

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

**Friday, October 12, 2018  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM  
Michigan Room – Michigan League**

**Present:** Selena Bazzi, Judith Beck, Gina Cervetti, Royster Harper, Charlie Koopman, Cindy Leung, Yolanda Marti, Jairam Menon, Maribel Okiye, David Potter, Chitra Subramanian, Simone Himbeault Taylor, Olga Virakhovskaya

**Absent:** Anton Avancena, Amy Chavasse, Jill Esau, Mariah Fiumara, Kyriaki Marti

**Guest(s):** Erik Wessel, Director, and Joe Zichi, Associate Director, Office of Student Conflict Resolution

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**1. Lunch/Call to Order**

**2. Welcome and Introduction**

Chair Gina Cervetti opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and reviewing the agenda. She reminded the committee that this is an amendment year and it is the role of the SRAC to make recommendations to Vice President Royster Harper, who will then recommend which of the proposed amendments will be submitted to President Schlissel. Chair Cervetti urged the committee to consider the well-being of students and help direct the process by thinking about what type of student body we want at U-M.

Vice President Harper then addressed the attendees, welcoming them to the new academic year and specifically pointing out that the committee is comprised of faculty, staff *and* students, bringing together a variety of perspectives and points of view. She stated what she needs from the group as it moves forward is their voices. She asked the committee to be authentic and diverse; ask for what they want, need, or clarification on what they do not understand. We need to know that what we (the University as a whole) are doing makes sense to students. It is important that SRAC focuses on civic engagement and is action oriented.

**3. Revisit Food Insecurity**

Cindy Leung, a presenter on this issue at the September 2018 meeting, restated that the goal of the Food Insecurity Working Group is to create as much awareness on campus as possible. This may involve eventually presenting an entire conference on food/housing insecurity.

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Professor Leung mentioned that while food pantries are crucial, they are not a solution as they really are for emergency purposes. However, food pantries are helpful in determining which students really may be having issues related to food insecurity. If they are seeing a particular student multiples times they know that there may be a bigger issue to address and are able to reach out to the student.

One SRAC student member pointed out that student confidentiality is a concern – not many students are comfortable sharing their struggles so openly. To combat this, the University has a variety of resources student can access without the student having to be completely open with those around them. More awareness of the issue and culture change is desirable. One other concern of note is that U-M does not seem to have a space where students of similar backgrounds and struggles can just be together. Creating something like this might help alleviate some of the stigma attached to food insecurity.

There needs to be a multi-faceted, multi-unit solution and Chair Cervetti urged members to provide suggestions:

- provide links on syllabi, unit websites, etc.
- inform students about food insecurity at orientation (i.e., skits showing various sides of the stories – upper class vs. lower class, feelings, etc.)
- use the wellness wheel to tackle the point of shame/confidentiality
- campus tours – finding an inexpensive place to eat after the tour can be daunting; tap into this
- reach out to student groups/government – it’s a struggle to ensure that students are aware of resources and these groups can help get the word out more widely, and more personally
- look into the services Ferris State provides, i.e., \$9.99 all you can eat at multiple venues across campus – could something like this work at U-M?

#### **4. Statement of Student Rights & Responsibilities Kickoff**

Director Erik Wessel, Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR), addressed the committee stating how important it is that we have a shared understanding, language, foundation and knowledge regarding the Statement of Student’s Rights & Responsibilities (SSRR) and the amendment process. He pointed out the folders that were provided to each member at the beginning of the meeting. These folders from OSCR include pertinent information about the amendment process and the SSRR. He asked that members either bring these folders back to each meeting or leave them with Traci DeBoer who will bring them back, as they can be used for reference throughout this process.

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Director Wessel mentioned that not only does OSCR present proposals to SRAC, the unit works alongside students via Central Student Government (all students work collaboratively together under the umbrella of CSG), faculty via The Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA), and with Jack Bernard, Associate General Counsel. These groups work in conjunction to determine which proposals should be set before Vice President Harper.

He then reviewed the process in depth. You can locate this information at <https://oscr.umich.edu/sites/oscr.umich.edu/files/amendment-process-infographic.pdf>.

When asked how OSCR advertises the amendment process, Director Wessel mentioned that it is difficult to reach everyone but last year, he and Chair Cervetti went on a road show to discuss the process, emails are sent to students, and the front page of OSCR's website highlights it.

**5. Adjournment**

Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed; Selena Bazzi motioned to approve while David Potter seconded. All in favor.

Chair Cervetti adjourned the meeting.