STUDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 26, 1989

1. Self Introductions and Welcome

Katarina Borer, chairman of the Student Relations Committee (SRC), opened the fall meeting of 1989 by asking of each member present to introduce themselves and the nature of their work at the university. Present at the first meeting were Murray Jackson from School of Education, Gail Ann Rickert from Classical Studies in LSA, Robert Beyer from Biology in LSA, Mark DeCamp, from Chemistry, Dearborn Campus, Donald Kewman from Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Teryl Schessler from SACUA was substituting for Edward Chudakoff from the School of Music. The student representative in attendance was Shira Goodman. Absent were Harvey Bertcher from the School of Social Work, Linda Lee Daniel from the School of Nursing, and Susan J. Pritzel from Dentistry. Also present were Vice President for Student Services, Henry Johnson, Assistant to the Vice President for Administration, Policy Advising, and Student Relations, Roselle Wilson, and the special guest and speaker, Don J. Perigo, Ombudsman and Director of Orientation and Student Information Services.

2. Organizational matters

Katarina Borer polled the SRC members for the best times for the next two meetings. It was decided that the SRC would meet on Tuesday, November 28 and Thursday, December 14, from 12 to 2 pm. A call for a volunteer to take the minutes led to the vice president Johnson agreeing to doing it for this meeting.

3. Overview of SRC mandate and function

For the benefit of new members, Katarina Borer outlined the advisory role of SRC and its links to SACUA, and the office of the Vice President for Student Services. An important function is to provide faculty and student input to these two organizations. A concern was voiced that the Michigan Student Assembly elected only one rather than four student representatives. Chairman will contact MSA to try to correct this underrepresentation.

Organizational chart of the Office of the VP for Student Services was presented, a foldout containing the phone numbers of the various student services the VP's
office oversees was distributed. A SACUA pamphlet on the Structure of Faculty Governance was distributed.

4. SRC concerns between 1987 and 1989

Chairman outlined the major concerns that the SRC committee discussed and took action on during the years of her tenure. The concerns centered around the discrimination and harassment policy, its constitutionality, adequacy, mechanisms of enforcement. Other issues were, minority recruitment and retention, campus safety, AIDS and Student Health Services, and more.

5. The presentation on the mechanisms of providing students with needed information on campus, by Don Perigo, Ombudsman and Director of Orientation/Student Information Services.

Dr. Perigo outlined his multiple roles in the service of providing students with information. As Ombudsman, he has the power of access to records and power of persuasion. He uses these powers to facilitate negotiation in areas of dispute involving students, and in channelling students to offices providing special services: counselling, legal aid, Campus Information Office. The referral routes are the orientation booklet given incoming freshmen, deans of the LSA and other schools, resident advisors in dormitories, Campus Information Center. Students who elect to live off campus may miss some of this available network.

As Director of Information, Dr. Perigo oversees production of Student and Parent Handbooks, and the freshman orientation to campus.

As Director of Student Information Services, Dr. Perigo is in charge of the Campus Information Center in the Michigan Union and of the International Center.

Mr. Perigo expressed interest in interacting with the SRC in seeking ways to improve delivery of information to all students. A specific avenue of interest to SRC, that of initiating a weekly column in the Michigan Daily along the lines of "Dear SRC" met with editorial rejection by the Michigan Daily staff.

SRC members thanked Dr. Perigo for his informative presentation. He went to his office and brought a copy of Student Handbook for each SRC member.

6. Proposed SRC agenda for 1990

Because we ran out of time, this item on the agenda was deferred for the next month's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

Minutes prepared by Katarina Borer