Student Relations Advisory Committee

October 25, 2002

12:00-2:00

Bates Room
Michigan Union
Approved: November 22, 2002

Present: Pierce Beckham, Al Burdi, Martin Gold, Jong-Jin Kim, Patricia King, Barbara MacAdam (Chair), Melissa Mercer, Karen Reimen-Sendi, Phil Savage, Ian Scott

Guests: Frank Cianciola, Dana Fair, Royster Harper, Gwyn Hulswit, Ed Willis, Beth Powell (staff)

Absent: Gary Faerber, Simone Himbeault-Taylor, Marita Inglehart, Kathy Irwin.

1. Introduction
Chair MacAdam welcomed the group and asked for approval of the agenda. Gold asked if the SACUA liaison had any items to bring to the table from SACUA. Savage said that his role is as an observer and resource person. Chair Macadam said that he is welcome to bring issues that he knows from SACUA.

2. Division of Student Affairs (DSA) Update and overview
Vice President Harper welcomed the group and thanked them for joining SRAC. She provided a brief overview of current issues.

The Essential Work of the Division of Student Affairs:

1. To maximize student learning potential by encouraging and facilitating a safe, healthy, and accessible place for students.
2. To enhance academic and class experience to compliment experiences and theory. Through living learning centers and reducing barriers to direct services.
3. To facilitate students development of an array of skills, to better prepare them to understand what it means to be a member of the UM community.

Vice President Harper introduced Ed Willis as the new Dean of Students

Current and Upcoming Issues

1. Middle East crisis and the recent Palestine solidarity conference on campus.
Three Concerns of the DSA
A. Purpose and intent of the conference
B. Concerns around selection of speakers
C. Access - who would be allowed to come, would it be open and free?
D. Safety - will this make any members of any community within the University unsafe?

2. Issues of the LGBT community
   A. 2 weeks ago they sponsored an event as a part of National Coming Out Week. It was a great celebration for community affirmation.
   B. Sexual Orientation has been added to the University’s non-discrimination statement but gender identity has not been added because this concern was not as prominent at the time.

   LGBT Concerns:
   1. More visible affirmation of presence
   2. Gender inclusive bathrooms at all buildings so students can use them without concern
   3. Additional request of more funding for LGBT office.
   4. They are making a gender identity working group: to determine what is currently in place what is missing.

3. Issues of resident hall safety.
   1. What can students as community members do to make the residence halls safe. What structural changes will help in making it safe? Ex: card entrance, surveillance camera
   2. Monitoring of international students, visiting professors and scholars. A new system should be up and running by January 1.

4. HIPAA Health Insurance Policy Accountability will be federally mandated by April 2003 to make sure we have uniform rules and regulations around privacy, patient care and patient records.

5. There is also a mental health work group looking at mental health issues at the University, especially with students in psychiatric ER. There are issues of when to let students re-enter the residence halls and a matriculation policy.

Upcoming issues

1. The office of student affairs is analyzing and validating the information from student surveys to develop goals for the next 3-5 years.
2. Resident Life Initiative: LSA plans to increase the number of students it admits and new residence halls WILL need to be built to accommodate this growth.

3. The UHS is looking at comprehensive health insurance and receiving accreditation.

• SRAC's assistance might be solicited with the resident life initiative, the comprehensive health insurance, and the accreditation issues.

Statement of Student Rights

In regards to the Statement of Student Rights Gold asked if SRAC should establish an advisory group to lay the groundwork and look over the MSA and SACUA recommendations. Gold asked how many changes are in the works right now. Hulswit answered that there have been none from the Faculty Senate, but there have been 5 from the MSA. There may be a couple from the executive officers. It is expected that gender identity will become one of the concerns.

• Chair MacAdam suggested making a standing agenda item about this issue so that the committee can discuss what's going on with the process and make recommendations

International Student Monitoring

Fairfield brought up concerns over the tracking of the international students, if they go oversees to a conference or over the border will they be able to get back? Vice President Harper responded saying that the international center is sensitive to that concern and one of the largest challenges is to keep students informed so that they will know what to expect. Cianciola said that the INS has not yet set the rules so the DSA is laying the groundwork in order to be prepared in January when the rules are set. Vice President Harper suggested that a Q and A session be held at the international center so that this topic can be made more visible and students will know what will happen.

