THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting – 15 March 2002

Members Present: Alphonse Burdi (chair), Frank Cianciola, Gary Faerber, Barbara MacAdam, Rich Mayk, Pete Podein, Karen Reiman-Sendi, Simone H. Taylor, Margaret Terpenning, Jane Leu (staff)

Members Absent: Brian Coppola, Royster Harper, Colin Heitzmann, Jong-Jin Kim, Patricia King, Melissa Mercer, Nichole Pinkard

Guest(s): Carol Boyd, Director, Substance Abuse Research Center and Professor of Nursing and Women’s Studies
Sean McCabe, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Substance Abuse Research Center
Yolanda Campbell, Program Manager, Health Services General Operations
Patrice Flax, Alcohol and Other Drugs Campus Initiatives Coordinator

Chair Burdi opened the meeting at 12:05 pm and warmly welcomed the guests and members in attendance. Following a round of introductions, Professor Burdi indicated that Vice President Harper was unable to participate in the meeting today but Frank and Simone would fully convey to her the issues discussed. Professor Burdi also encouraged the members to attend the meetings of the University Senate and Senate Assembly on Monday, March 18.

The minutes of 11 January were approved as submitted. The minutes of 8 February as changed by Linda Gillum and Lester Monts were reviewed and approved. The agenda for today’s meeting was approved.

Carol Boyd and Sean McCabe presented interesting and timely results of the 2001 Student Life Survey at U of M compared with results of the 1999 Student Life Survey and an earlier 1993 study. The abuse of alcohol and other drugs has been the number one public health problem for colleges and universities for some time and national studies since 1999 projected increased abuse of several drugs in 2001. University of Michigan has been proactive in determining the prevalence of alcohol and other drug use on campus as well as developing and evaluating prevention and intervention efforts. The
The 2001 survey was conducted through the internet and through US mail to randomly selected samples of 3,500 undergraduates each. The response rate for the web-based mode (64%) was significantly higher than the US mail mode (40%). The overall response rate was 52% or 3,606 undergraduate respondents completing at least two-thirds of the survey. The results of the survey have been helpful to various academic units, administrators, Student Affairs, University Housing, DPS, University Health Services, and Counseling and Psychological Services.

Alcohol was the most often used drug among undergraduate students at U of M, with 86% reporting alcohol use in the past year and 86% reporting that alcohol use represents a problem on campus. Other drug use reported includes marijuana (33% reported use in the past year), nicotine (23% reported smoking cigarettes in the past month), and ecstasy (7% reported use in the past year compared to 4% in 1999). Binge drinking was defined as having 5 or more drinks in a row for men in the last two weeks or 4 or more drinks in a row for women in the last two weeks. The overall rate of binge drinking among undergraduate students was 50%. Undergraduate women increased significantly in binge drinking from 1999 (42%) to 2001 (51%). Binge drinking was reported by 76% of undergraduate students living in fraternities and sororities, and 38% of undergraduate men living in social fraternities engaged in drunk driving in the past year. Among the 23% of students who binge drank 3 or more times in the past two weeks, 39% reported being hurt or injured after drinking in the past year compared to 3% of students who did not engage in heavy episodic drinking. Overall, 27% of undergraduate students experienced an unwanted sexual advance by someone drunk or high in the past year (34% women and 16% men). Overall, 47% of undergraduate students took care of someone drunk in the past year and 41% of students found vomit in the past year. Riding as a passenger with a drunk driver was reported by 23% of the undergraduates. There was less drinking among students residing in substance free residence hall rooms. Students living in substance-free rooms also experienced significantly fewer primary consequences (e.g., getting hurt or injured as a result of drinking) and fewer secondary consequences (e.g., sleep disturbances and vandalism).

Actual binge drinking is engaged in by 50% of the undergraduates, but there was some discrepancy in the estimate of binge drinking behavior with 39% of students estimating higher binge drinking behavior and 38% underestimating the amount of binge drinking. Overall, 60% of the undergraduates reported having a hangover in the past year. Specifically, 85% of those living in fraternities or sororities, 70% of those living in a house or apartment in Ann Arbor, and 46% of those living in residence halls reported having a hangover in the past year. Missing a class due to drinking varied with type of living arrangement. The overall rate was 27%, in contrast to 50% of those in fraternities or sororities and 17% of those in residence halls.

