



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 the vice presidents' 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 U-M's vice presidents' time given to 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.

Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC)

Advisory to: Bobby Hewlett, Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (EVPCFO)

Committee Chair: Becky Peterson, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering

SPECIFIC CHARGE – 2026 – 2027

1. Request and receive structured updates from the EVPCFO and his staff and, where appropriate, feed back information received to SACUA.
2. Continue encouraging the EVPCFO to routinely seek representative faculty input, early in the process, on decisions or policy changes that affect U-M faculty.
3. Work with faculty government representatives from the Dearborn and Flint campuses to explore the possibility of FAAC's participation in meetings with the chief financial officers of each of those campuses to gain greater insight into their finances and business processes.
4. Continue discussion of U-M travel policies and their implementation. Unresolved concerns raised last year include: the complicated guidance regarding student travel; the usability of CTP, the Lightning platform, and the U-M travel website; non-competitive pricing for air flights and the process for price matching; and the 2026 requirement to use PCards/Travel & Hosting cards for booking if CTP is not used, which does not align with business practices in many Schools/Colleges that do not allow faculty to have such cards.



5. Continue discussions about Work Connections. Unresolved concerns raised last year include: the lack of a clear statement regarding Work Connections advisory role and Human Resources' authority in making decisions about faculty and staff leaves; the lack of an appeal process for Work Connections decisions and process issues; the lack of training and documentation for academic leaders; the positioning of Work Connections within Insurance and Claims Administration; and the absorption of the Integrated Disability Management Advisory Committee into the Total Worker Health Advisory Committee.
6. Consider whether the FAAC should author recommendations related to AI, including regarding sustainability (given AI's large environmental footprint) and the incorporation of AI tools into UM finance and business processes (given possible concerns regarding information accuracy).
7. Continue discussions regarding how to ensure alignment of U-M's endowment investments with U-M's values and mission.
8. Request an update from the EVPCFO regarding the impact of the summer 2026 resolution of negotiations between Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Michigan Medicine on U-M employee health insurance benefits.
9. Review the sustainability of finances in the U-M Athletic Department in light of the >\$10 million deficit in FY26 which was covered by other University funds.
10. Work with AAAC to hold a joint meeting of the FAAC and the AAAC on the topic of academic budget matters, with staff from the Provost's Office of Budget and Planning as well as the EVPCFO's staff.
11. Continue monitoring U-M's long-term plans and investments including the investments of the U-M Endowment, the Capital Council, Campus Plan 2050, the Look to Michigan Plan, the Strategic Initiative Fund, the Campus Sustainability and Innovation Office, and related areas under the EVPCFO's remit.
12. Continue engagement with the EVPCFO regarding the potential replacement of the UM Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System (M-Pathways).
13. Discussion about planning for use of recent U-M property acquisitions, including the following:
 - a. The Concordia campus (now being referred to as the Geddes Complex)
 - b. The Los Alamos High Performance Computing Site, as it relates to the EVPCFO's responsibilities
14. Consider emergent issues or topics brought forward by FAAC committee members or Executive Vice President Hewlett 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.