
FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Washington Update

Representatives in the House and Senate have received their committee assignments. WSU is in the process of identifying opportunities to submit requests for congressionally directed spending (aka “earmarks”).

DGCA is also in the process of hiring a new director of federal affairs and hopes to name someone to this position soon.

STATE AFFAIRS

Legislative & Budget Updates

Since the last Board of Governor’s meeting, the Legislature has officially begun its new term. Each Chamber of the Legislature has elected its leadership team (below). The Governor also officially released her budget recommendation on Wednesday, February 9, with more details in the Legislative Affairs update.

Senate and House of Representatives leadership

Senate Democrats

Majority Leader	Winnie Brinks (Grand Rapids)
President Pro-Tempore	Jeremy Moss (Southfield)
Majority Floor Leader	Sam Singh (East Lansing)
Majority Whip	Mallory McMorrow (Royal Oak)
Caucus Chair	Dayna Polehanki (Livonia)
Appropriations Chair	Sarah Anthony (Lansing)
Universities Chair	Sean McCann (Kalamazoo)

Senate Republicans

Minority Leader	Ari Nesbitt (Lawton)
Minority Floor Leader	Dan Lauwers (Brockway Township)
Minority Whip	Roger Victory (Hudsonville)
Caucus Chair	Kevin Daley (Lum)
Assoc President Pro-Tem	Joe Bellino (Monroe)

House Democrats

Speaker of the House	Joe Tate (Detroit)
Speaker Pro-Tempore	Laurie Pohutsky (Livonia)
Floor Leader	Abraham Aiyash (Hamtramck)
Majority Whip	Ranjeev Puri (Canton)
Caucus Chair	Amos O'Neal (Saginaw)
Appropriations Chair	Angela Witwer (Delta Township)
Higher Education Chair	Samantha Steckloff (Farmington Hills)

House Republicans

Minority Leader	Matt Hall (Comstock Township)
Minority Floor Leader	Bryan Posthumus (Cannon Township)
Minority Whip	Sarah Lightner (Springport)
Caucus Chair	Ken Borton (Gaylord)

Legislators and Other Elected Official Engagement

Since the last Board of Governor's meeting, State Affairs has continued to engage statewide elected officials, legislators, department personal, and key staff of issues impacting WSU. Below is a selected list of recent meetings in September and October:

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer
- State Senator Sarah Anthony
- State Senator Sylvia Santana
- State Senator Rick Outman
- State Senator Thomas Albert
- State Senator Joe Bellino
- State Senator Kevin Hertel
- State Senator Michael Webber
- Speaker Joe Tate
- State Representative Angela Witwer
- State Representative Samantha Steckloff
- State Representative Christine Morse
- State Representative Neil Friske
- State Representative Andrew Fink
- State Representative Phil Green
- State Representative James DeSana
- State Representative Jason Morgan
- State Representative Natalie Price
- State Representative Felicia Brabec
- State Representative Jay DeBoyer
- State Representative Dylan Wegela
- State Representative Donni Steele
- State Representative James DeSana
- State Representative Mike McFall
- State Representative Jamie Churches
- State Representative Kathy Schmaltz
- State Representative Donovan McKinney
- Labor & Economic Opportunity,
Joseph Rivet
- DTMB, Director Michelle Lange
- Governor's Education Liaison,
Michelle Richard

Legislation Update

State Affairs continues to monitor state legislation and regulations that could impact our students, our faculty, our community, and our ability to carry out our mission. When formulating a university position, we work with internal subject matter experts to both craft the best position and to provide feedback to legislators. Further, we work collaboratively with both our URC partners and all 15 public universities to leverage our collective positions and create favorable outcomes as often as possible.

We are currently monitoring, and actively engaging, on several pieces of legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- House Bill 4017 (Witwer) School Aid Supplemental bill that could be used for Higher Education purposes, including modifications to the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.

Governor Whitmer Executive Budget Recommendation:

- Institutional Operation Support - 4% ongoing base increase (\$64M, all general fund), distributed as an across-the-board increase of 4% to each institution. The FY22-23 budget included 5% ongoing operations increase.
- Scholarship Assistance - \$15 million in one-time funds for FAFSA completion assistance. The Governor also continued to fund Reconnect with \$65.2 million for existing program functions; \$140 million in one-time to expand the program to individuals 21-24; \$75 million in one-time funds for Reconnect expansion to bachelor's attainment.

The executive recommendation also included continued funding for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship (\$350 million total), which includes \$50 million for ongoing planned increase and \$50 million one-time deposit.

