



Student Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2022

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Present: Jessica Pasquale (Chair), Lilly Collins, Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Marita Inglehart, Laura MacLatchy, David Potter, Connie Tingson Gatuz (AVP Student Life)

Absent: Marna Clowney-Robinson, Simon Cushing (SACUA Liaison), Ashley Gearhardt, Anouck Girard, Charlie Koopman, Amanda Peters

Administrative: India Hayes

Guest: Neeraja Aravamudan – Director, Ginsberg Center

Neeraja Aravamudan provided the members with a tour of the Ginsberg Center prior to the start of the meeting.

Jessica Pasquale called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

The committee voted to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2022 meeting.

Jessica Pasquale welcomed the committee members and guest Neeraja Aravamudan, Director of the Ginsberg Center. Neeraja gave a presentation and shared slides, [Ginsberg Center: Overview and Highlights](#). The presentation provided information about the Ginsberg Center and upcoming projects.

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.

Well Being Collective – The launch of the new wellbeing.umich.edu website which is a part of the communication campaign that we have been working on for the past year and a half, refocusing our efforts to address student mental health and well-being. To be more holistic and to be a health-promoting campus which is a part of signing an international charter called the Okanagan Charter. The language that we are using is well-being collective to broaden the focus to include faculty, students, and staff. On the website, you will find tools, resources, and good information that focuses on mental health. Additional information will be added to the site once HR and MHealthy become more involved and engaged. The depression center is also very connected with this work and they also have a lot of helpful information on their site.

Housing and Dining Projects Update – The project focus has shifted from north campus to central campus, to give the regents more time due to the work being developed for the north campus projects but not for the central campus. The north campus deans will also be involved in discussing the need for housing and dining on north campus. We are hopeful and optimistic that the regents will vote on the central campus housing and dining projects in December as it is apparent that there is a strong commitment to adding beds on campus.



VP Harmon also informed the committee that at the Regents meeting last month, it was announced that the first new hall that will be built on central campus will be named after the former Vice President for Student Life, Royster Harper. It will also be the first building on campus named after an African American woman.

COVID Booster & Flu Shots – There have been significant communication efforts on campus regarding information about the services provided on campus for the covid booster shot and flu shot. There are walk-in clinics or appointments that can be made, and information has been publicized on social media outlets, digital sign boards around campus, etc., encouraging faculty, students, and staff to get their booster and flu shots.

VP Harmon shared that the Blood Battle Drive is also happening around campus and will run until November 23, 2022. Faculty, students, and staff are encouraged to participate and donate blood.

General Membership Discussion & Feedback

Jessica Pasquale asked does Connecting Michigan interact with or involve the Experts at Michigan?

- Neeraja Aravamudan indicated that Connecting Michigan started with Experts at Michigan, however, the site no longer exists. The problem that we are encountering is how to keep the information current and up to date. We talked with Michigan State University, and they have a process where they send out a survey to faculty annually asking what they are doing and what projects they are working on. However, it does not work as well as it seems. We are also working with a small group around tenure and promotion—trying to get tenure and promotion, community engagement, and public engagement to be more connected. Neeraja met with Tabbye M. Chavous, Vice Provost, and Chief Diversity Officer and she is interested in integrating this into DEI 2.0. If we can get buy-in from the university then we can require faculty to report what they are doing. We are trying to build the system, in hopes that we get buy-in from faculty.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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