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To: Divya Manikandan, Vice-chair of the Academic Affairs Committee in the LSA Student Government

From: Gina Cervetti, Chair, Student Relations Advisory Committee

Date: November 21, 2020

Re: Support for Changes to the OSSD Syllabus Statement

I am writing today to respond to your request that the Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC) endorse a proposed revision of the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) syllabus statement regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. The original statement reads:

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://ssd.umich.edu>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

You shared with the SRAC committee that the revisions are intended to be more welcoming, to portray faculty as a partner in identifying accommodations, and to provide greater flexibility to students in terms of when they approach faculty about the need for accommodations. Following our conversation, which resulted in small revisions, the proposed statement reads:

The University of Michigan welcomes students of all abilities and identities. If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. You are welcome to contact me through _____ .
Some aspects of this course, the assignments, in-class activities, and the way the course is

usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD Office at G664 Haven Hall) to help determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://ssd.umich.edu>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Please reach out at least ____ (weeks/days) before accommodations are required. That being said, I will try to accommodate situations that come up unexpectedly as the semester progresses. Any information you provide is confidential and will be treated as such.

Timeline of the Review Process

October 14: The SRAC Chair agreed to bring the revision of the syllabus statement before the SRAC for consideration and a vote of endorsement.

November 18, 2020: The revised statement was distributed to SRAC members for consideration and comments.

November 20, 2020: Divya Manikandan and Jacob Cohen joined the SRAC meeting to discuss the revised statement and take questions from the committee. A vote was held at the end of the meeting.

Result of the Vote

There are 15 voting members on the SRAC in 2020-2021. Nine members of the committee were present for the vote. Nine members (100%) voted to endorse the proposed revision to the statement.