Student Relations Committee  
Friday, April 17, 1992  
MINUTES

Present: Harvey Bertcher, Social Work; Maureen Hartford, VP Student Affairs; Nancy Baker, Silver Wings Society; Ede Fox, President MSA; Roman Hryciw, College of Engineering; Scott Waldbaum, MSA Rep; Robert Beyer, Biology; Don Kewman, PMR; Murray Jackson, Education; Roy Glover, Anatomy; Todd Ochoa, MSA/Student, Mark DeCamp, UM-Dearborn; Ken Bartlett, former MSA Rep.

Guest: Daniel Holliman, Political Science

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by Harvey Bertcher.

Introductions around the table.

Minutes were approved.

The two agenda items for topic of discussion at this meeting were as follows:

1. VP Hartford's letter concerning student actions at the February 19-20, 1992 Regent's meetings.

2. How students are involved in the decision making process and how this can be improved. We planned to discuss the idea of a Students/Regents Advisory Committee.

The following points were made during discussion:

1. In discussing Agenda item #1, Dan Holliman gave illustrations of differential negative treatment toward students and faculty of color:
   a) ISP Scholar Students (incoming freshman) stopped as they were "perceived" as a gang.
   b) Faculty member detained, "perceived" as a suspect.
   c) Students going through Engineering Arch asked for IDs when returning video equipment, then followed by a police patrol car through Diag.
   d) Tear gassing incident at South Quad.
e) Silence of the University's administration when they should have protested these and similar incidents.

2. Students of color perspective that the administration is not sensitive to their needs, and that students of color are stereotyped.

3. Dan Holliman's opinion that Vice President Hartford's letter to the Daily was perceived as an attack on students of color, even though she had not used that language. The committee discussed the issues raised by Mr. Holliman, as summarized below:

The University should not defer to Ann Arbor police; Student organizations should work together on issues of racial harassment; The importance of honesty in communication between administration and students was stressed.

Discussion then turned to Agenda item #2, dealing with ways of getting early student input with regard to major issues at the University, and establishing mechanisms to accomplish this:

1. MSA was asked to take the leadership to create a cross campus committee that would serve in an advisory capacity to Regents through the Vice President for Student Affairs. It was noted that informal contacts with individual Regents had indicated their willingness to work with such a committee. (Note: Include students from Dearborn and Flint)

2. Student Regent
   It was noted that this committee had learned that the University of Arizona has a student regent that is appointed by the Governor for a one year term (the Governor makes the selection from a pool of students submitted from the student government). Selections are made on a rotating basis from the three campus sites. As reported previously in SRC's minutes Perry Bullard's office had discovered that this is not a possibility in Michigan at this time as it would require a change in the state constitution.

3. In addition to the faculty position at the University, Murray Jackson is also a member of the Board of Governors (counterpart to our Regents) at Wayne State University.
He responded that the Board uses several standing committees to do much of its work, and that these committees have faculty and student members, who vote to recommend approval of a host of proposals. The final vote on matters is by the Board, meeting without faculty or students present, but that the proposals of the standing committee are usually approved. This suggests a different format than the student committee (referred to above) that would be advisory to the Regents.

4. Increase input at many levels and not just at final vote:
   a) Role of MSA to contact student organizations for broader base and more power if working together. (Note: take other student members from organizations and not just the presidents.)
   b) MSA could take on role of recommendation of student representatives to administration for committee assignments.

The meeting concluded with expressions of "thank you" to the entire committee for their work during the year and a special mention of the active participation of Professor Harvey Bertcher as chairperson. See you Fall Term! Have a great summer!

Meeting adjourned at 2:00.