Report on the Student Relations Committee:

Meeting of January 26 (sorry, I’m quite late with this).

This meeting was largely taken up by a discussion of the Discrimination/Harrassment (D/H) policy. A new Policy Administrator, Ms. Darlene Ray-Johnson, has been appointed to monitor the actions under the policy. The students reported questions raised by various student groups on the policy. Dr. Roselle Wilson explained the procedures, which strike me as treading the difficult path between responsibility to the two parties rather well. There have been 35 cases reported since the beginning of Fall term 1988, but no real information could be given on them due to the constraints of confidentiality.

The issue of a student code of non-academic conduct was raised again, with the students opposed and VP Johnson noting UM is the only one of the big ten schools without one. The difficulties with the MSA and the Michigan Daily were reviewed, with little sense of how to resolve these. VP Johnson reports no success in bringing MSA to talk with SODC about improving its “credability, responsibility, and effectiveness” as directed by the Regents. MSA is in trouble with the administration and the Regents.

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Meeting of February 23

At the request of a student, this meeting was devoted largely to Security issues. Mr. Leo Heatley, UM Director of Safety was in attendance to present his views on the subject. There are now three separate Security Units on Campus. Heatley’s deals with the campus, and has a total staff of 31 (including 21 uniformed patrol officers); U Hospital has its own with an authorized strength of 63; Housing has its security with a staff of 28. Telecommunications improvements, with 911 incoming calls from campus being electronically identified by source, have greatly helped speed response time. The work load seems staggering: the office received 30,000 dispatches last year, with about 10,000 for crimes – 80% for property crimes. That amounts to almost 30 per day.

Heatley has recommended that his staff be raised to 24 uniformed officers, half of whom should be deputized. Now only Heatley and one other are deputized, by the Washtenaw County Sheriff. He also recommends that the $500,000 we pay to the city for assistance be cut by $1–200,000, and this extra money be used to provide more and better trained security officers. Heatley’s basic argument is that he has the responsibility for campus security, but has no real (police) authority with which to discharge his responsibility. He notes that U Wisc. has its own police force of 168 deputized by the state legislature, meaning that it can call in the state police when necessary. We cannot call in the state police, because our arrangement gives the campus jurisdiction to the Ann Arbor police.

The committee members, including students were supportive of Heatley’s points, indicating to me that they might get more support if they carried the word around a bit more. SACUA is asked to put this on the agenda, and help to make some progress. There was a brief report on information provided to incoming students. It is both high quality and voluminous.

The new Discrimination/Harassment Policy Administrator, Ms. Darlene Ray-Johnson, was introduced. She has received 8 complaints since February 1, mostly of
sexual harassment. One of these has come to a formal hearing.

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Student Relations Committee: Liaison Report for meeting of 3/23/89 (GD Ness 3/27/89)

STUDENT SEXUAL-RACIAL HARASSMENT POLICY. Students have been reporting on reactions they have gained from other student groups on the new harassment policy. UCAR has been vocal in denouncing the policy, suggesting that there are too many levels, and that complaints tend to get shut off at the lowest levels. These complaints have succumbed to evidence presented by the student members, and the new office for policy evaluation staffed by Ms Darlene Ray-Johnson. UCAR members were considered to have a valid complaint in their exclusion from the decisions to have such a policy, but it was also recognized that they had refused to be part of those discussions.

Students recognize the need for follow-up evaluations, and continue discussions of how to undertake such evaluations. We talked about an annual or biannual Quality of Life survey, with the assistance of ISR's SRC, which could include questions about harassment (reported and unreported) and the impact of the new policy.

ORIENTATION Two faculty (Al Meyer and GailAnn Richter) have been considering the orientation process, and wrote a brief evaluation and set of suggestions. Student orientation tends to be overflowing with information. The booklets distributed have been praised for their quality, and one even won a national award. Still, there is concern that more can be done to help students find their way in the big U. SRC will probably invite a representative of the Orientation office for a presentation next year.

SAFETY needs remain critical issues. Students feel a need to have greater inputs. Roselle Wilson pointed out there is a broad, campus-wide Safety Committee that does include all groups.

MEMBERSHIP SRC members were invited to contact SACUA with nominations and suggestions for new members.