

Title: Advocating for Michigan State University at the Federal Level

Presenter: Sarah Walter, Associate Vice President for Federal Relations

The annual federal budget process started earlier this month with the release of the White House's Fiscal Year 2020 budget request. As in previous years, the request recommends cuts to research, such as a 12 percent cut to the National Science Foundation, a 2 percent cut to NASA and the elimination of agencies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over the coming months, Congress will debate final funding levels for these important agencies and programs. Many of the members debating this topic will be brand new to Congress. The Michigan delegation itself welcomes four new members, including Rep. Elissa Slotkin who represents the district that is home to MSU. The MSU Washington Office works closely with the Michigan delegation and the research and higher education community in DC to advocate in support of the priorities of the university which includes not only strengthening science but immigration, student aid and many other issues. As the head of the Washington Office, Sarah Walter will provide an overview on the office's work in advocating for the university, explore the outlook for federal research priorities in the coming and discuss how federally-funded researchers, undergraduates and graduate students can make their voices heard in Washington.