In attendance: Teresa Satterfield (Chair), Royster Harper, Simone Himbeault Taylor, Catherine Benamou, Peter Borock, Gregg Gunnell, Annette Haines, Joe Himle, Charles Koopmann, Leo McAfee, Brett Seabury, Perry Teicher, Monique Ward, Tim Wiggins

Absent: Carl Akerlof, Susan Hollar

Guests: Julie Peterson, Associate Vice President for Media Relations 
Office of the Vice President for Communications 
Casie Shapiro, Vice Chair Academic Affairs Commission 
Michigan Student Assembly

Staff: India McHale

I. Welcome
The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. by Chair Satterfield.

II. Consideration of March 10, 2006 Minutes
A motion was made and seconded for approval of the March 2006 SRAC minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. "Michigan Civil Rights Initiative" Ballot Proposal
Julie Peterson, Associate Vice President for Media Relations, shared background about the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI) including the public affairs and legal context. MCRI, if passed, would be binding and, therefore, would not allow for the consideration of race, gender, ethnicity or national origin in public employment, public education or public contracting by the state and its universities.

The MCRI campaign is led by Ward Connerly of California, who is able to put large amounts of money into this campaign. On the other hand, the university may not use any of its resources to campaign against the initiative due to campaign finance laws.

However, the institution can initiate educational conversations about MCRI, as long as such conversations could be considered part of regular university
activities. More information about MCRI may be found on the "Michigan Focus" link on the UM home page: http://www.umich.edu/news/index.html?Releases/2006/May06/ballot_proposals

One of the key points people should understand, according to Julie Peterson, is that MCRI is about more than race and admissions, but includes employment, financial aid, programming and gender.

The University of Michigan and other concerned parties have suspicions about the dramatic implications of MCRI because it is modeled after California's proposition 209, which was approved by California voters in 1996. Julie Peterson cited a paper produced by the Center for the Education of Women (http://cew.umich.edu/PDFs/MCRI.pdf) and the 2005 Nancy Cantor lecture delivered by Richard Atkinson, former president of the University of California system (http://www.diversity.umich.edu/futuring/cantor.pdf).

Other discussion included how proposition 209 has had an adverse impact on diverse student enrollments at California's most selective universities, the signature collection for petitioning to put MCRI on the upcoming ballot, reasons why voters might consider voting for MCRI, possible links between MCRI discussion and the public debate on immigration, and the need for students to use their voices in this debate.

See attachments for further information.

IV. MSA Student Textbook Initiative
Casie Shapiro, Vice Chair of the Michigan Student Assembly's Academic Affairs Commission, along with students Muhammad Dar and Jon Koller, shared information about MSA's textbook initiative and sought formal support from SRAC. (See attached.) Because of the burden of textbooks costs, MSA is seeking to have faculty submit booklists that could be published on the web prior to the beginning of the semester, thus allowing students to comparison shop for books. After discussing a variety of logistical challenges that may arise in collecting this information from faculty, SRAC voted to unanimously support this initiative.

V. Graduate Student Representation on SRAC
Chair Satterfield expressed a need for graduate student representation on SRAC. SRAC voted to dedicate a student slot to a graduate student. SACUA staff member India McHale will follow-up on how this slot should be assigned and how it will effect the composition of SRAC.

VI. Closing Remarks
Chair Satterfield thanked SRAC for a productive year. Vice President Harper thanked Chair Satterfield for her leadership. Additionally, Joe Himle and Gregg Gunnell were thanked for their years of service to SRAC.
The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.