THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Office of the Vice President
for Student Services
3084 Fleming Administration
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1340
(313) 764-5132

MINUTES
Student Relations Committee Meeting
Friday, April 12, 1991

Present: Harvey Bertcher (Social Work), Chair; Anna Babbitt (VP Guest); Ken Bartlett (MSA Rep.); Robert Beyer (Biology); Alan Billings (Music); Linda Lee Daniel (Nursing); Tim Darr (MSA Budget Priorities and Guest); Walter Debler (Engineering, SACUA Rep.); Mark DeCamp (UM-Dearborn); Cathy DiMercurio (VP Guest); Roy Glover (Anatomy); James Green (MSA Pres. and Guest); Eunice Royster Harper (Assoc. VP); Murray Jackson (Education); Andrew Kanfer (MSA Treasurer and Guest); Don Kewman (Medical School); Jonathan Line (MSA Rep.); Cindy Straub (SODC Director and Guest).

Soup and salad lunch followed by a business meeting.

Introductions:

Harvey Bertcher, Chair, introduced himself and had all SRC members and guests around the table introduce themselves. Applause and congratulations followed James (Jamie) Green's introduction as the new MSA President.

Minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with one correction: page 2, paragraph 4, sentence 4 should read "Roy explained that the medical school students have significant input into the decision making process at the Medical School, that they might not always be happy with decisions but they provided a lot of input and have a huge impact, and their percentage of voters in elections is much higher than the 18% Jennifer had mentioned earlier."

Comments from the Chair:

Harvey mentioned the mentoring letter that most of the faculty received from VP Swain this past week; an idea she first brought to the SRC last fall. Faculty are being asked to mentor five freshmen undergraduate students on a voluntary basis. He hopes faculty will volunteer. Eunice Royster Harper stated that the response has been wonderful so far. (Recorder's note: Anyone interested in the program may contact Pat Soellner Younce at 747-2606 or 764-7420.)

Ken Bartlett, MSA representative to SRC, was commended for his diligent attendance.
between the Assembly (Senate) and the agency of student government." He also cited some issues the SRC has already voiced opinions about: To do away with all drugs, alcohol and smoking on campus, and to say "no" to a proposed code of academic conduct a few years ago. The SRC is a direct line to the Vice President.

Proposal 3: "Regental liaison" committee

This is a direct student link to the Regents. It was mentioned that this appears that the students are trying to formalize our current Open Comments portion of the monthly Regents meetings. Cindy Straub said there are a couple of Big 10 universities that have 15-30 minute sessions where the president of the student body, or their delegate, presents a "State of the Student" report, sort of formalizing a student pipeline to the Regents on a consistent basis. Having the president of MSA on the monthly agenda would be one way of having better communication.

Proposal 4: The creation of a Student Regent

A student regent at the University of Arizona, had explained to Johnathan that his position is basically a non-voting, consulting position they've had there since 1972. This person voices the students' needs directly to the Regents for discussion. This has lead to many positive decisions and seems to make all sides happy with the outcomes. An example was cited when the student body was "up in arms" about higher tuition and budget cuts. Because of the student regent's input and communication, they arrived at a plan that was acceptable to all. The appointment of a student regent was done by a legislative process through the State government but we did not find out how this person is selected/elected. U of AZ experience little or no "protests" there.

To have a student regent at UM, the Regents would have to decide to have this position and permit this person to have a major role in the decision making process; part of the structure of the constitution would need to be changed. Some SRC members felt this might be the right time for something like this to happen, that students need to have a legal voice, not just a loud one. Again, there was discussion as to how to best select/elect this person and Johnathan stressed that the student regent would need to be a student who is really interested in student concerns.

Harvey thanked Johnathan for all the hard work he'd done and said how very impressed he was that he had contacted some of the Regents and the other universities. He also stated he hopes this committee maintains an interest in this issue, as it is part of our job.

May Agenda:

This discussion will continue at the May meeting. In addition, there will be a report from Vice President Swain about the restructure of Students Services that is currently underway. Bob also suggested that SRC focus some attention on evaluating its own activities for the 1990-91 year.

Next meeting:

The next SRC meeting will be on Friday, May 17, 1991, noon-2:00 p.m., Michigan Union, Welker Room. A light lunch will be served.