Chair Burdi then asked, now that you have shown the prevalence of use among undergraduate students, what is the action plan for the U of M campus? Professor Faerber suggested linking some feedback to the survey. Yolanda Campbell mentioned National Alcohol Screening Day efforts. Simone H. Taylor indicated that the Provost had provided funding for the effort to look at a comprehensive intervention from
examining the root problems and going from there as a community to identify interventions and over time assess the effectiveness of interventions. Patrice Flax has begun such work from a placement in the Health Services.

Patrice Flax then presented the Comprehensive Campus Alcohol and Other Drugs Program she is coordinating.

Patrice shared the Spring 1999 Binge Drinking Committee Report Recommendations and the Spring 2000 Task Team on Alcohol and Other Drugs Report. Since she was hired in October 2001 Patrice has been building collaborative relationships with departments across campus (e.g., Housing, Greek Life, Michigan Union Arts & Programs, Office of New Student Programs (ONSP), Student Activities & Leadership, DPS, OSCR, SAPAC, and Inter Group Relations). She has also been interacting with students in a variety of ways: IGR discussion groups with fraternity and sorority members on alcohol use in the Greek community, meetings with the student organization Promote Alcohol Responsibility Through You (PARTY), and presentations to various student leadership groups. Patrice has connected with campus representatives from the Prevention Network in the Michigan Department of Community Health and with other professionals at the US Department of Education annual conference on alcohol and other drugs.

Patrice’s goals for the next academic year (2002-2003) are to reduce risky drinking and other drug abuse, and the secondary effects, by:

I. Providing central coordination and leadership
   A. Develop project identity and awareness campaign
   B. Create campus/community coalition
   C. Monitor alcohol, tobacco and other drug trends on campus and respond accordingly
   D. Review policies and prepare biannual federal report
   E. Identify gaps in prevention, intervention and treatment of AOD issues on campus;
   F. Seek additional funding

II. Facilitating development of new initiatives targeting high risk groups and behaviors (first year students in residence halls, first and second year Greek Life students, Korean students, and students celebratory drinking for 21st birthday and other events)
   A. Late night/alcohol free programming
   B. IGR discussion group projects
   C. Student community organizing efforts
   D. Curriculum infusion
   E. Education and awareness programs and projects

Patrice reported that there is funding from the Michigan Department of Community Health from March 2002 to October 2002 for student staff to work with Housing, UAC, and ONSP, student events for late night alternative activities during September 2002, residence hall event activities, and printed materials for parents and incoming students.
The funded activities for academic year 2002-2003 are:

1) Student staff to work with Housing, Greek Life, and the Korean student community,
2) Student event funding for late night alternative activities, and
3) Web site design and development.

Chair Burdi thanked the guests for the interesting presentations and asked if they had a magic wand to move efforts along, what would they want? Patrice indicated she would like more faculty involvement in assisting students in addressing alcohol and other drug use problems. Chair Burdi indicated SRAC would remain interested in helping in appropriate ways.

After indicating Melissa Mercer (who unavoidably could not attend the meeting) would be updating SRAC on her work regarding graduate student health insurance issues at our April meeting, Chair Burdi opened the floor to SRAC student members Rich Mayk and Pete Podein to present emerging initiatives and issues in our student communities. Rich reported that students who are here for only four years want to see results or know that change is coming from their efforts. Together they reviewed the March 2002 MSA report to Interim President White, the Regents, and Executive Officers. This year MSA under the leadership of Matt Nolan and Jessica Cash increased efforts to inform the campus and educate the University community about the Assembly. MSA also focused on addressing the concerns students raised, rather than individual representative issues. By working with the faculty and administration MSA was successful in establishing a fall break and expanding the CCRB and NCRB hours. MSA is planning to propose changes to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities for the 2002 amendment cycle that were crafted in work with the Office of Student Conflict and Resolution. They sincerely hope the University will accept the proposed changes. Unrelated to “Statement” matters, student “life” issues still needing to be advanced are:

- Athletic tickets (top priority for students in purchase of tickets, more affordable options for students to purchase athletic tickets and an option to purchase single game hockey or basketball tickets)
- Building hours (expanded hours for the libraries, Michigan Union, and other buildings)
- Information Technology (increased access to Wolverine Access and more course materials available online)
- Office space (over 1000 student groups but only 50 student organization offices)
- Pass/Fail deadline extension beyond the Drop/Add deadline
- Regental Student Liaison Committee
University committee representation (more student members on every committee)

Rich and Pete summarized the central theme as enhanced student access to resources. Chair Burdi thanked Rich and Pete for their efforts and for their solid linkage of SRAC with MSA.

Thanking all for their attendance and contributions, Chair Burdi formally closed the meeting at 1:30 pm and invited committee members to let him know of their suggestions for future agenda items.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted,

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