• Chair MacAdam suggested that if anyone wants to discuss this issue more fully they should email her so that she can put it on the agenda. And she requested that Professor Savage bring some input from SACUA and the Senate Assembly to SRAC

3. Current Upcoming issues

Chair MacAdam opened the floor to students to express issues and concerns:

Mercer:
1. how can SRAC limit the negative reaction around changes to the statement of students rights and responsibilities.

• Chair MacAdam responded saying that this issue could go back to SACUA because it is a reoccurring issue over the years and is bigger than SRAC.
Fairfield presented
Nine items of concern from the Rackham Student Assembly
1. Transportation needs: request for a free student bus pass for students working for UM, need for increased parking on central campus, need to improve busing on North Campus, and maintenance of current after hours parking passes for grad students.

2. Time to completion for Ph.D. students, RSG wants to work with the University to see why it is taking longer.

3. Equity in athletic ticket priority for grad students. Students with the most credit hours get the highest priority, but graduate students, usually only have 9 credits per term so they don't get equal access to athletic tickets.

4. Will the administration consider offering access to NCRB, CCRB to grad students although they may not be enrolled Ex: summer semester.

5. Concerns about Campus security.

6. Need for diversity in faculty; intellectual diversity.

7. Desire for more child care options and facilities for student parents.

8. Desire to increase access for professional student governments to speak the with University administration.

9. Desire for Inter-disciplinary social interaction for grad students.

   • Chair MacAdam: Thanked Fairfield for sharing the concerns of RSG. This is helpful and some of the issues may be considered by SRAC.

Ian Scott is now the only Undergrad MSA representative TO SRAC and this presents a problem because he can not attend the MSA meetings. Chair MacAdam stated that she will send a message to MSA about getting issues straight to SRAC.

Beckham stated his concerns
1. New residence hall security measures may restrict students' freedom.

2. The role of MSA with student groups - there is nothing in the Statement of Rights and Responsibilities that covers conflict in group interactions.

3. There has been a lot of concern and demands from LGBT about gender identity to MSA.

**Closing comments (changed to #5)**
The next meeting is scheduled from noon to 1:30 but should the length of the meeting be extended to 2 PM?
Chair MacAdam invites the members send her agenda items for the next meeting.

**Amendment Proposal review process for changes to the statement of student rights**
Gwyn Hulswit: the office of student conflict resolution (OSCR) is searching for an educational training outreach coordinator, someone who will go out and educate students about conflict skills and not just respond to breaking the rules.
Overview of OSCR statement about Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities:
• All proposals must be submitted by Thanksgiving.
• OSCR will support a webpage for the proposals. All proposed changes will be posted. The website will have a form to submit amendments to the statement. All proposed changes will be brought to SRAC to review and comment on.
• There will be an open forum so people can speak to the Office of Student Conflict and Resolution and present their response and thoughts on the proposed changes. SRAC will then make a recommendation on whether or not the president should support the changes.
• If SRAC does not support the changes a rationale should be attached. The recommendations will go to the president through Vice President Harper, and then they will be presented to the regents by July 1st to be in place for next year.

Chair MacAdam stated that the December SRAC meeting will be dedicated to discussing the proposed amendments. She asked when the public forum would take place? Hulswit said that the forum would take place after classes start in January and before Martin Luther King Day.

There was a discussion on how to get ready for the forum, should there be a subcommittee?
• Gold brought forth his apprehension on spending this much time on the topic. Saying that it might be advantageous to have a small well informed subcommittee championing the topic.
• He also expressed concern on making changes every other year because it leaves but the leadership in the interim years. Could there be a way for them to put forth concerns every year?
• He suggested that SRAC not vote on the changes but just give advice on both sides of the issue.

1. Chair MacAdam responded that a 4 or 5 person subcommittee would be beneficial any committee members who want to be a part of the subcommittee should email her.

2. In response to the suggestion that SRAC not vote on the changes Vice President Harper stated that having a strong consensus on this project would be best and requested that SRAC vote on the proposed changes

3. Having a look at past proposals will be beneficial to compare similarities in proposed changes.

4. The Office of the General Counsel will review the changes to the Statement prior to giving it to the President and Vice President to check for legal concerns.

6. Academic Freedom Lecture
Chair MacAdam introduced Tom Moore and Donna Lehman from the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund. Tom Moore distributed flyers and posters and discussed the history behind the lecture. There is a video, ‘Lest We Forget’ at the SACUA office and a book with all of the past lectures in it for sale. This lecture promotes thinking contrary to
popular opinion.

Chair MacAdam closed the meeting at 1:39 pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted
Beth Powell
SACUA Office Staff