Minutes of February 14, 2014
Approved Apr 15, 2014

Student Relations Advisory Committee

Minutes of Friday, February 14, 2014
11:30 to 1:30 PM
Welker Room, Michigan Union, University of Michigan

Members Present: David Potter (Chair), Associate Vice President Simone Himbeault Taylor, Jean Krisch, Executive Associate Director Donna Hayward, Dr. Desmond Patton, Dr. Charles Koopman, Ed Rothman, Dr. Nallasivam Palanisamy, Vice President Royster Harper

Absent: Sallye Ramsey, Avery Demond, Alex Rubin, Laurel Ruza, Aparajita Bijipurkar, Kyle Lady, Lisa Low

Guests: Jeremy Keeney (CSG), Julio Cardona (CSG Advisor), Michael Proppe (CSG), Holly Rider-Milovich (SAPAC), Darlene Ray-Johnson (Rackham), Jay Wilgus (OSCR)

Materials Distributed:
Agenda
January Meeting Minutes
NY Times article

Meeting commenced at 11:45 AM.

Chair Potter welcomed everyone to the SRAC meeting. He invited Vice President Royster Harper to share a few updates with the committee.

Vice President Royster Harper shared information about the Graduate Housing Munger Residence Halls and their expected completion for Fall 2015. The foundation is completed and they are working on the programmatic piece with the deans about what Munger could be.

Chair Potter asked if it was possible for those involved to visit peer institutions to see how their graduate housing works because this is an area with many pros/cons. He commented that the concept is great but the execution can be challenging.

Vice President Royster Harper responded by stating that they are working to reduce the cost of this option. She also commented on scholarship opportunities and revisiting with Mr. Munger to see if he can provide more funding. She expounded on this subject by stating that South Quad is currently down but will hopefully re-open in the fall. At the next regents meeting they will be voting on West Quad. Pierpont Commons will be closed starting at Spring Break. They are renovating the café space in order to create a stronger community up on North Campus. She also explained that she is in conversations with BSU and CSG about renovations to the multi-cultural center this summer. The students have expressed an interest in moving the center to Central Campus. Conversations are also continuing with BSU about the issues or demands that were
raised. This conversation is also being had with the faculty senate. Students are galvanizing around these issues and they are meeting weekly trying to understand the issues and needs. Some concerns surround affordable housing and transportation for those who live off campus. They are conducting research on peer institutions surrounding this issue and that about emergency funding. For those students who do not have a disposable income emergencies can cause serious stress on them. The BSU has programmatic funds but they have not been increased since 1987 and they are not enough. The final concern is about the Race and Ethnicity requirement and how it does not meet the needs of the students.

Chair Potter also proposed that there should be further exploration in the way Rackham’s merit fellowships work. Faculty are required to give up a spot to use these fellowships very early in the admission process. This gives the faculty less incentive to use these fellowships because the deadline is so early.

Dr. Desmond Patton commented that this is an important conversation to have because top achievers can get more money to go elsewhere. How can we be competitive when peer institutions can provide more aid?

Vice President Royster Harper agreed and commented that we are also losing top achievers to more prestigious institutions. All of these issues are part of the conversation.

Ed Rothman gave his experience in graduate school and that the barrier for most students was housing. In his experience the university built three graduate dorms that were specifically for graduate students and low cost. He is not sure of the situation here but suggested this might be an option.

Vice President Royster Harper commented that the experience here is similar. She also commented that these are important conversations to be happening and is struck by how many wonderful things come out of student activism. She is hopeful that we will get some positive results from these conversations.

Chair Potter thanked Vice President Royster Harper for her update and moved the committee to the second agenda item. A few members of CSG have proposed off-cycle amendment changes to the statement of students rights and responsibilities. He moved for introductions of the guests and for them to begin. Introductions were made around the table.

Jeremy Keeney thanked the committee for allowing them to come and discuss this issue. CSG is here to first explain why these amendments are appropriate to consider off-cycle, a history and open for discussion. The first reason these amendments are important is due to the fact that the amendment cycle is three years long. CSG approached the OSCR appeals board about this and they gave them more information about how the statement works and became more informed about the amendment process. They want to propose amendments to the structures in place and provided a 2 page summary.

In summary, they propose that all amendments go through CSG before SRAC which would allow concrete student input. They also propose changes to the composition of the OSCR appeals
board to 2 students and 2 faculty. They would also like more access to OSCR records since currently only the chair of SRAC and CSG president have access to these records. They also would like commentary from the University President for why amendments may not be passed.

Chair Potter commented that the issue that arises with this proposal is that a lot of these proposed changes can be adapted by CSG without upsetting the amendment cycle. They are procedural elements within CSG that could be changed.

Jeremy commented that CSG had considered that but felt these needed to be reflected in the Statement.

Jay Wilgus clarified that CSG can make certain changes without incorporating them into off-cycle amendments.

