



Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 3/15/24

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Approved: 4/19/24

Present: Jessica Pasquale (Chair), Jonathan Brennan, Bruno Giordani, Marna Clowney-Robinson, Anouck Girard, Marita R. Inglehart, Charlie Koopman, David Potter, Joel Scheuher, David Mikkola, Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Connie Tingson Gatuz (Associate Vice President for Student Development, Learning, and Social Change Education), India Hayes (Office of Student Life),

Absent: Ashley Gearhardt, Cindee Giffen, Laura MacLatchy, Jamie Niehof, Simon Cushing (SACUA Liaison)

Guests:

Meera Herle, Central Student Government President

Bipasha Ray, Central Student Government Vice President

Emily Ryan, CSG DEAC Chair/Affordability and Accessibility Policy Advisor

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

11:35am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

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

11:35am-11:47am: Updates and current issues

Summary: VP Harmon provided updates and provided a brief introduction of the Mosher-Jordan Dining Hall, the site of today's meeting. He continued with his updates:

At this time, there are two surveys being conducted. Faculty encouraged to remind students who have received the surveys to complete them. The surveys are as follows:

- *Campus climate survey related to sex and gender*- This is provided by several offices on campus, including the ECRT and Student Life. The survey will take place March 4 to April 4. Only a portion of the campus community will receive this survey. This survey includes students, faculty, and staff.
- *UMAY (University of Michigan Ask You)*- This biennial survey covers a wide array of topics including housing, student mental health and well-being, diversity. The data is used in grant applications aimed at improving the student experience. Commuting is a new category to the survey this year. This survey was sent to all students.

Campus climate is discussed. The Office of Student Life developed a set of resources as a toolkit for leaders on campus that put on programs that serve students. This toolkit can be used as a resource for guiding constructive conversations. Student demonstrations are discussed generally.

An organizational change within the Office of Student Life is discussed. University Health



Services and the Counseling and Psychological Services are merging to become University Health & Counseling. This merger took place effective March 1st, and the integration will take place over the course of months. This move is meant to integrate and make the process of receiving mental health care more effective and fluid.

Action: Updates

11:47am-12:41pm: Student perceptions on current campus climate

Summary: The guests are introduced. A brief background on their backgrounds and roles is provided.

A question is asked about what the guests have heard from fellow students as it relates to campus climate. They have heard that student groups want to meet with administrators. They touched on the demonstrations and some of the different types of circumstances that have taken place in the past year. They have been in close contact with various stakeholders on campus.

In terms of what student groups are interested in, many very much want to meet with the regents. A question is asked about what other offices on campus can do to meet the needs of student groups. The guests encourage offices within the administration to continue meeting with students. It is suggested that having genuine, honest conversations is vital.

A question is asked about national student governance, and how the guests interact with their counterparts at peer universities. The guests indicate that they are connect with other Big Ten Student Governance leaders. They discuss how issues at UM have differed from other peer institutions.

A question is raised about how the student community has reacted to the "[Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression](#)," which had been passed by the Regent's at their January meeting. The guests indicated that they had heard from some that are skeptical of the principles, and are interested to see how they will be implemented. There is a panel that is recommending how to best implement the principles, and CSG has representation on this panel. A discussion of how to best communicate with students is held. Students appear more likely to read the Daily instead of the Record. Discussion ensues on the statement.

A question is asked regarding whether faculty been supportive of students expressing their views. It is suggested that it would be good for faculty to voice their support for free speech. Specific instances are provided. This issue varies department to department.

A discussion on people being uncomfortable with free speech ensues. Discomfort versus feeling unsafe versus anger is discussed. Students may need tools that remind them that it is ok to have discomfort with hearing opinions that do not match their own personal beliefs. Smaller settings are better for facilitating these conversations. An idea about providing information on this at student orientation is brought up.

Action: Discussion

12:41pm-12:45pm: Wrap-up Discussion



Summary: Questions are encouraged to be sent to the guests, should the committee have any after the meeting.

A member asks about the Office of Student Life's ability to assist students in protecting against predatory property rental companies are discussed. This is in reference to a recent [MLive article](#) on the subject. The Office of Student Life can provide guidance and has resources available for finding appropriately priced lodging. Student have access to legal services on campus for certain cases.

Action: Discussion

12:45pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office