



**Government Relations Advisory Committee (GRAC)
Planning Meeting
Minutes**

Minutes of September 11, 2025, 2-2:45 pm, planning meeting

Circulated: 9/30/2025

Approved: 10/9/2025

Present: Kevin Cokley (Chair), Shevon Desai, Scott Greer, Karyn Lacy, Ann Marshall (FSO), Shahzad Mian, Rogerio Meireles Pinto (SACUA liaison), Sara Samuel, Jeffrey Yackley.

Absent: Jowei Chen, Lisa Fein, Anouck Girard, Nakhiah Goulbourne, John Mansfield, Beth Wilensky

1. The meeting was called to order and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
2. Introductions
 - In addition to faculty members' U-M affiliations, attendees shared experience relevant to the committee, such as working closely with policy makers as director of an institute, scholarly work on public health as a political scientist, serving as an elected representative on the Ann Arbor School Board, serving as a research liaison to the Ford School, experience with a think tank, recent work on hosting state legislators at Michigan Medicine, and activist work under a dictatorship in one's home country.
 - GRAC members shared concerns about U-M's response to federal mandates, such as being compliant instead of pursuing other options.
3. The GRAC charge was reviewed
4. GRAC charge adjustments and implementation plans
 - GRAC members added clarifying language (see below) to the charge and also discussed plans for how to implement the charge.
 - For charge item 1, GRAC will work to **strengthen relationships** in addition to strengthening "communication."
 - Concerns were expressed about the decision to end gender affirming care for minors at Michigan Medicine. Some state legislators were also taken aback by this decision.
 - Faculty who teach and do research on race and gender are asking for assurances that U-M will proactively support them. A faculty member at Texas A&M who teaches children's literature was recently fired for their scholarship.
 - Op eds have been used to communicate the importance of faculty research, e.g. scholarship on race, gender, and psychology. The stakes are high – people are at risk of dying without such research and there are mental health consequences.
 - How will Government Relations pursue the charge items?
 - GRAC is interested in how Government Relations can partner with the committee on plans for implementing the charge. GRAC is interested in offering support and advice with Government Relations' efforts.
 - Last year, U-M made poor decisions, i.e. dismantling of DEI. Faculty members' research has been rejected, and U-M has not been listening to faculty on this issue.
 - How can GRAC and Government Relations take action and be proactive? Initial ideas include:



- Support job development for students, grad and undergrad, who have specialties in race and ethnicity.
- Be externally focused and communicate the value of what U-M does.
- Use the arts and LSA to communicate the value of U-M during this time. Also, support the arts and LSA, as well as Medicine and STEM
- Invite legislators to meet with GRAC

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marshall, FSO, Faculty Governance Coordinator