



Student Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2021

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Approved: January 21, 2022

Present: Harish Ganesh (Chair), Michael Atzmon (SACUA Liaison), Simon Cushing, Ashley Gearhardt, Martino Harmon (Student Life), Charlie Koopmann, Helen Look, Laura MacLatchy, Jeannie Moody Novak, Jessica Pasquale, Monica Porter, Yaacov Ritov, Jennifer Schrage (Student Life), Claire Liu, Peiyu Ryan Wang

Absent: Xiomara Santamarina, Amanda Peters

Administrative: Pam Morris, MaryJo Banasik

Guests: Janel Sutkus, Director, Student Life Research
Erik Wessel, Director, Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR)

11:35 Chair Ganesh called the meeting to order. He welcomed the committee members and guests Dr. Janel Sutkus, Director of Student Life Research, and Dr. Erik Wessel, Director Office of Student Conflict Resolution.

The committee voted to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2021 meeting.

11:38 VP Harmon gave an update. He thanked AVP Schrage for providing the update at the last meeting. VP Harmon stated that he looks forward to upcoming projects, including the amendment process to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities. He expressed appreciation for the ability to make connections this semester with more in-person activities. With winter coming, and with safety considerations in mind, more activities will take place indoors. Student Life will plan hybrid and virtual opportunities, but will still work to have some activities outside so students may enjoy the winter weather. VP Harmon gave an update on vaccination and testing requirements in the residence halls. He noted that CDC came to campus to study and understand a recent flu outbreak on campus. Students continue to be urged to get a flu shot and a COVID booster shot.

Recent student deaths caused by suicide were raised. VP Harmon indicated that the university honors the requests of families when it comes to publicizing a suicide. There was a recent meeting with multiple university administrators to discuss suicide on campus. It is a delicate balance managing communications when the public wants information but families prefer privacy.

Student Life is using a holistic approach when looking at student health and well-being. UM Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has reallocated some resources to help those who are struggling with stress and anxiety stemming from the recent school shooting in Oxford, Michigan.



11:50 *Priority Agenda Topic: Understanding our Work, Determining our Impact, Telling our Stories; Focus: Mid-Year Check-in on Student Experience Insights & SL's progress across all FY22 goals*

VP Harmon welcomed guest Dr. Sutkus. Dr. Sutkus introduced herself. She gave a presentation and shared slides, [Understanding our Work, Determining our Impact, Telling our Stories](#)

Dr. Sutkus noted that this priority – “understanding our work, determining our impact, and telling our stories” is related to all other Student Life Strategic priorities for 2021-2022. Dr. Sutkus described Student’s Life’s assessment efforts, Student Life’s assessment model, and what Student Life measures. Next year Student Life will be creating the next five-year strategic plan. Core priorities will be developed for that plan. Dr. Sutkus described student demographics used in their research, including what metrics are collected by U-M, what metrics are collected by U-M and expanded by Student Life and which metrics are collected by Student Life through its survey.

Dr. Sutkus touched on student engagement metrics for first- and second-year students, and survey results concerning community-building aspects of welcome events at U-M. Included in the presentation was an update about work in student intervention, support, and advocacy, health and well-being, and educational experiences. Dr. Sutkus shared Fall 2021 end-of-semester analysis plans.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Sutkus addressed questions from the committee.

Dr. Sutkus confirmed that that the students surveyed by Student Life Research are undergraduates. Graduate students do not fall under the purview of Student Life.

A member suggested that the demographic characteristics be adjusted so that a non-binary category is not included in the same category as Woman, given that Woman is a binary category in itself.

A question was asked about whether the data for the first-year cohort derives from survey results. Dr. Sutkus explained the some information comes from the Registrar’s office, but most is collected through the survey. She noted that the response rate is over 80%, so the results are representative of the population.

A member asked whether faculty members are invited to participate in welcome events. It was expressed that faculty are concerned about student wellness, and they may appreciate the opportunity to meet with students outside the classroom. Faculty are not currently targeted to be invited to events.

12:27 VP Harmon introduced Erik Wessel, Director of the Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR) to discuss the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR) amendment process.

Dr. Wessel distributed a [document detailing the SSRR Amendment Process](#) in advance of the meeting. This document is a resource to help people understand the amendment process including the committee’s role and the timeline. Dr. Wessel described the SSRR amendment process. Faculty submissions need to be submitted through SACUA and student submissions are submitted through the Council of Student Government (CSG). OSCR will provide materials



to advance for SRAC members to review with current language and proposed modification presented side-by-side. The proposal process has been open for several weeks, and closes on January 14, 2022.

Dr. Wessel addressed questions from the committee.

It was asked when the most time intensive period is for SRAC members. SRAC will consider proposals during the January and February SRAC meetings. During these meetings, modifications may be made to the proposal document in real time. OSCR will inform the committee about the order of presentations as well as the length of time designated for each presenter.

A member inquired about the sexual and gender-based misconduct policy and the SSRR. Dr. Wessel indicated that there is language in the SSRR that directs people to the policy.

12:48 Committee members discussed ideas to work to improve student mental health and well-being including inviting motivational speakers, holding pre-orientation meet-ups, and engaging emeritus faculty in events on campus.

12:58 The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryJo Banasik
Director, Faculty Senate Office