

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.

General Counsel's Advisory Committee (GCAC)

Advisory to: Patty Petrowski, Vice President and General Counsel

Committee Chair: Jordan Siegel, Ross School of Business

GCAC Origins and Inherited and Ongoing Protocol

GCAC (by virtue of its long-form name) is a standing committee of the Senate Assembly with all the obligations and features involved of the Senate Assembly in the Bylaws ([Bylaw: Chapter IV. The University Senate | The Regents of the University of Michigan](#)). GCAC was created specifically to be a standing committee of the Senate Assembly.

SUGGESTED MOTION FOR SENATE ASSEMBLY - May 18, 1998

WHEREAS, the Regents of the University of Michigan retitled the University's General Counsel position to include the title of Vice-President, and

WHEREAS, Regental Bylaw 4.06 states in part that "the assembly shall establish standing committees to advise and consult with the vice-presidents of the University on matters within the areas of their respective responsibilities,"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

1. TITLE

A Senate Assembly standing committee is hereby formed to be named the General Counsel's Advisory Committee.

2. COMPOSITION

The committee shall be comprised of nine faculty members representing a cross section of the Schools, Colleges and regional campuses, a student member nominated by MSA, and a SACUA liaison, for a total of eleven members. Members shall serve for three year staggered terms. Members shall be nominated by SACUA and approved by Senate Assembly. The committee chair shall be appointed by SACUA from among the faculty members of the committee.

3. PROCEDURES

The committee shall meet at least monthly during the academic year with an agenda set by the chair. The committee shall advise and inform SACUA, Senate Assembly, and other relevant assembly committees of its activities and pertinent issues which come before it. The committee shall carry out specific charges from SACUA and Senate Assembly.

Minutes of 18 May 1998
Circulated 19 May 1998
Approved — September 1998

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SENATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES OF 18 MAY 1998 PENDING APPROVAL

ATTENDANCE

Present: Baker, Bernal, Bleske, Bryant, Burdi, Castle, Colletti, Cooney, Croxton, DeCamp, Deskins, Francis, Hultquist, Jamerson, Julius, Karnopp, Kleinsmith, Kossoudji, Lafortune, Lawson, Lomax, MacAdam, MacAlpine, Mann, Marshall, Martin, Nagel, Navvab, Nolen-Hoeksema, Perakis, Pintrich, Raisler, Rush, Schneider, Schteingart, Shapiro, Shotwell, Steneck, Teasley, Wagaw, Ward, Zorn

Alternates: Stephen Papadopolous (Medicine)

Absent: Assanis, Bartlett, Browder, Burnham, Burnstein, Christiansen, Curley, DeWoskin, E. Feldman, M. Feldman, Flynn, Freedman, Freese, Gull, Jensen, Kabamba, Keyserling, Kibbie, D. Lee, Loveland-Cherry, Malamud, Maloy, Olson, Pastalan, Rogers, Rosenberg, Sharf, R. Sharp, W. Sharp, Siebers, Turcotte, Wasserman, Yeung

Vote on the Active Motion:

The motion was approved by show of hands, with no opposing votes, and with no abstentions of record.

In regards to protocol, GCAC follows the process of consulting with the General Counsel that has been utilized for years by the Faculty Senate Office and that is coordinated actively by the Faculty Senate Office. Prior to the first GCAC meeting of the academic year, the General Counsel is shown the draft Charge that SACUA has drafted for the GCAC and is given the opportunity to share her opinions. Also, for each individual meeting over the course of the academic year, before the agenda is set for any of our individual meetings, an email is sent directly to the General Counsel inviting the General Counsel to offer any items for the next meeting's agenda.

SPECIFIC CHARGE – 2026 – 2027

1. Continue last year's discussions regarding whether further university support may be helpful for international faculty, staff, and students.
2. Discuss the proposed faculty grievance procedure.
3. Discuss the current NIL context ([NIL creates opportunity for student-athletes, confusion and tough decisions for schools and NCAA](#)), what might be the impact on universities of proposed legislation at the federal level, and what the context might look like in the years ahead.
4. Considerations of free speech were retained, but academic freedom recently removed, in the following SPGs, compared to prior policy versions: SPG 510.02 (replacing SPG 606.01) and SPG 201.89-1.



5. OGC has a number of [practice areas](#). Perhaps the GCAC should issue an invitation for one extra GCAC meeting to meet with members of one of the following areas to learn more about their work, such as from among the following:
 - a. [Faculty, Students, and Staff](#)
 - b. [Public Higher Education and Governance](#)
 - c. [Research & Intellectual Property/Information Technology](#)
 - d. [Health Law](#)
 - e. [Charitable Giving and Bequest Administration](#)
6. Consider emergent issues or topics brought forward by the GCAC committee members and/or the General Counsel 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.
7. Explore potential guardrails and cautions on how the University continues moving forward with AI.
8. Seek to understand who and how the University weighs the cost and benefits of different ways of dealing with legal matters, including decisions such as relying on (and spending on) outside law firms.
9. Continue the discussion regarding ECRT issues as identified in the November 2024 Motion passed in the Faculty Senate. Ask for a joint meeting with SACUA, GCAC, the General Counsel, and the head of ECRT.
10. Continue the discussion regarding faculty employment contracts and enforceability. Use an outside reading to stimulate further discussion.
11. Continue the discussion regarding disability justice.
12. At some point during the academic year, GCAC can send SACUA and Senate Assembly a brief memo highlighting one area where the University could benefit from taking a different approach to a legal or policy matter.