- Student Success – The Governor's recommendation also included four new programs with one-time funding to improve student outcomes, including \$30 million one-time for basic need support; \$6 million for reconnect students; \$55 million in one-time funds for student mental health (institution must request funds); and \$25 million for college success fund (competitive grants to help aid in graduation rate improvements)
- Tuition Restraint – The executive recommendation kept with tradition and included tuition restraint within the budget recommendation. The cap is at 4.5% or \$676 flat dollar limit. The FY22-23 budget also included a 4.5% tuition cap.
- Campus Infrastructure – The Governor's proposed budget did not include any new capital outlay projects for universities. It did, however, include \$141 million for Information Technology, Equipment, and Maintenance (ITEM) funding. Funding would be distributed proportional to FYES enrollment, which negatively impacts Wayne State. DGCA has begun conversations with the administration, other universities, and legislators on ways to modify the funding distribution to be more equitable amongst all universities.

Student Legislative Engagement

The Division of Government and Community Affairs partners with students, faculty and staff who have an interest in participating in the legislative process. Members of Science Policy Network-Detroit, a student group at WSU that aims to break down barriers between policy makers and researchers, has continued to work with our office to increase efforts in Lansing and Washington, D.C. The WSU DGCA team has also participated in an upcoming course to discuss how scientists can engage the public, including elected officials, on important research that impacts the state and public.

Appointments

State Affairs monitors and engages in the Gubernatorial Appointment process to ensure that Warrior voices are at the tables where decisions are being made. Below is a list of recent appointments of Wayne State graduates:

37th District Court: Steven Bieda currently serves as the Chairperson of the Michigan Tax Tribunal. He has been with the Tax Tribunal since 2019 as an administrative court judge, where he has conducted hearings in both the Small Claims and Entire Tribunal divisions. In his role as Chairperson, he oversees a team of 25 employees, eight of whom are attorneys, and has also been instrumental in developing policies for the Tribunal.

Mr. Bieda earned his undergraduate degree in Public Policy and Master of Public Administration from Wayne State University, his Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and a Master of Tax Law from Wayne State University School of Law. He has been admitted to the U.S. Tax Court and Federal Bar.

Central Michigan University Board of Trustees: Dr. Denise Mallett, of Detroit, is a partner at Marygrove Consulting, working with predominantly Black and Hispanic-serving college programs on management services and professional development. Previously, she has held leadership roles at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, Marygrove College, Wayne County Community College, and the University of Detroit Mercy. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Detroit College of Business, a Master of Arts from Marygrove College, a Doctor of Education from Wayne State University, and a Diversity & Inclusion Certification from Cornell University. Dr. Mallett is appointed for a term commencing February 2, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2030. She succeeds Richard Studley whose term has expired.

Board of State Canvassers: Mary Ellen Gurewitz, of Detroit, spent many decades practicing union-side labor law in the private and public sectors as well as political and election law. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan. Ms. Gurewitz is appointed to represent Democrats for a term commencing February 1, 2023, and expiring January 31, 2027.

Michigan Women’s Commission: Dr. Geneva Williams of Detroit is designated as Vice Chair of the Michigan Women’s Commission for a term commencing February 2, 2023, and expiring at the pleasure of the governor. Dr. Williams is the CEO of Dr. Geneva Speaks, LLC., where she provides leadership and personal development coaching and nonprofit consulting. Dr. Williams was the first female executive vice president for the United Way of Southeastern Michigan, and a co-founder and former president of Black Family Development. She earned her Doctor of Education with a concentration in Educational Leadership and Public Policy from Wayne State University.

Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board: Kyla T. Williams, of Sterling Heights, is a sergeant at the Detroit Police Department Domestic Violence Unit. Williams is co-founder of the Wayne County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and a member of the National Organization of Human and Social Services. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University and a Master of Business Administration from Davenport University. She has also earned a Master of Philosophy in Human and Social Sciences and a Ph.D., in Human Services from Walden University. Ms. Williams is appointed for a term commencing January 26, 2023, and expiring December 4, 2025. She succeeds Amy R. Krause whose term has expired.

Workers Compensation Board of Magistrates: Philip Della Santina, of Brighton, serves on the Workers’ Compensation Board of Magistrates. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Capital University in Ohio and earned his Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School. Mr. Della Santina is reappointed for a term commencing January 27, 2023, and expiring January 26, 2027.

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Disabilities: Victoria J. McIntosh, Ph.D., of Royal Oak, is a program coordinator for Michigan Hands and Voices. She received her bachelor’s degree in biology from Pennsylvania State University and her PhD in Physiology from Wayne State University. Dr. McIntosh is appointed to represent parents of children of less than the age of 13 for a term commencing January 26, 2023, and expiring October 31, 2026. She succeeds Melody Arabo who has resigned.

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Disabilities: Lisa M. Kinney Perugi, of Trenton, serves as a special education consultant for Early On. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Master of Special Education from the University of Michigan – Dearborn and an Education Specialist degree from Wayne State University. Mrs. Perugi is designated as Chair for a term commencing January 26, 2023, and expiring at the pleasure of the governor.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Division of Government and Community Affairs (DGCA) continues its work of initiating new and supporting existing WSU community engagement. Stacie Clayton, Community Affairs Director, provides leadership and internal support and guidance to the university's various colleges, schools and divisions on special events, programs, and other matters as needed.

