



Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 4/19/2024

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

Absent: Cindee Giffen, Anouck Girard, Laura MacLatchy, David Potter

Guests:

Mary Jo Desprez, Director, Wolverine Wellness
Deborah Lichti, Instructional Consultant, CRLT
Joy Pehlke, Assistant Director, Wolverine Wellness

Sarah Daniels, Associate Dean, Dean of Students Office
Tom Lehker, University Ombudsperson

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

11:34am-11:35am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

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

11:35am-11:51am: Updates and Current Issues from the Vice President for Student Life

Summary: VP Harmon provided an update. The VP thanked the Chair for her service to the committee. Campus culture issues at other universities are discussed. Many campuses across the country are facing this issue. The statements made by the University are discussed, with the difficulty surrounding campus climate noted. Demonstrations on campus and their related policies are discussed. A stated goal is to get to a state of fostering constructive conversations on campus when discussing challenging subjects.

The recently introduced [draft of Disruptive Activity Policy](#) was discussed. The President is pausing on any implementation of this policy at this time to more fully engage with the community and key stakeholders on this subject. VP Harmon cites the [April 2nd message](#) from President Ono to the community. Opinions are voiced on this both for and against the policy.

The Statement on Students Rights and Responsibilities are discussed.

Planning towards upcoming convocations is being discussed, and carefully considered based on past events.



The recent CSG elections are discussed. VP Harmon has reached out to the newly elected leaders.

Action: Updates and discussion

11:51am-12:28pm: Student Success Initiative between Wolverine Wellness and CRLT

Summary: The Chair introduced the speakers. The guests introduced the check-in survey that is being administered to students in several foundational classes for 1st and 2nd year students. A primary purpose of the survey is supporting students in the classroom, and reducing barriers to student support. Well-being and mental health support has always affected student learning experience, and properly addressing it is important. The available resources are shared with students, GSIs, and instructors.

The survey is four questions. They are conducted during high-stress academic instances. The students are asked:

- How are you doing generally?
- Would you like to meet with a wellness coach for a 20 min session?
- Would you like to meet with an instructor?
- Which resources would best fit your needs?

The survey is reviewed in-depth with the committee. Specific data, including data with students from minority communities are shared. There is a plan to expand this survey to other courses. What format does the data come? Where does the data go? The data is privately housed in Wolverine Wellness. Faculty are provided info only when students opt-in to sharing their data.

Is this data shared with Chairs and/or Deans? It is up to each faculty member. They can share the data if they would like. Pros and cons of this approach are discussed.

The vision and goal of this initiative is to reach as many 1st and 2nd year students as possible. Further ideas for expansion of the survey are shared. One possible expansion is expanding the survey to collect data from GSIs.

Faculty share their experiences related to supporting students in this manner. Questions are discussed regarding the privacy of the data.

Action: Presentation and discussion

12:28pm-1:01pm: Proposed Student Bereavement Policy

Summary: The Chair introduced the guests. The guests discussed the proposed Bereavement policy. These are focused on short-term and unexpected emergency situations.

The policy is in development. There is no required proof for these emergencies. When faculty are notified, they are told of the emergency in general terms, without specifics, and simply asked to work with the student in question.



UM had reached out to other Big Ten Universities to determine their bereavement policies. Some institutions had such a policy, while others did not. Areas where policies differed include length of allotted time for excused absence, relation of the deceased to the student, and the appeals process for instances where the student is denied leave.

The guests indicate that a certain level of broadness is required for this policy, as there will be quite a wide range of situations that this policy will be required to address.

The committee members offer their opinions and personal experiences. Working to build flexibility is discussed. There are policies at the departmental level related to this, which is something to consider.

Action: Discussion

1:01pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office