



Student Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2023

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Present: Jessica Pasquale (Chair), Lilly Collins, Simon Cushing, Ashley Gearhardt, Connie Tingson Gatz (AVP Student Life), Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Marita R. Inglehart, Charlie Koopman, Amanda Peters, David Potter, Marna Clowney-Robinson, Eric Vandenberghe

Absent: Anouck Girard, Laura MacLatchy

Administrative: India Hayes

Guest: Janel Sutkus, Allen Sheffield

Jessica Pasquale called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

The agenda was approved. The committee voted to approve the March 17, 2023, meeting minutes.

Student Life Updates and Current Issues | Dr. Martino Harmon – Vice President for Student Life

VP Martino Harmon provided an update on recent Student Life events. Martino thanked everyone for their dedication and attendance, both in-person and virtually. He highlighted the hard work of Jessica, Connie, and India in organizing the meetings.

- **Well-Being Collective** – The Well-Being Collective is launching the Student Well-Being Network which will consist of 25 students that were self-selected out of 1,000 random invitations that were sent to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Additionally, they will also be launching the Well-Being Network 2.0—comprised of staff from the schools/colleges and Student Life intending to focus on the well-being of students. We are also planning a network focused on the well-being of staff (and another for faculty) which will be established in the months ahead.
- **UWill Update** – UWill, the online virtual counseling service that is available to all U-M students was expanded in February by making 6 counseling sessions/year available year-round to all students (undergraduate and graduate/professional). UWill is one of many options available to students—not meant to replace CAPS—but it’s versatile and accessible mental health tool added to augment existing resources.

We have had great usage so far with over 460 sessions taking place in March.



The expansion of the service has received positive reactions from students, which includes some of the following feedback:

- See a counselor on a consistent, accessible basis
- Get fast, effective mental health treatment
- Get more than just crisis support
- Explore their mental health
- Put their best foot forward at the University

An external review of CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) is also ongoing, and we will receive a report in May from the external consultants, Keeling & Associates.

- **Recreational Sports** – The Regents approved two soccer-sized sports fields to be built on Hubbard Road. This will replace the fields that will be lost at Elbel Field, where the new South 5th Housing complex will be built. The synthetic turf and extended lighting hours will allow for more frequent usage. Over 24,000 students use these fields for various activities and events.
- **Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL)** – In Fall 2019, Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) implemented new criteria for joining an FSL-affiliated fraternity and/or sorority. The policy change requires new students to wait until they have earned at least 12 credit hours (Winter term) before joining an organization. The goal of the new criteria was to provide a best-in-class, first-year experience to help students make a successful transition to college by shifting to winter recruitment (previously held in the fall).

Some unintended consequences have arisen, such as some fraternities leaving the system. FSL has been working with the RISE Partnership, an external consultant, to examine the impact and effectiveness of those changes on the FSL community. The external review process is ongoing, and a final report will be available in May 2023 for the President and Regents' consideration.

VP Martino Harmon mentioned that although Student Life is not directly involved in the negotiations with GEO (Graduate Employees' Organization), we are monitoring the impact on undergraduate students during negotiations with GEO. We have a group of trained individuals who are present during protests to monitor and talk with organizers to make sure that they are following the rules and to help de-escalate any challenging disruptions.

All we had to do was ask: What we learned about our students when we removed the constraints from our demographic data collection | Janel Sutkus, Director of Student Life Research

- Janel Sutkus gave a presentation and shared slides on [All we had to do was ask: What we learned about our students when we removed the constraints from our demographic data collection](#). The presentation discussed several topics related to data collection and surveys on student demographics.



Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services | Allen Sheffield, Associate Director of SAAS

- Allen Sheffield gave a presentation and shared slides on [Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services](#). The presentation provided a brief overview of the office and the recent expansions.

General Membership Discussion & Feedback

Marita Ingelhart inquired about the ease of accessing student demographic information.

- Janelle mentions that currently, there isn't a specific place on the website for this information, but they provide data upon request.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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