



Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 10/18/24

Circulated: 11/8/24

Approved: 11/15/24

Present: Joel Scheuher, Bruno Giordani, David Potter, Marita Rohr Inglehart (Chair), India Hayes (Office of Student Life) Connie Tingson Gatz (Associate Vice President for Student Development, Learning, and Social Change Education), Angelique McCann (Office of Student Life), Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Charlotte Karem Albrecht, Oliver Kozler, Om Shah, Kaitlin Karmen, Myles Durkee, Anouck Girard, Charlie Koopmann, Jonathan Brennan, Cindee Giffen

Absent: Marna Clowney-Robinson, Jamie Niehof

Guests: Erik Wessel, Director, Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR)

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe, Luke McCarthy

11:34am-11:36am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

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

11:36am-12:02pm: Updates and Current Issues from VP from Student Life

Summary: VP Harmon acknowledged receipt and thanked the committee for the recent letter sent to him.

The program on Intergroup Relations is discussed. It has worked to provide resources to address difficult conversations on campus. A flier will be provided to the committee with further details.

The committee is reminded that University Health Services (UHS) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) were organizationally merged. The primary purpose of this merger is to ensure that community healthcare is more robust and streamlined. The merging process is currently ongoing.

VP Harmon discusses the Uwill Teletherapy Program, which is supplemental to services provided by CAPS. Per the University [website](#): "Uwill serves as an extension of the care provided through the CAPS, allowing us to expand our service capacity for students. The partnership provides students with free video, phone, chat and message sessions with licensed mental health professionals free of charge." Students are able to participate in six sessions of this service. Discussion ensues on this topic.

A committee member brings up a recent AAUP presentation regarding the effect policing has on the mental health on affected students at UM. Concerns are raised about this, and discussion ensues. Student Life clarifies the role they play regarding campus involvement of activist activity on campus. A discussion on the Dean of Students ensues. Campus climate is discussed.

Action: Update and discussion

12:02pm-12:28pm: Discuss invitation of Regent White and President Ono for November SRAC meeting

Summary: The Chair provides a brief review of the events that led to the committee receiving the letter from President Ono and Regent White. The Chair suggests inviting both to an upcoming meeting, to answer questions about the recent changes to the SSRR, and what to expect the process to look like moving forward. She requests input from the committee members on this subject.

Members voice their opinions. Some express for their wish for President Ono and Regent White to attend a meeting, as the Chair suggests. A member takes issue with the alterations made to the SSRR by the Regents. Opinions are shared. The appeals process is advocated for by a member.

Concern is raised that faculty are being removed from decisions affecting the UM community, and support is voiced for faculty being included.

A member discusses what would be necessary for such a conversation to be productive. There would be a need clear agenda, with all the salient points addressed. A suggestion is made for a Google Doc to crystalize these priorities. The Faculty Senate Office agrees to send a document to the committee members.

Discussion ensues on whether to send another letter. Committee members voice their opinion that they would rather not send another letter. There is a desire for a justification for the changes that were made. A member calls for more of a public letter if one is to be sent.

Discussion about strategy of navigating this situation takes place. Review of other institutions show that the changes made are out of line with the practices of UM's peers. This is voiced as a key point. A member voices that providing compelling data instead of an appeal for shared governance is likely to be more persuasive. It is stated that an in-person meeting is preferred.

A member voices concern about meeting with President Ono and Regent White. The member points out that students being affected by the changes to the SSRR also should be heard by the committee. The member suggests inviting these affected students to a meeting imminently.

A member discusses the negative effect this change to the SSRR can have on the parents of students.

The committee concludes that President Ono and Regent will be invited to meet with the committee. The Chair plans to draft a letter and provide it to the committee for feedback by the end of the Monday following the meeting.

Action: Discussion; invitation to be sent to President Ono and Regent White



12:28pm-12:41pm: Generate questions and information requests for invited guests next semester

Summary: The committee members discuss how to accumulate questions for the guests they wish to invite to meetings throughout the year. There may be multiple guests at meetings. Questions are suggested for the Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services (SAAS). The Faculty Senate Office will set up a Google Doc for the committee members to add more questions.

A member suggests an additional topic of the effects of law enforcement practices on student mental health at UM. It is suggested that a representative from the Dean of Students join the committee to discuss this.

Action: Discussion

12:41pm-1:02pm: Updates on the amendment process to the Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities (SSRR)

Summary: Erik Wessel, Director of OSCR, provided an update on the status of the of the SSRR amendment process. A general overview of the few proposals submitted at this time are reviewed. Examples of accepted proposals from prior cycles are shared to provide the committee members with examples.

Questions are asked and answered regarding the process, as well as the role of OSCR. The deadline for submissions is November 1. Discussion ensues.

Action: Discussion

Time: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office