Student Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
October 12, 1990

Present:
Name
Harvey Bertcher, Chair; Robert Beyer, Alan Billings, Walter Debler, Mark DeCamp, Cathy DiMercurio, Roy Glover, Don Kewman, Mary Ann Swain, Roselle Wilson

I. Introduction of Committee members

II. Review of minutes:
There was a further discussion of the hash bash. Some faculty noted that while smoking is a problem, the hash bash may be a calmer activity than other celebratory events (e.g., after basketball championship)

Dr. Swain noted that the Drug Free Schools Act by the Federal Government, to guarantee illegal use of drugs & alcohol on campus, creates an enforcement problem for University of Michigan during the hash bash. Some faculty noted that marijuana can be an entree into other drug cultures.

The minutes were approved with corrections to the following names: Walter Debler, Roy Glover, and Sonya Shah

III. Setting of Future Agenda

1) Harvey Grotrian, Director, Office of Financial Aid, will attend a future meeting to answer financial aid questions.

IV. Discussion of Mentoring
Dr. Swain opened the discussion by noting that mentoring and academic advising are different. Mentors are "friends" who know how the university works and help students to successfully negotiate their educational experiences.

Young people need an adult with whom to discuss their experiences. It might also be possible to have students mentor one another as the program progresses, with students connected through the same mentor.
A student member thought a mentoring program would help tremendously. But, it was noted, a good academic advisor can also be a good mentor. Ideally, it could all be one system but practically it may not be feasible.

Faculty thought the mentor should be someone in the student's own field. But students may not know their "field". Moreover, if fields are open we can use faculty in schools where we have no undergraduates. Some noted the problems with the faculty reward structure making a mentoring system work. It was suggested that we begin with a pilot project - program, matching on interests as closely as possible, and evaluate the results.

Begin w/pilot project - program - then ask what works & what doesn't; for the program to be successful, mentors will need training or a handbook on the University and its resources.

V. Future Meetings

Dr. Swain will provide members with the new Financial Aid Book. If it raises questions, please forward them to her for a future discussion with Dr. Grotrian.

Another possible future agenda item might be a discussion of altering the University's relationship with the Greek system.