15 January 1999

Revised Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE


ABSENT: Branton Cole, Marty Gold, Arvind Grover, Shivani Gupta, Donald Heller, Bruce Karnopp, Brett Schulman, Yvonne Tsai, Teshome Wagaw

II. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Burdi called the meeting to order at 12:10, thanking committee members for their attendance.

III. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 1998 MEETING

December’s minutes were approved with a few minor corrections. Revised minutes will be brought to the next meeting in February.

IV. MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE

Our committee agreed to make “Substance Abuse/Binge Drinking” the focus topic for February’s meeting. Hartford suggested inviting Marcia Benz, chair of the Binge Drinking Task Force; Deb Krauss, a psychologist in CAPS; and Nelly Torado.

An update of the Code was suggested for March’s agenda with MSA president Trent Thompson as a possible guest.

V. INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT TO SACUA

In January, all committee chairs were requested to give progress reports of their respective committees to SACUA. Burdi presented SACUA with copies of our monthly agendas. Burdi announced that SACUA was impressed by our choice of discussion topics and our student involvement. He made a request to SACUA that they be more specific about our committee membership, so that student presidents of MSA and RSG
are included in committee activities. There are currently six student representatives serving on the SRAC.

VI. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVPSA

Student Coursepack Store

Vice-President Hartford gave the committee a brief update on the new student-run coursepack store. The General Counsel worked with students on this project and agreed to let the store have a trial run this winter term. Though there is relatively little legal liability—only three professors are currently involved—this venture places the University at possible risk of being sued. This is because the students are selling the coursepacks without paying copyright fees, which they claim can be done for educational, non-profit purposes. The General Counsel has advised MSA to call the project the Student Coursepack Service to avoid possible legal complications. Jack Bernard, a J.D. from the University, has also been assigned to advise MSA on this matter.

Burdi said that he was glad our committee could have helped advise MSA on this project.

The Code

MSA finished their Code review December 18. The final Code Review was pushed back to February so that MSA’s comments would be included. Upon examination of the various Code reviews submitted to the OVPSA last term, Hartford found several commonalities. These included a concern for the lack of communication with the University community on Code policies, and a desire to see information regarding Code violations published in the Michigan Daily. Hartford also mentioned that all of the groups performing Code reviews agreed that the University should have an established student code. Su addressed the fact that many graduate students are opposed to having a Code. RSG did not participate in the Code Review.

More discussion of the Code followed. Hartford said that she would make a recommendation that the language of the Code be changed to allow for more flexibility in emergency cases.

Drugs/Alcohol

Hartford began the discussion of Substance Abuse with an update on the Courtney Cantor case. Traces of GHB, also known as liquid ecstasy, were discovered in Cantor’s body according to recent autopsy reports. One of the street names for GHB is “lemons”, which may be GHB in a pill form. “Lemons” are often taken to increase the effects of alcohol consumption. Many college-age women take “lemons” so they don’t have to consume massive quantities of high caloric alcohol to get high. “Lemons” are also known as the date-rape drug. Some deaths have been reported from GHB overdose.
Our committee expressed great concern over the issue of drug abuse on campus. Members discussed possible ways to alert the campus community to the lethal effects of newer drugs such as GHB. One suggestion was working with the Drug Abuse Center to disseminate information to students. Our committee also talked of creating a course on drug abuse, perhaps an undergraduate pharmacology course. We fully supported the idea of incorporating educational material on substance abuse into all ready existing courses and eventually making substance abuse education a course requirement.

Binge drinking, especially among underage students, was another problem discussed. Our committee discussed ways the University could veer students away from the alcohol culture without appearing too intrusive. We agreed that there was a need for more alcohol-free University events, which would give students an alternative to binge drinking. Our committee expressed concern over the lack of senior leadership in fraternity circles, where underage drinking has recently posed many problems.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Our committee agreed to continue the discussion of alcohol and substance abuse at the next meeting (February 19, 1999). With no further business on the table, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

cmb