



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.

Government Relations Advisory Committee (GRAC)

Advisory to: Chris Kolb, Vice President for Government Relations

Committee Chair: Kevin Cokley, Psychology

SPECIFIC CHARGE 2025 – 2026

1. Support Government Relations' efforts to strengthen communication about the necessity of U-M research to legislators and the public, such as through the following:
 - Translating the importance of research funding, including indirect costs, into language that resonates with the public;
 - Considering if there are opportunities for GRAC members and/or other identified faculty, with Government Relations' guidance and support, to more directly engage with legislators and/or assist with legislator engagement;
 - Collaborating with OVPR and U-M Communications regarding messaging and overlapping goals regarding legislative actions and higher education policy;
 - Exploring means to educate the general public about what a PhD is, how they drive research, and a PhD's relevance in fields beyond medicine. It is critical to the mission of the university to communicate the value of a PhD to audiences such as government and business.
2. Discuss with VP Kolb the evolving challenges presented by federal and state governmental pressures on individual faculty member efforts to pursue research and education, including faculty perspectives on funding cuts and self-censorship.
3. Examine the impacts of changes being made by Federal Departments—such as the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services—that challenge the University's ability to pursue its pedagogical and research mission.
4. Consider emergent issues or topics brought forward by GRAC committee members or the Vice President for Government Relations for discussion over the course of the year. The committee may also continue discussing any issues or topics raised in the



FACULTY SENATE
SENATE ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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committee's most recent annual committee report.