



Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 12/15/23

Circulated: 1/12/24

Approved: 1/19/24

Present: Jessica Pasquale (Chair), Marita R. Inglehart, India Hayes (Office of Student Life), Joel Scheuher, Charlie Koopman, David Potter, Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), David Mikkola, Simon Cushing (SACUA Liaison), Anouck Girard, Bruno Giordani, Jonathan Brennan

Absent: Marna Clowney-Robinson, Ashley Gearhardt, Cindee Giffen, Laura MacLatchy, Jamie Niehof, Connie Tingson Gatuz (Associate Vice President for Student Development, Learning, and Social Change Education)

Guests: Kelly Dunlop, Associate Director, Center for Campus Involvement

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

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

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

11:35am-11:48am: Updates and Current Issues

Summary: VP Harmon updated the committee. He provided a brief recap of the semester.

Recreational Sports is moving to Health and Wellness which reports to Dr. Rob Ernst. The reason for this move is that recreational sports have a direct connection to health and wellness of students. This move connects Recreational Sports with other related units that can create easier opportunities to collaborate. There may be an opportunity to discuss this further at a future meeting.

The campus climate was discussed. The discussion turned to the two recently canceled Central Student Government votes. It was the University's decision to cancel the votes. The email on 12/5 sent by President Ono to the UM community related to the ongoing conflict in Gaza was discussed. Student Life has met with many student groups affected by this conflict, and will continue to do so. It is noted that if reports are received related to safety concerns, DPSS should be contacted. There is a long history of activism on campus. This is to be honored, however safety is the top priority of the University. UM needs to stay true to its values. The discussion turned to classroom instruction related to the ongoing conflict.

Action: Updates

11:48am-12:38pm: Opportunities for faculty to volunteer to interface with students

Summary: VP Harmon introduced the guest, Kelly Dunlop, Associate Director, Center for Campus Involvement. The guest had the committee members discuss a student or faculty member who we impacted or who impacted them. Some of the stories are shared.



There are one-time opportunities for faculty to interact with students. There are “Welcome to Michigan” events that faculty can volunteer for. There are also “Take your Professor to Lunch” social programs where students can take their professors out to lunch. This event is funded by CSG. This is advertised, and students request funds. Meal@Michigan is an opportunity to share a meal with faculty and students where faculty take the lead.

There are long-term opportunities for faculty to interact with students. There are advisory boards, such as Pierpont, faith-based opportunities, the Spectrum Center, etc. There are other spontaneous opportunities, many which can be found on the Happenings@Michigan web page. It can be very supportive to students when faculty are able to attend their events. Checking the Diag boards and posting walls on campus are a good way to also know what events are going on.

The group is asked for suggestions of further connection opportunities between faculty and students. The importance of structure in mentoring is suggested by a member. Other positive experiences are shared by committee members. Challenges include time-commitments of faculty. Perhaps making this as a service opportunity within departments would enhance faculty engagement. It would take a campus-shift. Getting administration buy-in could facilitate this shift. The life-course of faculty is a factor that is considered. It is important to incorporate information of these opportunities in faculty orientations.

A question for a call for volunteers email is discussed. A request for these to be sent to faculty is made.

Action: Presentation and Discussion

12:38pm-12:51pm: Discussion on Student Accommodations

Summary: The committee discussed the feedback received from the Senate Assembly regarding student accommodations. Various challenges felt by committee members this semester are voiced, including issues with testing accommodations. It is ultimately an issue of staffing, funding, and space. A committee member voiced that the resources dedicated to this need to be proportionate to increasing enrollment.

Action: Discussion

12:51pm-12:53pm: Call for agenda items for next semester

Summary: A call for suggestions for next semester is made. Suggestions can be sent to the Chair of the committee.

Action: Discussion

12:53pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office