

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

6048 Fleming Administration Building

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340

Phone: (734) 764-0303

Fax: (734) 764-6564

April 13, 2018

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Pond ABC, Michigan Union

- Present:** Gina Cervetti, Chair
Michael Atzmon, Royster Harper, Donna Hayward, Marita Inglehart, Charles Koopman, Lisa Low, Lisa Nevett, Sujay Shetty, Simone Himbeault Taylor, Olga Virakhovskaya
- Absent:** Anton Avancena, Amy Chavasse, Kyriaki Marti, Madison McKenzie, Jairam Menon, Max Rothman, Chitra Subramanian
- Guests:** Katrina Wade-Golden
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Agenda

1. Lunch/Call to Order
2. Welcoming, opening statement and review/vote of March minutes
3. Student Climate Survey
4. Student Perspectives on UofM's Lecturer Situation
5. Adjournment

Welcome, Opening Statement, and Review/Vote of January Minutes

Chair Gina Cervetti opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and noting it was the last meeting of the year. She offered a "thank you" for the opportunity to contribute as part of this committee.

Vice President Harper thanked the committee for their generosity, listening and advice throughout the year. She provided a quick update on the winter recruitment process, noting that the change is invoking positivity and she is eager to return to SRAC in the fall to about how we can continue to strengthen the first year experience for students.

Chair Cervetti mentioned that since there were not enough attendees for a quorum, the committee will be tasked with reviewing and approving both March's and April's meeting minutes via email. She then introduced Katrina Wade-Golden, Deputy Chief Diversity Officer.

Student Climate Survey

Deputy Chief Wade-Golden began her presentation by stating that this survey was undertaken in relation to the work the University is doing with respect to the 5 year DEI strategic plan. This particular survey has provided data that supports what the University has known anecdotally, and has been able to provide a baseline for understanding. She noted that the information shown to the committee will be qualitatively different in five years – the baseline will move.

See attached PowerPoint for detailed information on the Student Climate Survey data.

Questions/Comments:

- What do we do to understand the reasons for some of these perceptions?
 - This survey did not incorporate the provision for focus groups because the goal was to determine baseline. Focus groups would be a better space for understanding the nuances of the answers. Deputy Chief Wade-Golden advised the SRAC to move forward in an inclusive manner when addressing issues/perceptions.
- A committee member voiced concern regarding the high percentage of those that feel discriminated based on their political views stating that different points of view should be encouraged, not discouraged. He encourages President Schlissel to address this issue with the campus as students should not be demeaned for their views.
- Another committee member noted the distinction between sexual orientation and sexual identity – these are separate dimensions and should be reflected as such.

See attached PowerPoint for detailed information on the Student Climate Survey data.

Student Perspective on UofM's Lecturer Situation

Sujay Shetty, a student representative on SRAC, raised the issue of students' perspectives on the financial situation of lecturers and of demonstrations around campus. He mentioned that he attended the last demonstration and that it is important to be aware of the fact that students were noticing was happening, as well as prospective students that were a part of tour groups - this issue has extended beyond the student body.

Shetty said UM is unique because it has a very engaged student body and they are sympathetic to the plight of the lecturers on campus. Lecturers being in a financially

compromised situation has the ability to impact the integrity of the institution and the operation of how education is delivered to the students.

Adjournment

VP Harper and SAVP Taylor thanked Chair Cervetti for her leadership this term.

Chair Cervetti reminded the Committee that minutes will be approved electronically. Michael Atzmon made the motion to adjourn and Charles Koopman seconded this motion.