Dr. Desmond Patton commented that there are a mixture, in terms of weight, of these proposed amendments. Some amendments need to be clearer. Also there is a very different importance with changes to the composition of the appeals board and sexual misconduct.

Jeremy asked it if would be helpful to go through each one. Dr. Charles Koopman said it might not be possible with the time frame we have in this meeting. Chair Potter re-iterated his question to them of why it is so pressing that these amendments be made off-cycle? He told the CSG representatives that the committee would consider these amendments and get back to them. This might be something they could discuss next month but he could not promise.

Jay Wilgus told the CSG representatives that the amendment process for the 15/16 year actually starts in 14/15. So if the answer is no, they should keep these in the pipeline for next year.

Vice President Royster Harper raised to the committee that it might be helpful to have some background on some of these things. Ed Rothman agreed and said that it would also be helpful to know what caused this sudden interest in proposing the amendments.

Associate Vice President Simone Himbeault Taylor commented that CSG completely missed the last cycle and wanted to have a chance to propose amendments. Jay also commented that there was a change in administration and the new administration did not meet the deadlines. He agreed that some of these changes could be made internally without forcing off-cycle amendments.

Chair Potter said for the next meeting we can ask them about operational changes that could be made. Vice President Royster Harper said it would be helpful for the board to see where they are coming from and if there was consensus among themselves. Associate Vice President Simone Himbeault Taylor commented that these amendments that CSG brought up today were crafted before discussing with OSCR and SRAC so they were coming from an uninformed place.

Chair Potter thanked the committee for this discussion and turned the floor over to Holly Rider-Milkovich and Darlene Ray-Johnson for introductions and their presentation.
Holly Rider-Milkovich thanked the committee for their time and began by stating she wanted to apprise them of the graduate student training on sexual violence and prevention education. The committee is in the process of crafting the final recommendations so they wanted SRAC’s input. She gave the committee a brief overview of the history behind this proposal.

Holly explained that undergraduates currently get a comprehensive training on sexual violence and prevention, but graduate students are receiving this information in varying levels. The university has created a committee to respond to the new federal mandates around sexual harassment training. The steering committee has come up with a proposal and has expressed a hope that faculty would also receive this training as well.

Darlene Ray-Johnson would like to facilitate SRAC’s feedback on this single online training with additional in person trainings. She asked the committee if there are any other considerations as they move forward.

Dr. Desmond Patton brought up the concern that not all students have access to online environments. Holly responded that this is a challenge that they had to address with the training for undergraduate students so they are working with another office for a reasonable alternative.

Chair Potter commented that very often a GSI will pick-up signs that there has been an issue. Is there anyway this training can be incorporated with the training they are already receiving? CRLT has a training on bystander intervention is this an area for collaboration?

Holly answered that CRLT is excited about this training because it provides a base level training prior to their GSI training. They are excited to collaborate and it would work seamlessly with the CRLT players.

Dr. Desmond Patton asked how this training would address students who are away from campus on school business? Holly answered that this is something they would have to come back to because at first they need a broad level buy in for the training. There is the opportunity to work with a variety of technologies options so whichever program they choose will identify the modules they can use. She commented that by being in front of the curve allows us to be creative and say what we really need from the technology.

Dr. Nallavisam Palanisamy asked when this would be available? Darlene answered that it should be before they arrive on campus and Holly said they are looking for thoughts on when. Dr. Palanisamy offered tat it should be within the first month on campus.

Dr. Charles Koopman highlighted that there are a lot of mandatory trainings for students and they should be careful with how much we make mandatory. Vice President Royster Harper agreed that this is a good point to capture. She also commented how bystander training piece could offer techniques that works over a variety of areas (Race and Ethnicity, sexual assault). This training teaches a set of skills of how one intervenes around issues of social identity, race, gender, sexual misconduct, etc. And this base level skill is important. Dr. Koopman agreed that it should be the goal to look at an integrated program that has it all together.
Chair Potter agreed completely with the previous statements and thinks that is important to think about the lifelong learning component that we can offer students with an umbrella training program. Ed Rothman commented that it would be absolutely essential to find the necessary elements that are part of each training. Holly commented that this is the concept of the CRLT players trainings and how they will need to support the lessons learned in the online training.

Associate Vice President Simone Himbeault Taylor commented that this committee gives a strong faculty voice and if we can do this well it not only gives the by produce of compliance but that we will be invested in educating our students with skills that will benefit them across a variety of areas and throughout their life. Chair Potter agreed and said that the richer the take-away and the more the students buy into the program the better it works.

Vice President Royster Harper commented that we need to land on something that is comprehensive and integrated. Chair Potter responded that it is also important to make it clearer to students that norms on campus are for every situation including when they are representing the university off-campus.

Chair David Potter thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and contributing to the conversation. At this point, he moved the meeting into Executive Session.

The faculty committee moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Submitted by:  
Allie DeFries, SACUA Student Support