MINUTES
Student Relations Committee Meeting
Friday, November 9, 1990

Present: Harvey Bertcher (Social Work), Chair; Cheryl Allen (MSA); Anna Babbitt (VP Guest); Ken Bartlett (MSA); Robert Beyer (Biology); Alan Billings (Music); Sharon Colombo (Guest); Maria Comminou (Engineering); Linda Lee Daniel (Nursing); Walter Debler (Engineering); Mark DeCamp (Chemistry); Cathy DiMercurio (VP Guest); Sandy Gregerman (Natural Resources, Guest Speaker); Sarah Jackson (President, UAC); Edward Karam (Guest); Don Kewman (Medical School); Pat Soellner-Younce (VP Guest); Mary Ann Swain (Vice President); Roselle Wilson (VP Guest); Linda Xedos (MSA)

Soup and salad lunch followed by a business meeting.

Minutes:

Minutes of last meeting reviewed, corrected, and approved (copy attached).

Agenda Additions:

Two new items were added to today's agenda: (1) Suggestions for questions on Financial Aid issues and (2) recycling.

Introductions:

H. Bertcher, SRC Chair, announced that students in attendance receive an A+ as this meeting marked the largest student attendance in the last 5 years. He then asked the various representative groups to identify themselves by raising their hands: MSA representatives, guests, Committee members, and staff representatives. Each person then introduced him/herself and their affiliation to the group. H. Bertcher announced to the students that they may be "students in other aspects of their lives" but they are members here.

Mary Ann Swain, Vice President for Student Services, gave a thumbnail sketch of the units that report to her as Vice President: Housing, Michigan Union, Career Planning and Placement (CP&P), Counseling, Health Services, Ombudsman, Ethics & Religion, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), Lesbian Gay Male Program Office (LGMOPO), Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC), Minority Student Services (MSS), Student Policy Enforcement, Martha Cook Residence, International Center, Campus Information Center (CIC) and those that report to her as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs: Admissions, Financial Aid, Orientation, Registrar, Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP), Scheduling, Continuing Education for Women (CEW), Communicative Disorders Clinic (CDC), Center for Research, Learning, and Teaching (CRLT), and Extension. She invited all those present to feel free to address any issues that fall under these units -- all non-academic units that relate to student life on campus.
Future Agenda Items:

One MSA representative would like to discuss concerns relating to UM safety and security policies and issues. Others agreed this should be one of our agenda items. H. Bertcher suggested this be our entire January 1991 agenda.

Another student suggested the Committee look at recycling on campus.

A faculty member would like to address the question that a student must have a professor's permission to drop a class, but this seems to be a school/college issue rather than one for our Committee.

A MSA representative would like to discuss policies of temporary vs. permanent UM positions as relates to student employees.

The Vice President again suggested discussing the relationship of the University to Greek organizations.

Mentoring:

Sandy Gregerman, Coordinator of Academic Programs, School of Natural Resources, distributed a handout (attached) on their School's mentoring program and explained it briefly. A Freshman/Sophomore Program has been in existence for 3 years, pairing freshman and sophomores with graduate students for individual meetings 2-3 times/term, weekly seminars, and preparing a research paper where the undergraduates receive 1 academic credit (P-F) and the graduate receives a $200 stipend. The Junior/Senior Program started last year and pairs students with environmental professionals in the Ann Arbor area 15-20 hours/term, monthly seminars, and preparation of a journal for 1 academic credit (P-F). This has been a very successful program, keeping students interested and active in Natural Resources and forming lasting friendships. There has been a problem getting faculty involvement, possible due to the size of the school and lack of an award system. A lengthy and informative discussion followed on other kinds of mentoring programs: one in Engineering that doesn't work very well, R. Beyer's personal program in Biology that seems to work very well, and another one in Engineering for women "Big Sib, Little Sib" that works some of the time. A few conclusions were drawn: a good mentoring program depends largely upon faculty involvement, faculty need to be rewarded for their efforts, teaching needs to be a major University goal, and we need a clear definition of mentoring. The discussion then had to be cut short due to time restraints.

Financial Aid Questions (added Agenda item):

Suggestions for questions to ask Harvey Grotrian at our December meeting were solicited by H. Bertcher.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next meeting:

The next SRC meeting will be on Friday, December 14, 1991, noon-2:00 p.m., Michigan Union, Baits Room. A light lunch will be served.