Since the 2005 annual report, the Government Affairs Committee has considered a number of governmental issues that affect the OSU community.

Late in the 2004-2005 academic year, Senate Bill 24, the “Academic Bill of Rights” was a matter of concern to the University. Action by the Inter-University Council (IUC) circumvented the need for OSU Senate action.

In 2004 this Senate committee was renamed from “Legislative Affairs” to “Government Affairs.” This academic year (2005-2006) we took that literally, and extended our efforts to dealing with the Ohio Board of Education. The committee empowered the Chair to lobby the Ohio Board of Education (OBE) regarding the OSU Senate resolution of March 1, 2004, which suggested the removal of a “critical analysis of evolution” teaching module. This module, along with supportive language in the standards, was removed by the OBE in February, 2006, and the issue was referred to the Achievements Committee of the OBE. We continue to monitor the deliberations of the Achievements Committee.

The Government Affairs Committee continues to be informed by the OSU Office of Government Relations, particularly by our two ex-officio members from that office and their affiliates.

Several committee members attended Governor Taft’s Educational Roundtable meeting regarding the “Ohio Core.” The committee saw problems with implementation of the plan, and will explore ways in which the OSU community can facilitate the thrust of the plan for more rigorous science, math, and language educational requirements.

In November, 2006, the State of Ohio will probably face a ballot issue regarding a constitutional amendment for Tax and Expenditure Limitation (TEL). The Committee is developing a resolution, adapted from an IUC resolution, to be considered by the full OSU Senate in June.

The committee anticipates greater activity in 2006-2007 with new legislative initiatives and state budgets that are likely to follow the November 2006 elections.