Student Relations Advisory Committee

Minutes of 12 April 2002
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Student Relations Advisory Committee (SRAC)

Minutes of Meeting – 12 April 2002

Members Present: Alphonse Burdi (chair), Frank Cianciola, Colin Heitzmann, Patricia King, Rich Mayk, Pete Podein, Karen Reiman-Sendi, Simone H. Taylor, Jane Leu (staff)

Members Absent: Brian Coppola, Gary Faerber, Royster Harper, Jong-Jin Kim, Barbara MacAdam, Melissa Mercer, Nichole Pinkard, Margaret Terpenning

Guest(s): Malinda Matney, Research Division, Office of Student Affairs
          Keith Elkin, Director, Office of Student Conflict Resolution

Chair Burdi called the meeting to order at 12:06 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 indicated Margaret Terpenning and Barbara MacAdam had alerted him they were unable to participate today.

The minutes of 15 March were approved as submitted. The agenda for today’s meeting was approved.

Associate Vice President Simone Himbeault Taylor gave brief updates for Vice President Harper on the search for Dean of Students and the search for Ombudsman. Both positions had robust applicant pools. Telephone interviews of initial selections were underway and then campus interviews of finalists would be scheduled. She also indicated that Professor Burdi was participating in the search for an Associate Director of the Office for Student Conflict Resolution. The goal is to have all positions filled during the Spring/Summer. Professor King wondered what role SRAC might play in the searches. Simone indicated she would explore adding an SRAC component to the on-campus interviews, and that SRAC members were encouraged to participate in the public session of the on-campus interviews.
Professor Burdi informed SRAC of his short report to SACUA about committee issues and passed out a copy of the material he distributed to SACUA members. He noted the value of fostering strong links of student representatives and their constituencies, and the beneficial impact of participation by Frank Cianciola and Simone Himbeault Taylor. Professor Burdi also mentioned that representation from the Greek system could be beneficial in discussing some of the issues regarding student life.

Professor Burdi then introduced Dr. Malinda Matney to present Snapshots of Our Students: Evolving trends in entering student characteristics. The University of Michigan has participated in the national Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) since 1993 with administration of the survey during orientation. The 2001 participation rate at U of M was 95%. Dr. Matney presented the 2001 University of Michigan results for academic engagement compared to those of all entering students in the national study and compared to students from public highly selective institutions. 84% of UM entering students reported average high school grades of A, in contrast to 40% of all entering students nation-wide, and 72% of those entering public highly selective institutions. UM entering students have taken more AP courses and AP exams. The top five majors of our entering students are engineering (19.0%), business (16.0%), health professional (11.4%), undecided (10.6%), and biological sciences (7.1%). She also shared the gender difference.

Top Five Majors by Sex

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<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Prof.</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Tech.</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Poli Sci</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Profession</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.4%</td>
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The top factors for choosing University of Michigan:

- UM has a good academic reputation (89.1%)
- UM’s graduates get good jobs (75.9%)
- UM’s graduates go to top graduate/professional schools (61.2%)
- UM has a good social reputation (38.4%)
· Ranking in national magazines (32.5%)
· Wanted to go to a school the size of UM (24.0%)

Dr. Matney reported that our entering students expect to participate in volunteer action in the community to a lesser extent while in college than they did while in high school. With respect to political orientation of UM entering students, those self-identifying as conservative has remained fairly steady since 1995, while there has been a slight increase in those identifying as liberal (and a corresponding decrease in those identifying as middle of the road).

Dr. Matney indicated that University of Michigan entering male and female test scores and grades are equivalent, yet UM women are about 20% less confident in their mathematics ability than UM men.

With respect to tobacco and alcohol use, UM women are increasing in smoking behavior and the beer drinking by UM men and women is declining at the time of entrance over the last few years. UM women report more consumption of wine and liquor than UM men, and conversely, UM men report more beer drinking than UM women. Roughly 40% of UM entering students in 2001 reported not drinking beer, wine, or liquor. This is an increase from roughly 35% reporting not drinking beer, wine, or liquor in 1996.

The data show gender differences on career aspirations of entering students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Exec</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Roughly 42% of UM entering students in 2001 aspire to completion of a Master’s degree, another 23% aspire to completion of a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or Ed.D.), and another 16% aspire to completion of a medical/dental/veterinary degree. Roughly 10% aspire to completion of a bachelor’s degree, another 9% aspire to completion of a law degree, and another 0.3% to a divinity degree.

The top goals of UM students are:

· Raise a family 72.8%
· Be very well off financially 72.8%
· Become an authority in my own field 62.2%
· Help others in difficulty 58.3%
· Obtain recognition from colleagues for contributions to my field 52.1%
· Develop a meaningful philosophy of life 51.9%
· Keep up to date with politics 40.1%

The committee is interested to see if next year’s entering class will be more interested in keeping up to date with politics—what will be the effect of September 11?

The Committee expressed appreciation for the presentation and the research being done within the Division of Student Affairs. The final discussion regarding the presentation revolved around the longitudinal use of this research. Professor King asked what longitudinal studies are being done with this information. Dr. Matney stated that the information from this study is being used as baseline data for a number of other studies across the campus. Professor King asked if a similar cohort-wide survey is administered at the end of the students’ undergraduate careers, and Dr. Matney stated that at this time that such a survey is not happening. Professor King asserted the need for such a survey to be added to the current work of the Division of Student Affairs.

Professor Burdi then turned to Keith Elkin for a review of the procedures for amending the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the role of SRAC in the process. All proposals for amending the Statement should be prepared prior to November 1 and submitted (in hard copy and electronic copy) to SACUA for transmission to the SRAC Chair by Thanksgiving Break. The SRAC review period for amendment proposals is December 1 to the January meeting date. SRAC consults with proposers, VPSA, OSCR, and MSA as needed and appropriate. SRAC posts the amendment proposals on the SRAC web site, which employs a mechanism for the SRAC Chair to electronically receive responses and suggestions on the proposals from the University community at large between December 1 and two weeks prior to the January meeting. The SRAC Chair distributes the responses to SRAC, the proposer, MSA, and OSCR one week prior to the January meeting. The SRAC Chair invites the proposer, MSA, and OSCR to the January meeting. In January SRAC meets to discuss the amendment proposal(s). The spirit of openness on this campus suggests that whenever possible meetings should be kept open. Hence all SRAC meetings will be open unless there is a need to seek legal counsel or other reasonable and previously articulated purpose for an executive session. All votes will be taken and recorded in an open forum. SRAC determines their decisions by a majority vote. At the option of dissenters, a minority vote and report may be attached to the rationale(s) of the majority. By the fourth week in March the SRAC Chair sends the recommendations to the VPSA. The SRAC Chair also sends the recommendations to the proposer, MSA, General Counsel, and OSCR. The VPSA sends them to the President within 10 working days of receipt. The final decision on amending the Statement is the President’s. The President reviews
the proposals and the SRAC recommendations and approves or disapproves of the amendment changes. The President provides a written response to the proposer and to the SRAC Chair and copies the VPSA, the MSA President, General Counsel, and the Director of OSCR. Notification to the campus community is the responsibility of the Office of Student Conflict Resolution in consultation with General Counsel. OSCR will revise the Statement to reflect the change(s) and will notify all student, Executive Officers, Academic Deans, DSA, Athletics, DPS, and other departments on campus.

Thanking all for their attendance and contributions, Chair Burdi formally closed the meeting at 1:40 pm.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted,

Jane Leu, Ph.D.

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