Public Policy and of Political Science

- The focus of UMICH Votes works to build life-long voting, is nonpartisan, and is a partnership with the City Clerk, Stamps, the Duderstadt, and Turn Up Turnout ([TUT](#)). In 2024, for the first time, there are 9 days of early voting. The state of MI had the highest youth turnout in 2022, all 3 campuses have high turnout, with U-M Flint having the highest campus turnout in the nation.
- There are efforts to avoid the 2022 U-M long voting lines, with 18 City Clerk-trained peer student fellows to help with voting. The campus hubs work like the City Clerk's office. On election day at the U-M hubs, there will be 15 people (in 2022 it was 5) people working the lines and a separate line for registration. It is still possible to volunteer to be a poll worker.
- The [Year of Democracy](#) is a separate, but related effort, with [three co-chairs](#), focused on how U-M can lead in democracy research. Highlights focusing on civic engagement include videos, Stamps-created content, graphic novels, and listening across difference.



FACULTY SENATE
SENATE ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue, Suite 1120
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1340

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marshall, FSO, Faculty Governance Coordinator