

GENERAL CHARGE FOR STANDING SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Standing committees are established by the 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.

The Senate Assembly is grateful for UM's vice presidents' time meeting with its committees and hopes that the meetings are of mutual benefit. Meeting agendas are best set collaboratively between the VP and committee chair, but because Senate Assembly committees are formed on behalf of the Faculty Senate, each committee retains final say on agenda items.

Government Relations Advisory Committee (GRAC)

Advisory to: Chris Kolb, Vice President for Government Relations

Committee Chair: Pauline Jones, Edie N Goldenberg Endowed Director of the Michigan in Washington Program, Professor of Political Science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Director and Research Professor, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research

SPECIFIC CHARGE 2026 – 2027

1. 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 committee's most recent annual committee report.
2. Request and discuss updates related to the current federal and state environment, including any changes of pending changes to laws or policies affecting the university.
3. Explore opportunities for GRAC members and/or other identified faculty, with Government Relations' guidance and support, to more directly engage with legislators, other policymakers, and lobbyists, and to assist with GRAC engagement.
4. Given that it is an election year, meet with colleagues from UMICH Votes and, optionally, committee members could volunteer to assist.
5. Last year, the SACUA Chair and FSO Director, in partnership with the MSU faculty senate chair, organized a first-ever statewide faculty senate leadership trip to Lansing to meet with legislators. In advance of replicating that effort again in the coming year, GRAC could assist with planning. For charge item #3 above, besides in relation to the Government Relations Office, how could such efforts also be considered in relation to statewide faculty governance efforts to engage?



6. Host a panel event at district libraries in Washtenaw County to engage with the local community on a topic of public interest. Non-exhaustive list of possible topics: AI data centers? Affordable housing? Library book banning?
7. Review with GR any guidelines regarding faculty engagement with legislators, other policymakers, and lobbyists.

Approved by the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) on September 14, 2026 and by the Senate Assembly on September 21, 2026.