Student Relations Advisory Committee

Student Relations Advisory Committee
16 October 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Alphonse Burdi, Martin Gold, Donald Heller, Ann Sprunger, John Su, Yvonne Tsai, Phyllis Valentine, Teshome Wagaw


II. OPENING REMARKS
Meeting was called to order at noon. Burdi welcomed members, Teshome Wagaw and Yvonne Tsai to the committee. Wagaw is a professor of Education and Afroamerican and African Studies. Tsai is an undergraduate in LSA.

III. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 1998 MEETING
Brown distributed draft minutes from the last meeting (9/29/98). Minutes were approved with one minor correction.

IV. COMMITTEE MISSIONS/MEMBERSHIP
New agendas and membership lists were distributed to the committee. Burdi announced that Hartford would be unable to attend the meeting that afternoon due to an emergency.

Burdi briefly explained the mission of the SRAC (Student Relations Advisory Committee) to the committee. The goal of the SRAC is advise the OVPSA in the form of recommendations. The Chair will then act as liaison to SACUA and Senate Assembly. Burdi added that our committee's Mission statement is subject to review and modification as needed.

V. COMMITTEE LOGISTICS
Burdi reiterated that meetings will be held on a monthly basis (dates previously specified) from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the Bates Room of the Michigan Union. The November meeting place, however, has been changed and the new location will be announced.

VI. REVIEW OF DISCUSSION TOPICS
Committee members reviewed the discussion topics from last meeting. The following matters arose from both Vice-President Hartford's office and our committee:
Student Code Review
The discussion of the Student Code Review has been set for the November meeting. The OVPSA has recently instated a campus-wide review to assess the use of the Student Code by the Office of Student Conflict and Resolution (OCR). Gold announced that Philip Margolis, Chair of CLB (Civil Liberty Board) would like to create a joint sub-committee with members of our committee to discuss the Code and its implementation. This sub-committee would meet once or twice prior to our November meeting. Gold agreed to co-chair the sub-committee and encouraged student members to join. He asked Brown to send a mass email to our committee to see who is available to work on the sub-committee.

7 Research Capabilities of OVPSA
This issue was raised in response to discussion of our committee's role with OVPSA. As previously stated, one of the roles of this committee is to help realize Hartford's aspirations in the realm of student affairs. Currently, she has been unable to gather all the research needed to achieve these goals due to lack of personnel in the OVPSA. Our committee discussed possible ways to resolve this problem. Creating a work-study position and/or hiring a full time researcher were some of the suggestions.

7 Student Life on Campus
This issue was divided into sub-groups:
0 Student Governance
The following question raised: Is participation in student governance reserved only for students who can afford it? Members discussed ways of making student government accessible to students of all economic backgrounds. The idea of funding student leaders was proposed. Our committee also suggested discussing the quality of campus life for student leaders.

0 Student Extracurricular Activities
How are students spending their time outside of the classroom? Is the University supporting these activities? If so, how?

0 Graduate Student Life

7 Other Discussion Topics
0 Binge Drinking--Our committee suggested broadening this topic to encompass all forms of substance abuse.

0 Greek Rush--Should Rush be post-poned until winter term?

0 Tobacco Investment Divestiture--Question arose as to whether or not this was a student relations issue.

VII. SETTING 1998/99 MONTHLY AGENDA
0 November Meeting
Our committee agreed to invite the presidents of MSA and Rackham Student Government to participate in our discussion of the Student Code.

0December Meeting
David Schoem will be invited to lead our discussion of Greek Rush.

VIII. INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Student representation on our committee was discussed. Tsai and Su, the only present student members, were asked to bring student concerns and desires to committee meetings.

Su suggested keeping a detailed record of non-addressed issues so that committees in the future may use it.

Copies of the Student Code were distributed.

IX. NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 13 (11:30-2), PLACE TBA

X. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.