

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
STUDENT RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**Friday, January 25, 2019
11:30 AM-1:00 PM
Koessler – Michigan League**

Present (eligible voters): Anton Avancena, Selena Bazzi, Judith Beck, Gina Cervetti, Jill Esau, Mariah Fiumara, Cindy Leung, Charlie Koopmann, Yolanda Marti, Maribel Okiye, David Potter, Chitra Subramanian, Olga Virakhovskaya

Absent: Kyriaki Marti, Jairam Menon, Simone Himbeault Taylor

Guest(s): Erik Wessel, Director, and Joe Zichi, Associate Director, Office of Student Conflict Resolution; Jack Bernard, Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel

Ex-Officio: Royster Harper

1. Call to Order

Chair Gina Cervetti welcomed the committee and asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. No changes were suggested.

2. Review / Approval of Minutes

The committee took a few minutes to review the draft minutes, and the group was asked if there were changes or suggestions. No changes were suggested. Chair Cervetti made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed and all eligible voters unanimously approved this motion.

3. Final Amendment Deliberation and Voting

Proposal 11 – Evidentiary Standard

- Key Comments/Concerns:
 - Director Erik Wessel, Office of Student Conflict Resolution, asked that the committee focus on the current legal landscape. Utilizing the clear and convincing standard in the Statement of Student Rights & Responsibilities and the preponderance standard in the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy can potentially open up the University to lawsuits. Moving to a preponderance standard will

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continue to afford protections for the students under the process; fundamental due process is important to uphold.

- Potter expressed that the problem is treating preponderance as 51%. Director Wessel replied that regardless of which standard is being used, a member of the community is making a decision and he has faith in the panelists and students to make good decisions on behalf of the community.
 - Koopman expressed his concern about the accused losing protections, as the result could be life changing. He is not sure of his faith in the panelists and students, asking how we will know if they do/do not have agenda, or if they have put what they have learned into action. Director Wessel suggested that clear and convincing standard would not necessarily eliminate this concern either. Regardless of the burden of proof being used, we must put our trust in the community to make this process work.
 - Marti asked what efforts are being made to assure student and faculty panel representation is diverse. Director Wessel stated that the Office of the Registrar provides OSCR with a list comprised of a random sample of students. OSCR then contacts these students asking for volunteers. Of those that do offer to volunteer to be a panelist, OSCR ensures that those students are a diverse representation of UM. As for faculty and staff, OSCR has received a diverse pool of resolution officers via OSCR reaching out to Deans who then identify someone from their college who is best suited to serve.
 - Jack Bernard, Associate General Counsel, noted that he is unaware of a case where the preponderance standard has been challenged. He respects that there is space for differential outcome, but our (UM) hand will probably be pushed in this direction eventually. The Office of the General Counsel would recommend making the change in evidentiary standard now.
 - Is OSCR ready to recalibrate training if this motion passes? OSCR will look to send out supplementary training to resolution officers and students.
- Motion:
 - Avancena motioned to approve this proposal. Beck seconded.
 - Vote:
 - All eligible voters unanimously approved this motion.
 - Next Steps:
 1. Chair Cervetti and Director Wessel will draft a letter to Vice President Royster Harper summarizing the vote of all amendments.

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2. Vice President Harper will then prepare a letter with her recommendations and send it to the Office of the General Counsel.
3. The Office of the General Counsel prepare a narrative, voice general concerns, and send VP Harper's letter along with the narrative to President Mark Schlissel.
4. President Mark Schlissel will review the recommendations then communicate his decision to SRAC and OSCR.
5. OSCR will broadly communicate the decisions prior to the last day of the school year.

4. Winter Agenda Items

Potential Topics:

- Needs of doctoral students (SACUA request)
- First Year Experience initiative
- DEI issues
- Personal and civic growth concerns for students
- Climate survey
- University Career Center
- Rec Sports

Comments:

- DEI issues is a concern for Vice President Harper. She could benefit from SRAC's observations of policies and any lack of DEI they witness
- Emerging issue from Central Student Government – students feel that tuition is relatively high but do not feel that the money spent by UM is not student focused/centric enough. "Students demand what they need while they pay for what the institution wants."
- We need to change our thinking around students that require accommodations and the hurdles they face.
- Possibly invite other presidents from student governments to discuss issues/topics? Chair Cervetti will work to see if this is feasible.

5. Adjournment

Marti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bazzi seconded. All in favor.