Student Relations Committee
Revised Minutes
October 10, 1997

I. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE
PRESENT: Damon Fairfield, Martin Gold, Maureen Hartford, Barbara MacAdam (left 12:50), Gerhard Olving (chair), Susan Pritzel, Phylis Valentine, Leigh Woods (arrived 1:20)

Chair Olving called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES--5/2/97
We forgot to approve the minutes and will do it next meeting.

III. DISTRIBUTED MATERIALS
Off campus housing literature was distributed as an example of what resources are available for students.

IV. LIVING/LEARNING PROGRAMS
Hartford updated the committee on the progress of the proposals for new and revised Living Learning Centers. There are approximately eight proposals due in November. Olving suggested the committee discuss these reports further at the December meeting. He also suggested inviting Nancy Cantor, Lester Lawrence and Bill Zeller to this meeting. The committee discussed the cost implications and some logistical concerns regarding the Living Learning Centers. These topics were deferred to the December meeting.

V. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Hartford introduced the term ‘Civic Engagement’ as an alternative to community service. She updated the committee on funding opportunities for faculty and students. Possible incentives to get more people involved include faculty grants and incorporating civic engagement into coursework. The committee discussed these opportunities and their implications on faculty, students and community members as well.

VI. ALCOHOL/FRATERNITY RUSH
The committee continued its discussion of alcohol abuse on campus. Hartford noted the recent deaths at other universities and a Harvard study that rated UM as a high binge drinking school. The committee questioned what type of research and other efforts are being done to help to eliminate these problems. Hartford said that the current substance abuse programs are not geared towards 18 to 22 year olds, where the problem lies. Woods and Gold noted that the mentality of students is to party on weekends, and that fraternities and alcohol are most widely associated with that mentality. Hartford suggested that we need greater awareness of our students drinking habits, and that we should provide alternatives to binge drinking. She said that students have suggested holding parties at the U-Club with live bands and a social, safe atmosphere where alcohol could be served to those of legal drinking age. One of the main complaints from students
is a lack of alternatives to drinking during prime socializing hours, 10 p.m. to 2:30 am. The committee discussed holding a meeting with fraternity representatives to discuss this issue further and get more student opinions and suggestions.

VII. DIVERSITY
Hartford reported news from the Provost’s office that a graduate student has been hired to conduct independent survey research concerning diversity among university students. She also suggested developing a program where interested student groups could conduct their own telephone/computer surveys using university resources. She suggested cooperation between MSA, university offices and student groups inorder to achieve success with this program. Gold showed concern about the amount of research being done on this subject and how the results would be put to use. He feels that the current situation, supporting only a half-time researcher is inefficient and that University resources should be made available to this researcher. Gold also suggested that the data from this research be centralized and made available to faculty. Hartford iterated that these studies are essential to faculty for planning course curriculum.

VIII. STUDENT CODE
Hartford corrected a misassumption that the Student Code was to be reviewed in April 1998. The actual review date is currently set for January 1999. This prompted a discussion of what types of actions the SRC should take prior to this review. Everyone agreed on discussing this issue further at one of the spring meetings.

IX. STUDENT GOVERNANCE
Gold demonstrated concern about the lack of student participation in the student government. The committee discussed this problem along with possibilities to get more students involved with MSA and student government. Hartford noted that the on-line voting opportunity in the most recent election greatly increased voter turnout. Gold suggested there be more organized opportunities for students to voice their concerns. He suggested having more students represented on committees and providing students with information resources about MSA and other governing organizations. The committee discussed holding meetings with representatives from Rackham and MSA inorder to further discuss this issue and work towards getting more students involved.

X. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Olving called the meeting to adjournment at 2:20 p.m.