

Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 3/21/25

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Approved: 4/18/25

Present: Marita Rohr Inglehart (Chair), Angelique McCann (Office of Student Life), Jonathan Brennan, Joel Scheuher, Connie Tingson Gatuz (Associate Vice President for Student Development, Learning, and Social Change Education), Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Bruno Giordani, Cindee Giffen, Charlotte Karem Albrecht, Marna Clowney-Robinson, David Potter, Myles Durkee, Charlie Koopmann, Anouck Girard

Absent: Jamie Niehof, Kaitlin Karmen, Oliver Kozler, Om Shah

Guests:

Jesse Beal, [Spectrum Center](#) Director

Angela Dillard, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

11:31am-11:33am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

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

11:33am-12:12pm: How students from the LGBTQ+ community experience their journey to graduation

Summary: The Chair introduced the guest for this topic, Director Jesse Beal. They are thanked for joining the meeting. Director Beal provides background on their career. They proceed to present information on this topic and provide insight into the work of the Spectrum Center.

Director Beal begins their presentation by providing context for the number of 2SLGBTQIA+ students currently enrolled at UM. UM has a sizable amount of this community in its student body. UM is overall highly rated for its inclusivity, and this is a contributing factor to welcoming in this community. UM has 5 out of 5 stars on the Campus Pride Index. UM has been named one of the 40 “Best of the Best” by Campus Pride Index.

Director Beal proceeds to identify the landscape of the US at this time in the context of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. This community has increased visibility, and is facing hostile state legislation across the country, as well as executive orders. There are ongoing challenges such as housing, restrooms, staff retention, etc. There is a dearth of data on sexual and gender identities.

The Spectrum Center is discussed. The Center was co-founded in 1971 by Jim Toy and Cynthia Gair. It was the “first staff office for queer students in an institution of higher learning in the United States.” It has been named one of the best gender and sexuality centers.

Spectrum Center Welcome Programs include Pride Outside, QTBIPOC Welcome, and QT Grad & Professional Student Welcome. The Center includes affinity programs Freshpectives and Q'mmunity Q'nnections.

Director Beal identifies some persistent challenges facing the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. These include availability of all-gender restrooms, issues with housing, mental health, etc. Further issues include micro aggressions, harassment, and violence. The mental health crisis facing this community is discussed. It has only gotten worse over the past few years. They shared data concerning this topic as well as data on harassment and violence faced by this community. Work done by UM's Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT), and Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) is brought up in an effort to end Anti-LGBTQIA2S+ Violence.

Director Beal presents several protective factors that can improve the wellbeing of people in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. These include gender affirming practices, community support, and gender affirming policies.

The Spectrum Center works to build a supportive and caring community. To this end, the Spectrum Center hosts university-wide LGBTQIA2S+ events, partners with student orgs, and provides grants that enhance campus climate. They work to provide resources for students in need. There are educational opportunities provided by the Spectrum Center that are available to everybody in the UM community.

VP Harmon thanks Director Beal for their work, and that of their team. The floor is opened for questions. A member asks what faculty can do. Faculty are encouraged to advocate for their students and community members. Discussion ensues on the impact changes at the federal level have had on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

A member discusses members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community within further marginalized groups. Further discussion on this ensues.

Action: Discussion

12:12pm-12:16pm: Student Life Updates and Current Issues

Summary: VP Harmon offers updates on the work of the OVPSL:

- The [Michigan Housing Honored Instructors program](#) will take place on 4/1. This program provides "residential students an opportunity to honor the instructors who make a positive impact on their collegiate journey at the University of Michigan."
- The UM Debate program won the [38th annual American Debate Association National Championship](#).
- [Zero waste week](#) took place March 17-23.
- The Alumni Association is [ending the LEAD Scholars program](#). VP Harmon has reached out to them to address any issues faced by students currently covered by the program.

Action: Updates

12:16pm-1:00pm: Student Success Initiative

Summary: The Chair introduces VP Dillard and thanks her for joining the meeting. VP Dillard proceeds to present her team's work on Creating a Student Success Network. She introduces the committee to the guiding principles that inform her team's work.

VP Dillard describes closing gaps to make sure students who enroll at UM graduate through early momentum. Statistically, students who take a full 15-credit course load in their first-year graduate in four years at a higher rate than students who take fewer credits. It has been the case that students who take 15 credits compared to 12 see a GPA drop, which is likely due the necessity of better time management. The benefits of graduating in four years are shared, including cost-savings.

VP Dillard provides an overview of her team. In addition to administration and staff, VP Dillard is also advised by Thurnau Professors at UM. She is working in conjunction with OVPSL to ensure students are staying on track. VP Dillard's team is continuing work on the first-year experience, data democratization, and analyzing course demand and registration, among others.

The Chair thanks VP Dillard for her presentation and opens the floor for questions. A member asks about the resources available for faculty and VP Dillard describes some of the available resources.

A member asks about how VP Dillard's work connects with students with disabilities. The member stresses that this is important to consider. Further discussion ensues, and the meeting concludes.

Action: Discussion

1:00pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office