Student Relations Advisory Committee

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Friday, February 4, 2005

Bates Room - Michigan Union U-Club


Guest: C. Stroh (SACUA Office Intern), M. Matney, Student Affairs Research


Comments from chair:

- any revisions to be sent via email to Carl by Sunday
- asked for comments of a substantive nature re: the amendment recommendations (none given)

Presentation of CIRP data

Simone Taylor offered comments to frame the significance and uses for CIRP data. The data provides an overview of the most recent findings on who makes up the UM student body and helps the Division of Student Affairs determine its agenda on how to support students. With regards to the SRAC, this data may be helpful to examine the bigger picture and ask 'so what?'

Melinda Matney introduced the concept of the current student body, known as millenials. The UM data is compared to national trend data and previous years' data. The CIRP data examines any possibility of disconnect between what the literature reports and what the UM CIRP data shows (predictive versus actual). Often, trends occur to and within the UM student population before the rest of the country. Differences in 2002 CIRP data from other data sets is partially due to 2002 being the first data set after 9/11.

Akerlof: What do you think the implications are in this data?

Matney: One implication is that the incoming students have not had the opportunity to author their own experiences like students in the past have.
Taylor: Another implication might be that UM and the Division need to be more deliberate about helping students navigate higher education because students may not have the skills to navigate such a large institution. We also have to be more mindful of the role of parents in higher education and the level of parental involvement in college.

Matney: In many ways we are raising parents while we raise their students. Again, the data may suggest that students are coming to college with fewer independent opportunities and the correlating skill sets.

Taylor: With this information about national trends and our own student, we will ask what we can do to contribute to students’ development. The data and survey gives us an opportunity, as educators, to move them along in their developmental processes.

Meeting adjourned 1:27

Respectfully submitted,

Gabriel C. Javier

SRAC Intern