Present: Barbara MacAdam, U. Library; Mark DeCamp, UM-Dearborn; Robert Beyer, LS&A; George Estabrook, LS&A; Amy Ellis, MSA; Roy Glover, Medical School; John W. Hagen, LS&A; Ted Hopf, LS&A; Roman Hryciw, Engineering; Jennifer Maher, MSA; Joan McGowan, Dentistry; Charles B. Smith, SACUA; Robert VanHouweling, MSA.

Absent: Maureen Hartford, VP for Student Affairs; Scott Waldbaum, MSA.

Also Attending: Royster Harper, Dean of Students; Cheryl Johnson, SACUA Office.

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Mark DeCamp at 5:20 PM.

Minutes from February 10, 1993 were approved.

Introductions around the table, with a special introduction of the recently appointed member, John Hagen.

Future Agenda Items:

MacAdam requested adding Information Technology Division (ITD) policies into next agenda, citing potential barriers to student access, e.g. Unique names, MTS accounts, procedures, etc.

University Academic Policies

- Withdrawal from a course:
  
  Beyer brought to the attention of the Committee that in order for a student to drop a course after the allotted time in LSA, the student must receive signed permission from the professor. He found this policy unreasonable and abusive to students, and suggest that the students should be able to decide themselves whether or not to withdraw. A counter argument against total student autonomy suggested it could result in students dropping right before the final exam which may lead to a loss of many students in a course around the final exam. MacAdam pointed out that the policy, like those regarding plagiarism, were currently the prerogative of the schools and colleges. McGowan noted that in the School of Dentistry, the board wants to know why a student is withdrawing from a course because students must follow a certain course sequence in order to graduate. Smith reported that when a student is applying to Medical School with a course withdrawal on his/her transcript, the student most likely will not get accepted. Hagen pointed out that the withdrawal system in LSA is more flexible than had been implied. Estabrook stated that the decision to withdraw from a course is not trivially arrived or in an irresponsible manner by the student since the result is a "W" on the transcript. Students will take their time deciding and the more support a student gets from the University in making a difficult decision like this, more comfortable the student will feel with making this adult decision. Students shouldn't have to go to their professors for a signature. If they want to talk to the professor about it, it is their responsibility and prerogative to do so. Beyer added that students have been abused by this system, they are scared and ashamed to drop a class and have to
cleaning up the diag after their rally to defer some costs. Harper pointed out that there is a tab to be picked up and someone has to cover it. Someone cited a Supreme Court decision requiring that all fees charged before an event have to be nominal and equitable in order to be content neutral.

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 14, 1993, 5-7 PM, Welker Room, Michigan Union

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM