STUDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 23, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE
PRESENT: Alphonse Burdi, Damon Fairfield, Maureen Hartford, Bruce Karnopp, Barbara MacAdam, Mike Nagrant Gerhard Olving (chair), Susan Pritzel, David Rosen, John Su, Phylis Valentine, Leigh Woods
GUEST: Barry N. Checkoway

Chair Olving called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS
There were no announcements.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- 11/14/97
The minutes of November 14, 1997 were approved without changes.

IV. DISTRIBUTED MATERIALS
Barry N. Checkoway distributed a one page handout describing the Center for learning through Community Service at the U of M.

V. UNIVERSITY STUDENT HOUSING -- Barbara MacAdam, SACUA Liaison
MacAdam reported that both SACUA and Senate Assembly had shown concern and had some discussion about the student housing shortage. She made it clear that the members of SACUA would like a greater understanding of the problems (hardship for second year students acquiring housing, short term and long term solutions, and creating additional housing). She said that the faculty would be willing to play some sort of role in advocacy and support of the students in this matter.

Hartford acknowledged this dilemma and stated that the housing crisis is not going away. She gave some background information on the shortage (student capacity for most residence halls were established in the 20’s and 30’s, 98% of the 1st year students requested on-campus housing, and that the numbers of applicants are increasing every year) and expressed that this issue is being brought before the appropriate committees/departments in order to create solutions in the future. Many members of the committee offered suggestions ranging from refurbishing unused buildings to building new housing structures as well as proposals to move offices in order to create living space and all of which Hartford responded to with concern. Hartford encouraged faculty and student discussion with the provost in regard to this issue.

VI. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT / CENTER FOR LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE
Barry N. Checkoway presented the mission statement and goals of the Civic Engagement program; Center for Learning Through Community Service, which strives for “strengthening service and learning on campus and in the community.” The handout he presented stated the center’s
mission as such: To engage students and faculty members in a process which combines community service and academic learning in order to promote civic participation, build community capacity, and enhance the educational process. The goals, based upon the mission are as follows:

1. Engage students in learning and leadership through community service and academic study.
2. Enable faculty members to integrate service into teaching and to conduct research responsive to community needs.
3. Develop collaborative partnerships with communities
4. Provide comprehensive educational support for learning through community service.
5. Make genuine contributions to improving the quality of life in communities.

Checkoway stated that civic engagement/participation in democratic society is declining dramatically and he stated that institutions of higher education can contribute by preparing students to become active in society. He proposed three core concepts:
1. Strengthen student learning with service learning.
2. Involving faculty in this process.
3. Building collaborative partnerships and relationships with community.

Checkoway’s presentation sparked much discussion within the committee both in support of promoting civic involvement as well as questioning the role of the university in implementing centrally organized programs.

VII. STUDENT GOVERNANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Representatives of students involved in governance briefly reported on the latest developments within the structure of the current system. MSA President Nagrant stated that a referendum passed to separate the graduate student government from MSA. Damon Fairfield, member of the GaPS, stated that another member, a poly-sci graduate student who recently transferred, had begun research at other universities about this separation of governance between undergraduate and graduate students. Fairfield stated the there was about 98-99% support for an autonomous graduate system and that the relationship between the two is/should be synergistic in nature.

Nagrant stated that MSA passed the child care initiative and were also able to procure the extension of the Hatcher graduate library hours to 2:00 AM. Fairfield questioned the fact that only one of the libraries was extended and there was some discussion about proposing an across the board extension of hours.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Olving called the meeting to adjournment at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tawna M. Dabney, Secretary, Faculty Senate Office