



Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 11/17/23

Circulated: 12/8/23

Approved: 12/15/23

Present: Jessica Pasquale (Chair), Jonathan Brennan, Anouck Girard, Jamie Niehof, David Potter, Joel Scheuher, Simon Cushing (SACUA Liaison), David Mikkola, Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Connie Tingson Gatz (Associate Vice President for Student Development, Learning, and Social Change Education), India Hayes (Office of Student Life), Bruno Giordani

Absent: Marna Clowney-Robinson, Ashley Gearhardt, Cindee Giffen, Marita R. Inglehart, Charlie Koopman, Laura MacLatchy,

Guests: Rick Gibson, Director of University Housing; Steve Giardini, Director of Michigan Dining

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

11:43am-11:44am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the October SRAC meeting were approved.

11:44am-11:57am: Updates and Current Issues

Summary: VP Harmon provided an update and offered support for the students and parents affected by the conflict in the Middle East. VP Harmon let the committee know about the recent video put out by President Ono in response to the situation.

The President will give the State of the University in the coming weeks. There will be a livestream available.

Parent's weekend took place several weeks ago. The weekend was a success. It was a good chance for the Office of Student Life to engage with students and parents.

The Spectrum Center was recognized by Campus Pride as a top LGBTQ College Center. The Trans-Belonging Fund has been established and aims to enhance the experience of Trans and nonbinary students at UM. This fund was established by a generous gift by Marchell (AB '84) and Jeffrey Willian.

The Public Service intern program is being expanded to Lansing in the Michigan State Government. It's the oldest and largest summer intern program of its kind in the country.

In the coming weeks, there will be a survey rolled out by student life to capture student stories. This is to be used by the Office of Student Life to better understand the needs of students. It starts on the 27th of November through December 1st.

Action: Update



11:57am-12:50pm: Housing (Living Learning Communities) and Dining (Retail, Catering, and Residential Dining) project update

Summary: VP Harmon introduced the two guests. The guests introduced the new residential and dining projects that are being worked on. The slide deck will be shared later on with the committee. These projects have been developed with the American Campus Communities Group.

The project mission is designed to focus on the students in a collaborative and inclusive way. The goals of the project include providing more housing for students, particularly for first year students. The design inspiration for the new residential hall includes inspiration from the Great Lakes. Various amenities of the new residential hall were shared.

The project budget was reviewed. This project will add 2300 new beds to campus housing. This is expected to open in 2026.

There will be an increase in green space with this project. The projects were designed with a heavy focus on sustainability.

There were several engagement sessions with students to garner input. Artist renderings of the project were shared, and various features of the projects were highlighted. There will be a bike repair area. There will be support animal relief area made of turf outside of the buildings. Areas for blogging, music, and e-sports were highlighted.

The new dining hall project was reviewed. There were engagement sessions where feedback was obtained to guide the decision making process. It was acknowledged that dining is a direct and significant way to impact the student experience.

A timeline was shared. July 2026 is the expected date of ownership. August 2026 is expected to be the opening date. Design choices for the dining hall were shared. There is no basement, so there will be windows and natural light. There will be a gluten-free pantry. There will not be any booths. There will be a courtyard, as well as a teaching kitchen.

Housing is being reviewed as part of the 2050 plan. This led to a discussion on the increase of student enrollment. Student Life's role in those conversations was discussed, with a sense that infrastructure needs should be a top consideration if enrollment is to continue increasing.

The guests answered questions that the committee posed, including concerns regarding student athlete housing, and regarding surveillance cameras in the residence hall.

Action: Presentation and Q&A

12:51pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office