



**Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)**

Minutes of Meeting: 10/20/23  
Circulated: 11/13/23  
Approved: 11/17/23

Present: Jessica Pasquale (Chair), Jonathan Brennan, Marna Clowney-Robinson, Cindee Giffen, Marita R. Inglehart, Jamie Niehof, Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Connie Tingson Gatuz (Associate Vice President for Student Development, Learning, and Social Change Education), India Hayes (Student Life) Bruno Giordani, Simon Cushing (SACUA Liaison), Joel Scheuher

Absent: Ashley Gearhardt, Anouck Girard, Charlie Koopman, Laura MacLatchy, David Potter

Guests: Allen Sheffield (Associate Director, SASS), Oluwaferanmi Okanlami (Director, SASS)

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

**11:34am:** Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the September meeting were approved.

**11:34am-11:54am: Updates and Current Issues with VP Martino Harmon**

Summary: VP Harmon provided an update on the work of Student Life. Student support options were shared.

Last Friday 10/13, the ground-breaking for the new Central Campus Residential Project occurred. It will be named after E. Royster Harper, who was VP for Student Life for 18 years.

Student Life's DEI 2.0 plan has been rolled out. The Office of Student Life is continuing their work with this in mind. There are three areas of focus that were mentioned: Recruiting, retaining, and developing a diverse community, creating an equitable and inclusive student climate, and supporting innovative and inclusive teaching, research, and service. More information can be found on their website: <http://studentlife.umich.edu/>

The research department provided an [impact report](#) for 2022-2023. This report showcases the impact the Office of Student Life has on the student experience at the University of Michigan. In addition to facts and figures, this report includes personal stories of students that provide useful perspective. Over 1 million unique student stories were gathered over 1 million interactions with Student Life.

In anticipation of the UM-MSU football game in East Lansing on Saturday, the Office of Student Life is providing awareness of safe habits to students. Student Life officials from both Universities are working to ensure a positive experience is had. High-risk planning efforts happen year round to mitigate risk and help students stay safe and have fun.

The new MFamily portal has been launched at the beginning of this academic year. It is a new communication tools that allows families to customize their communication preferences with Student Life.



The Spectrum Center has been selected by Campus Pride to be featured as a Top LGBTQ College Center on Center Awareness Day, which is October 19.

The Student Life Sustainability unit has recently Co-hosted Earthfest (9/21), and Harvestfest (9/24). On most Thursdays in the morning at UMMA there is a pop-up farm stand.

The South Quad will be the next meeting location.

Action: Updates

**11:54am-12:47pm: Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services (SAAS) and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Updates**

Summary: Allen Sheffield introduced SAAS and SSD and turned it over to questions for the group. A member of the committee provided an update on the listening sessions held by LEO. Representatives of LEO met with Associate Director Sheffield previously and had shared their concerns. Some of the concerns included issues with the accommodations portal, and how there can be workload issues places on coordinators who have many sections. Limitations of the software were mentioned. Scheduling in the testing center can be an issue.

Another issue mentioned is how there are a new set of accommodations available, but there needs to be clear guidance provided to faculty. There is a new guide that is in progress that will be released. It can be found in the accommodation letter.

The logistics and staffing makeup of the SAAS and SSD were shared. The process for a student getting an accommodation was reviewed.

Specific questions were asked of Director Okanlami. The complications of request review and the process was reviewed by Director Okanlami. A review of the appeals process a student who believes they were discriminated against due to a disability ensued.

A question about deadlines for students to request accommodations is made. SSD makes every effort to react properly to each request. There are times when there are a high amount of requests where certain services may need to pause, this includes when the testing center meets capacity. A discussion on availability and need of resources ensued.

Updates on some of the questions posed will be provided after the meeting due to time restraints.

VP Harmon suggested that the committee voice their concerns to his office, so that they may use that as evidence of particular needs when bringing it up in other meetings. Increased enrollment at UM affects this issue greatly and will need to be addressed appropriately.

There are three main areas that came from this meeting: technology, training, and administrative burden on SSD, and on instructors.

Action: discussion

**12:47pm:** Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe  
Faculty Governance Coordinator  
Faculty Senate Office