

## Student Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2022

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**Present:** Jessica Pasquale (Chair), Lilly Collins, Simon Cushing (SACUA Liaison), Marna Clowney-Robinson, Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Charlie Koopman, Amanda Peters, David Potter, Connie Tingson Gatz (AVP Student Life)

**Absent:** Ashley Gearhardt, Anouck Girard, Laura MacLatchy, Marita Inglehart

**Administrative:** India Hayes

**Guest:** Will Sherry, Student Life, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Jessica Pasquale called the meeting to order at 11:35am, she welcomed the committee members and guest Will Sherry, Student Life, Director of Strategic Initiatives.

Due to staff transitions, the approval of the April 22, 2022 meeting minutes will take place at the October meeting.

### **Student Life Updates and Current Issues** – Dr. Martino Harmon, Vice President of Student Life

VP Harmon provided an update on recent Student Life events and upcoming projects.

- **Welcome to Michigan Program** – In conjunction with the Office of New Student Programs, Student Life provided opportunities and events for the first several weeks of the semester that allowed students to engage and interact on campus. Students seemed to be excited and connecting, even more so than last year. This was a positive start to the semester!
- **Student Move-In** – VP Harmon shared that student move-in week this year was the best one he's attended since his arrival to Michigan. Hundreds of student volunteers assisted students in getting moved and settled in the residence halls.
- **High-Risk Activities** – Working collectively with Wolverine Wellness, the Dean of Students, and other units we try to program a lot of alternatives, and positive events for students to get involved with during the day, prior to high-risk activities (night games/events). We have a theme called "Stay in the Blue" messaging that encourages students to be safe and respectful in their behavior.

VP Harmon indicated that we need more student employees, particularly in dining and recreational sport facilities. He invited committee members to recommend students for employment in areas that rely heavily on students.

VP Harmon shared an update on the new and existing positions that have been filled in Student Life.



- **(New Position) Senior Director of Communications & Marketing** – Nick Kaleba accepted the role of the Senior Director of Strategic Communication & Marketing. This position will work across the division in a more strategic way in terms of communications and is a part of the Student Life Senior Leadership Team (Cabinet).
- **(New Position) Director of Strategic Initiatives** – Will Sherry accepted the role of the Director of Strategic Initiatives. Prior to accepting his new role, Will worked as the Director of the Spectrum Center.
- **Director of Trotter Multicultural Center** – Dr. Kyra Shahid accepted the role as the new Director of the Trotter Multicultural Center. Dr. Shahid is fully immersed in creating an environment that is more engaging for students and identifying strategies that live fully into the vision of Trotter.
- **Director of Michigan Dining** – Steve Giardini accepted the role as the new Director of Michigan Dining.

VP Harmon shared that we are in a Strategic Planning year for the division. As we are finishing up our current strategic plan, we are using this year to plan for our upcoming strategic plan which will launch in Fall 2023 and will be a 5-year plan.

VP Harmon gave an overview and update on upcoming student life capital projects.

- **Housing & Dining** – We are working on a long-term plan to add more housing on north and central campus. Currently, we have 11,500 beds on campus, but we do not have enough housing to meet the demands of our students. We were able to house 1,800 second, third and fourth-year students, however, due to the limited space, we were not able to send the remaining 650 students who applied for housing.
- **Central Campus Recreational Building (CCRB)** – A demolition and rebuild of a new CCRB facility will begin in January 2023. In the meantime, a 23,000-square-foot temporary structure will be built on Palmer Field which will offer 90% of the capacity of the current CCRB. Some of the amenities offered will include strength and cardio equipment and a small walking indoor track. The temporary structure is set to open in January 2023.
- **Ginsberg Center** – A new \$10.5 million dollar Ginsberg Center will be built on the same site as the existing building. A gift of \$10 million was donated by the Ginsberg family to the project. The center will provide more space for students, student organizations, and for faculty. AVP, Dr. Connie Tingson Gatuz is working with the committee on the schematic design. Current Ginsberg staff will be temporarily housed in the Michigan League Underground until the new center is built, which will take about 2-years to complete the project. The proposal will go before the regents formally at the October meeting.
- **Student Mental Health** – A committee appointed by the Provost and VP Harmon that includes representatives from academic affairs and student life are working together to come up with a comprehensive plan on an initiative around addressing student mental health. There are forty recommendations that are currently being worked on with a variety of different work groups across campus.
- **Supreme Court: Post-Roe Decision** – An institutional task force, with membership from student life, is looking at how we respond and be aware of the changes statewide and nationally. The task force is working on a variety of different engagements with students to



make sure they are aware of services that are available, following along closely with OGC statewide developments.

Additional offerings include:

- Plan B will be available in vending machines
- Listening circle spaces for students to talk and process their reactions and concerns about the Supreme Court's decision
- UHS Pharmacy is increasing efforts to provide a supply of emergency contraception at an affordable price
- The Center for Campus Involvement are providing different opportunities for students to stay connected via social media, meetings, and emails so they are aware of what is happening.

#### **Review of DEI 1.0 and DEI 2.0 Planning - Will Sherry, Director of Strategic Initiatives**

Jessica Pasquale welcomed guest Will Sherry. Will gave a presentation and shared slides, [Moving Forward Together Student Life's DEI 2.0 Planning Year](#). The presentation provided information not specific to Student Life but an overview of where we are in our DEI planning.

#### **General Membership Discussion & Feedback**

David Potter brought up a couple of items as matters arising around the SACUA-generated [syllabus insert](#) for interactions between faculty and undergrad students, and the differences in messaging about COVID across campus.

VP Harmon and Jessica Pasquale thanked Will Sherry for his presentation and the committee for their participation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

India Hayes  
Executive Assistant, Office of the Vice President for Student Life