



## Government Relations Advisory Committee (GRAC) Minutes

**Minutes of February 22, 2024, 9:15-10:00 am**, regular meeting

Circulated: 10/7/2024

Approved: 10/11/2024

Present: Tom Braun (Chair), VP Chris Kolb, Lindsay Admon (SACUA liaison), Shevon Desai, Larry Gant, Andi Lewis (Government Relations Specialist), Ann Marshall (FSO, Coordinator), Luke McCarthy (FSO, Director), Mike Shriberg, Jeffrey Yackley.

Absent: Eesha Acharya, Jowei Chen, Nakhiah Goulbourn, Shahzad Mian

1. Chair Braun called the meeting to order and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

2. VP Kolb Update

- On the federal level, Government Relations is watching the status of a continuing resolution to keep the government open. If a shutdown was to be triggered, this impacts federal funds in a variety of areas, e.g. veteran affairs, agriculture, etc. The House Education Committee is looking at the climate on college campuses, especially antisemitism as well as on occasion a consideration of islamophobia. On the issue of presidents resigning after testifying before Congress, the spotlight has been on elite private universities, but it could affect large public universities like U-M in the future.
- At the state level, the governor's budget includes a 2.8% increase, including a free community college proposal and innovation funds to help startups in relation to higher education institutions. At this stage, it is a proposal. The total budget is slimmer than last year and revenue is coming back to a more traditional level.
- On a local level, there are conversations with the city about how to work better together and how to have a stronger partnership.

3. Q & A and Discussion

- There was discussion about the targeting of higher ed. and its impact on large public universities. Such issues are raised in the context of elections across the country. In addition, U-M has had a long and deep relationship with the Jewish community and this is part of U-M's history, as well as making sure that every voice is heard, including perspectives of student athletes, environmental causes, etc.
- There was discussion on the recent Alabama Supreme Court decision regarding embryos being given rights as children and the unintended consequence it has had, for example, at the University of Alabama.
- Government Relations works to build relationships with leaders on both sides of the aisle and this is important for the future of higher ed. In addition, there is concern about what could happen if one party controls all facets of government.

4. Announcements

- THE DMN Committee is organizing a panel presentation on March 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6-7:30 pm, in Weisner Hall on the China Initiative, and GRAC members are invited and encouraged to attend.



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Respectfully submitted,

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