

Synopsis: Rule creating a new government affair standing committee of the university senate.

WHEREAS higher education has been the focus of a growing number of legislative actions at the state and federal level; AND

WHEREAS this legislation can have direct impact on the core values and working conditions of the constituent groups that make up the university senate; AND

WHEREAS there is an increasing need for the university senate and its constituent groups to gather reliable information about proposed legislation and its potential impact of faculty, staff, and students at the university; AND

WHEREAS the previous version of this committee was disbanded by university senate vote in 2014 at a time when its work was no longer seen as necessary; AND

WHEREAS the necessity of a committee focused on government affairs has been made newly clear in the last eight years; AND

WHEREAS the duties of the previous version of this committee implied a lobbying role for the committee; AND

WHEREAS lobbying on behalf of the university is the exclusive work of the Office of Government Affairs; AND

WHEREAS the charge for the proposed new committee clarifies that its fundamental role will be communication: with the senate and its committees; with government affairs committees already standing in constituent bodies, including the council of graduate students and undergraduate student government; with the faculty, staff, and students senators represent; and with the Office of Government Affairs; AND

WHEREAS by sharing research and analysis based on reliable sources, the committee can facilitate productive and timely conversations about legislation impacting higher education; AND

WHEREAS the proposed new committee has the support of the Office of Government Affairs and the Steering Committee of the university senate; AND

WHEREAS the rule committee unanimously voted in support of this proposed rule on April 12, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the new rule 3335-5-48.13 be approved by the University Senate and respectfully request concurrence of the Board of Trustees effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees.