WHEREAS the Senate Government Affairs Committee plays an important role in evaluating developments of local, state, and federal government; and

WHEREAS the current structure of the Government Affairs Committee does not allow for sufficient continuity of leadership; and

WHEREAS the Ohio Faculty Council has frequent interactions with the Chancellor of the Board of Regents and other state officials regarding the University System of Ohio; and

WHEREAS the proposed changes better articulate the duties and responsibilities of the committee members,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the revisions to Faculty Rule 3335-5-48.13 that will amend the membership and responsibilities, and Faculty Rule 3335-5-49.4 that will amend membership be approved by the University Senate and respectfully requests the concurrence of the Board of Trustees, said proposal to be effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees.

(A) Membership.

The government affairs committee shall consist of twelve members.

(1) Five regular tenure-track faculty.

(2) Three students.

(a) One graduate student.

(b) One professional student.

(c) One undergraduate student.

(3) One staff member, appointed annually by the president.

(4) Two administrators, non-voting.

(a) The assistant vice president for state relations.

(b) The associate vice president for government relations or designee.

(B) Duties and responsibilities.

Provide insight and advice to the office of government relations and to the university senate on specific issues. Facilitate communication among the university governance institutions and the office of government relations regarding local, state, and federal issues affecting the university. In consultation with the office of government relations, build relationships with various organizations and constituencies.

(C) Organization.


3335-5-48.13 Government Affairs Committee

(A) Membership:

The government affairs committee shall consist of:

(1) Six regular faculty members.
(2) Four students:
   a. One graduate student
   b. One professional student
   c. Two undergraduate students

(3) One staff member, appointed by the president. The term of service is one year.

(4) Three administrators, non-voting
   a. The senior vice president for government affairs, or designee.
   b. The associate vice president for Government Affairs.
   c. The Provost, or designee.

(B) Duties and Responsibilities:
(1) The committee shall study and evaluate local, state, federal, and the Ohio Board of Regents’s issues (both regulatory and budgetary) that relate to the missions of the university. It shall provide insight and advice to the Office of Government Affairs and to the university senate on these issues.

(2) The committee shall facilitate communication among university faculty and governance offices regarding local, state, federal, and the Ohio Board of Regents issues that affect the university’s missions.

(3) The members of the government affairs committee are not official representatives of the university. As such, members shall not engage in lobbying local, state, or federal governmental officials on the behalf of the university. However, this stipulation does not restrict individuals’ rights to voice their personal or professional opinions as long as it clear they are not acting as an agent of the university.

(4) The committee shall provide an annual report of activities to the university senate.

(C) Organization:
(1) The committee shall annually elect a chair and chair-elect from its regular faculty membership.
   a. The chair of the government affairs committee shall also serve as one of the representatives of the Ohio State University faculty council to the Ohio Faculty Council
   b. The chair elect will serve as the vice-chair.

3335-5-49.4 Ohio faculty council.

(A) The university's representation to the Ohio faculty council (OFC) shall be the chair of faculty council and the chair-elect of faculty council, chair of the senate, university senate government affairs committee. The chair of the university senate steering committee and the secretary of the university senate shall serve as alternates.

(B) The representatives to the OFC shall report annually to the senate. (B/T 7/10/87, B/T 5/5/88, B/T 11/4/94, B/T 3/5/99)