EDUCAUSE Policy Advisory Committee Charge
February 2019

At any time, EDUCAUSE may need to address an array of federal policy issues and government relations activities at the intersection of IT and higher education, often in cooperation with other associations and organizations. EDUCAUSE strives to ensure that it pursues these efforts in ways that best advance the interests of its community and higher education generally.

To that end, the association has established the Policy Advisory Committee to engage member representatives in providing EDUCAUSE policy staff and consultants with the member perspective on federal policy developments. The committee works with the EDUCAUSE senior advisor for policy and government relations to identify major federal policy concerns for the community, as well as how community interests might influence potential responses. The committee not only explores issues brought to it by the senior advisor, but also highlights federal policy concerns arising from the member experience on campus. In assessing such issues, the committee is guided by a few key principles:

- Strategic and operational interests – The extent to which the issue affects the role of IT in advancing the mission of higher education and/or effective institutional operations;

- Breadth of interest – The level of interest and engagement that the issue appears likely to generate in the EDUCAUSE and higher education communities; and

- Ability to influence – The degree to which EDUCAUSE efforts, alone or in conjunction with others, are likely to shape the given policy in ways that advance member interests.

EDUCAUSE policy staff and consultants watch for any federal policy developments that might have major implications for the role of IT in higher education. Given member interests and limited resources, though, EDUCAUSE follows policy issues primarily in the areas of cybersecurity and data privacy, e-learning (including IT accessibility), copyright, and networking/telecommunications. As member needs and interests evolve, these core focus areas may evolve as well, with the committee playing an important role in helping to guide that process.

The senior advisor utilizes committee input to inform recommendations to the EDUCAUSE president about the association's policy issues and positions. The president ultimately approves or declines those recommendations, consulting with the EDUCAUSE Board of Directors as appropriate and otherwise keeping the Board informed through the normal reporting process.

The committee's membership encompasses eight (8) member volunteers and a representative from Internet2's government relations staff, who serves in an *ex officio* capacity. The president appoints the committee's co-chairs, consistent with EDUCAUSE guidelines. The co-chairs work with the senior advisor to organize the committee's activities, which include quarterly teleconferences as well as ad hoc meetings as needed. The committee conducts its work largely by email, though, as the senior advisor circulates requests for input on various issues. Volunteer committee members serve three-year terms.