Student Relations Advisory Committee

Friday, October 1, 2004
Bates Room- Michigan Union
12:00-1:30


Absent: C. Benamou, C. Kooperman, L. McAfee, M. Rosenthal, T. Mann, C. Davidson, R. Kohen,

Guests: Keith Elkin, Director, Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR); Gwyn Hulswit, Assoc. Dir., OSCR

I. Meeting Called to Order: 12:24 pm

• Akerlof welcomed new and returning committee members
  o Akerlof mentioned that two major issues that he foresaw were housing, and MSA’s proposed amendments to the Student Statement

II. Introduction of new members

• New committee members, followed by returning committee members, introduced themselves

III. Statement Review – K. Elkin

• Introduction of OSCR- primary role is to educate and uphold community values
• Elkin presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Student Statement Review Process and History
  o this cycle is the third review cycle since the Statement was authored
  o the SRAC is designated to give advice and recommendations concerning amendments for approval
  o refer to timeline
• Questions/Comments:
  o A. Haines: Does the office deal with cheating or plagiarism?
    • academic misconduct is handled by individual schools
  o Akerlof: What does OSCR anticipate concerning proposed amendments to the statement?
• OSCR works closely with MSA, but a better idea of proposed amendments will arise in the near future. MSA does have ideas for amendments, but OSCR does not yet have any specifics.

• Elkin mentioned previous suggestions for the formation of a SRAC subcommittee to review amendments
  • Akerlof responded that SRAC may, in the future, discuss the formation of a subcommittee

• Last cycle there were 7 proposed changes, and before that, approx. 85 proposed changes.
  o Elkin does not anticipate that previously rejected amendments will be re-proposed.
  o S. Himbeault Taylor mentioned that the Civil Liberties Board of SACUA as well as the Executive officers may also propose amendments to the Student Statement
  o J. Zorn: Is hazing an issue addressed by the Statement?
    • The statement does have a section on hazing
    • S Eklund: there are currently two efforts concerning hazing in the works: (1) the new MI state law concerning hazing is being compared to UM policies by the General Counsel to see if the UM policies need to be amended, the Statement, in regards to hazing, applies to individuals and not organizations; concurrently (2) soon there will the announcement/appointment of an advisory committee on Student Organization Recognition. This committee will establish a framework for all aspects of student organization contact and University interaction. From that committee there will be statements regarding expectations for Organizational behavior which will include hazing.
      • Clarification of issue (Eklund): There is the assumption that organizations and activities add value to the college experience and the students have the right to associate as they please. Some organizations seek benefits with affiliating with the University, and out of these benefits also arise expectations. Currently, MSA has authority to register, organizations. There are no limits to what a student group may represent, but the group cannot condone illegal activity.
      • M. Gold: This is an issue critical to student life and therefore should include SRAC, either directly with the committee, or by reviewing the Student Organization recognition and review process along with SOAR.
      • Elkund invited any interested members of SRAC to join the committee. SRAC will certainly be used as a resource.

IV. Overview of Division of Student Affairs Items – R. Harper

• Review of DSA Missions Statement and areas of concentration
• Refer to handouts and PowerPoint Presentation
• DSA major challenge: to be clear about the work that we do and how that work complements academics
• Several DSA campaigns are occurring, including "Take A Stand Against Sexual Violence," "Great Fans Behave Greatly" and "See Through the Haze." Posters, literature and flyers concerning these campaigns are placed strategically throughout campus. The "conversation" concerning Greek Life that began last term is being addressed this year within the larger framework of all organizations.

V. Call for Agenda Items – Mr. Akerlof

• Review of how the University addresses Student Organizations
• Housing (November)

Meeting adjourned at 1:39pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriel C. Javier

SRAC Student Intern