



Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 10/17/25

Circulated: 11/14/25

Approved: 11/21/25

Present: Marita Inglehart (Chair), Hayley Bedell, Maxymilian Stefanski, Tonya Marion (Office of Student Life), Jamie Niehof, Devin Woodruff, Sri Likhita Adru, Stephen Ward, Joel Scheuher, David Potter, Charlie Koopmann, Kirsten Herold (SACUA), John Kloosterman, Jonathan Brennan, Cindee Giffen, Bruno Giordani, , Matt Lassiter, Martino Harmon (VP for Student Life), Connie Tingson Gatz (Associate Vice President for Student Development, Learning, and Social Change Education),

Absent: none

Guests:

Tamiko Strickman, Special Advisor to the President and Executive Director, Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX

Kelly Cruz, Associate General Counsel

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

11:34am-11:38am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the September SRAC meeting were approved. Introductions are made. The Faculty Governance Coordinator will look for larger meeting room options for future meetings.

11:38am-11:49am: Student Life Updates and Current Issues

Summary: VP Harmon offers updates on the work conducted by OVPSL.

The work of Religious, Secular, Spiritual Life Lead Kelly Dunlop is highlighted. Recent meetings are highlighted that have included upper administration and local religious leaders and groups. Dunlop continues to work with the Provost's Office on the religious holiday policy. Dunlop continues to raise awareness around the religious rooms available on campus.

UM had record enrollment this term. The current enrollment figure is over fifty-three thousand. There are challenges and opportunities that come with such a large enrollment, such as access to resources, including sufficient housing and study space. Members ask questions about the student population and VP Harmon offers back available date.

OVPSL is working to thoroughly support international students. Discussion ensues regarding recent actions taken by the federal government

Action: Update



11:49am-12:14pm: Discuss Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities changes

Summary: The Chair informs the committee of the amendment to the Student Statement of Rights and Responsibilities that occurred at the October Regents meeting. The unanimously passed amendment restores the appeals board [within the statement's appellate process and provides timeframes to govern the appellate process](#). This is a positive step as it was a key point that the SRAC committee advocated for in their recommendations to the President last year.

The Chair indicates that the committee should write to the President Grasso in response to his decisions on the SSRR. Chair Inglehart shares a draft letter with the committee for their review. Suggested improvements are made to the letter. The letter will include a request for in-person communication at the President's convenience.

The committee also plans to write to the Regent's to thank them for adopting the appeals board. This communication will also include a request to meet to further discuss other aspects of the SSRR that the committee feel could be improved.

Members discuss the changes made to the SSRR, and issues with the student disciplinary process. Members discuss the need for the process to be transparent and have due process.

Action: Update and Discussion

12:14pm-12:57pm: Student policies

Summary: The guests are introduced, and provide insight into three policies:

- Michigan Interim Policy and Procedures on Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation by Students to comply with Title VI

Associate General Counsel Cruz provides [background information](#) for the update to this policy. From the above linked Record article: "The policies follow the requirements of the June 2024 agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights in which the university committed to a review of its policies to ensure clarity on its process for responding to concerns of discrimination or harassment based on a protected class, including race, religion and national origin." Details of the back and forth with the federal government are shared as context for the policy changes.

This is an interim policy that will be reviewed at the end of one year. Community feedback can be shared directly with the ECRT. There may be necessary tweaks that are made to this policy. Members share scenarios and the guests walk them through what the actual process would look like. The definition of "hostile environment" is shared and is a key factor of this policy.

Members ask questions about borderline cases in which faculty are not sure if they need to report to the ECRT. The guests indicate that the ECRT can be called and given scenarios that are posed as hypotheticals. The ECRT can then offer guidance based on the scenario. Clarity is provided on who needs to report are made. Students do not have to report, however, student employees are required to report while in the official capacity.



A member indicates that the rollout of this policy could have gone smoother, and that there was confusion among faculty as to what their responsibilities are and what the ramifications of this policy are. Further discussion takes place on how this policy affects students. Discussion briefly ensues regarding the Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy.

Free speech is discussed. There are two layers that include freedom of speech and a hostile environment. Free speech allowable by law is permitted without any disciplinary actions allowed. A hostile environment may be present even though there are no laws broken. Addressing a hostile environment is necessary in certain cases. The challenges of meeting both needs are discussed.

- Michigan Policy Against Hazing

Associate General Counsel Cruz provides [background information](#) for the update to this policy. From the above linked Record article: “In December 2024, with bipartisan support, President Biden signed into law the Stop Campus Hazing Act. The act, among other things, requires institutions of higher learning that participate in federal student aid programs to implement a hazing policy with information on how to make a report of hazing and how hazing will be investigated, as well as to annually disclose statistics regarding hazing incidents reported to campus security authorities or local police agencies.”

Members ask questions about this policy and provide specific examples. All cases now go through OSCR. This is a new development, as there were multiple avenues for reporting that were dependent on various factors. Training requirements are shared. This will be the subject of another SRAC meeting later this academic year.

Action: Discussion

12:57pm-1:00pm: New Business

Summary: The agenda for the November meeting is briefly discussed. Tentative topics include the Campus Hazing Policy, the Disability Navigators program, and the Resource Navigators Program.

Action: Discussion

1:00pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office