Student Engagement

Urban Studies Internship Program – January 2023 marked the launch of a partnership with the City of Detroit and WSU for an Urban Studies Internship Program. DGCA cultivated a relationship between our Urban Studies Department and the City's Planning Department to provide two internships for the winter semester for which the students will receive 3 credits and an invaluable real-life working/learning experience. DGCA worked with department Chair Rayman Mohamad and Planning Director Antoine Bryant to develop the scope of the program. The goal is to increase the number of Urban Studies/Planning Department interns and expand the program to other partnerships for WSU students and other city departments such as Finance, City Council, Mayor's Office, Economic Development, etc. and Wayne County Government as well.

Career Services – DGCA also supports the efforts of Career Services in providing future employment opportunities for WSU students. We connected representatives from LinkedIn and Wayne County Government with Career Services Director Shawn Pewitt as resources for upcoming student career days.

SoSW Partnership with Detroit Auto Show – In the Fall of 2022, DGCA, as part of WSU's event sponsorship, facilitated WSU students from the School of Social Work to conduct a demographic survey of the Detroit Auto Show attendees, compile the data and prepare a report. SOSW's Dr. David Merolla and his students presented the final report of the survey's findings to the executives of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association in late January. The report was well received and Dr. Merolla expressed the importance of this real-world learning experience for the students. We hope to provide similar opportunities for WSU students with upcoming events such as the Detroit Grand Prix and the NFL Draft, both upcoming in downtown Detroit.

Sci-Pol Detroit Science Fair – DGCA's Community Affairs and State Affairs Directors serve as advisors for SciPol Detroit. This group of WSU graduate students advocate for science and evidence-based policies, provide science communication, advocacy, and career development opportunities, encourage community efficacy, and bridge the gap between scientists, lawmakers, and the lay public. SciPol Detroit will host a college student-led science fair on March 10. This will be an opportunity to connect with the community as well as students within WSU to learn more about the science taking place on campus and to engage high school students. This will be the first year and students from DPSCD's Crockett Midtown High School of Science and Medicine will participate

with the goal of expanding to more high schools in future years. Local and state policymakers are invited to the science fair's luncheon with separate tables for each policymaker, where Crockett students and WSU graduate students can ask questions and network with their respective representatives. WSU colleges have also pitched in items for goodie bags which will include t-shirts and other WSU apparel that each attendee will receive before departing.

SSAUCE Black Leadership Panel – Student Success and University Council for Engagement (SSAUCE) requested and received DGCA's assistance in assembling its Black Leadership Panel Discussion on February 18. The panel consisted of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Kyra Harris-Bolden, Deputy Secretary of State Heaster Wheeler, former State Representative and current Detroit School Board Member Sherry Gay-Dagnogo and WSU Football Coach Tyrone Wheatley. Students were able to interact with and ask questions.

Black History Month Events

DGCA partnered with the Department of African American Studies for three consecutive days of recognizing Black History Month.

- On February 8, Professor Ollie Johnson and Associate Professor Valerie Prince from the WSU Department of African American Studies had an in-depth conversation with President M. Roy Wilson about his memoir, *The Plum Tree Blossoms Even in Winter*.
- On February 9, Ajamu Baraka, American political activist and Associate Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies on Peace, gave a lecture on peace, Black liberation and human rights.
- On February 10, the events culminated with a Discussion on Civil Rights and Activism with NAACP President & CEO Derrick Johnson and Daniel Baxter, Founder and President of the Dr. Ossian Sweet Foundation. This event was co-sponsored by the Black Student Union and the WSU student chapter of the NAACP. WSU alumnus and honorary doctorate recipient, Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony, also spoke.

Women's History Month Events

- DGCA worked with the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor (DOL) to host a DOL event on February 28th that included federal, state and local officials, including Lt. Governor Gilchrist and WSU Governor Danielle Atkinson in her capacity as National Executive Director & Founder of Mothering Justice. The event focused on public accountability in having an equity focus with new jobs coming, information sharing through panelists and providing networking opportunities for tradeswomen.

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- On March 23rd, DGCA and Freer House will host an event honoring ***The Women of Ferry Street – Then and Now***, that recognizes the historical contributions of women to Ferry Street and present-day women who continue that legacy.
 - Carolyn Hafner, Associate Vice President of Human Resources, has been named a 2023 “Women of Excellence” by the Michigan Chronicle. DGCA submitted the nomination and is pleased that Ms. Hafner was selected. This marks the third consecutive year that a WSU employee has been recognized as a Woman of Excellence. Stacie Clayton, Director of Community Affairs, and Nikki Wright, former Assistant Vice President & Director Office of Equal Opportunity were also recipients of this honor.

Other Activity

Stacie Clayton continues to serve on various university and external groups such as the DEI Council, C.H.E.C.K.U.P. Advisory Board, Detroit Promise Zone Authority Board and the Woodbridge Neighborhood Development Board.