STUDENT RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE –

November 11, 2011

Present: David Potter, Fred Askari, Royster Harper, Dustyn Wright, Brandon Shaw, Donna Hayward, Beverly Fauman

Absent: Charles Koopmann, Lisa Low, Robert Nye, Alex Brown, Stacy Peterson, Simone Taylor, Sallye Ramsey

Guests: Jay Wilgus

Chair Potter convened the meeting at 11:47

1. Discussion of Penn State and Our Response – Speaker Vice President, Student Affairs, E. Royster Harper

Chair Potter noted that our response to the issues at Penn State is vital to going forward. We do not want people heading off to the police without making sure that the chain of command is in the loop. This way, it is best if everyone understands who has responsibility for notifying the police, and while we need to know who will be the person responsible for making a report so that that person will be held accountable if the report is not made (one thing that is very disturbing about the PSU case seems to Chair Potter to be that Coach Paterno, as far as we know, did what he was supposed to do and is now being told that he did not do enough). As such, we at Michigan need to be clear about what is the obligation of any individual in the reporting line; we need to be sure that when someone reports to the police that something has happened they have taken the steps necessary to ensure that what they are reporting is accurate.

Vice President Harper noted that CAPS and resources at the University are being implemented in dealing with the reporting procedure and process, so that students feel comfortable in reporting such incidents, should they happen at U of M.

Vice President Harper noted that about three to four years ago we conducted an audit of athletic camps, academic camps, and other activities during the summer. She noted that we want to revisit whether there is an anonymous compliance line, so that there are multiple ways for people to report anonymous claims that they have, and that people know such a line exists.

Vice President Harper pointed out that anywhere you have human beings, that you have the possibility of the events. That means it is important people understand what the culture is, what the fears are, and that we ‘over emphasize’ what the expectations are and how one might report if an incident were to take place.

Vice President Harper noted that we’re going to conduct an assessment of where we may have loops and to aid students and other members of the community who may have been faced or who may be faced with sexual assaults or similar incidents feel comfortable with the process in place.

Vice President Harper noted that she is trying to leverage where the various summer camps are housed, as a way to initiate dialogue and productivity; some are in housing, some are in various buildings on campus.
She related this back to the issue at Penn State, where children were picked up from school by Sandusky, because he did, in fact, know them. We must reduce risk and harm by having a comprehensive analysis of who can and cannot pick children up from school or camps.

Professor Askari noted that we have to initiate two sets of cultures, one for minors during situations such as summer camps, and an entirely separate structure for adults, 18 and over, as we are used to during the school year.

It is vital to understand the difference between the 10 year old boys involved in situations such as Penn State, and the adults we are used to responding to, Professor Askari noted.

We may even need two sets of rules, for these two groups, Professor Askari pointed out. Vice President Harper pointed out that we must be clear distinction between the two groups.

OSCR Director Wilgus noted that a timely PSA may be helpful here, tying in the issue of bystanders in the University community at large, and as a whole.

Chair Potter added that his own children have been around the school and in the camps; it is imperative to understand the differences in standards and regulations set.

Chair Potter noted that a gentleman, who previously was on this very committee, was using University facilities to disseminate child pornography, and is an example that these incidents can happen anywhere.

Vice President Harper noted that a visible conversation with student organizations that do quite a bit of service work, but would not necessarily know what to do in a situation such as this, should it happen in the community.

Chair Potter referred to conversations with some of his Graduate Student Instructor’s that underscored the information gulf on this campus, and that email blasts often result in ‘delete’ keys being hit; that is – if we are to appropriately distribute information, we must do so in an effective and informative way.

A partnership with CRLT to develop a skit around botched interactions of this sort may be very useful, the Chair said. Professor Askari pointed to the on-line certification programs that are mandatory in the Medical School as a way of getting people’s attention and providing basic information about procedures.

Professor Fauman noted that she implemented a similar process of training and teaching residents each year, but it has not been repeated since its successful launch, three or four years ago. Repetition is a vital tool, she noted, and that should be applied with the various programs and information campaigns being discussed here.

Chair Potter noted that SACUA should have a strong appeals board, in order to be maintaining a board of rules of evidence in these cases.

There is a notion among SACUA members that perhaps these members are limited to serving on an n appeals board; they are in fact to be involved with investigating issues, the Chair noted.

2. **SRAC Response to Interim Procedures on Sexual Misconduct Cases**
SACUAs involvement is crucial to the long-term solution of the sexual misconduct plan, Chair Potter noted, and Vice President Harper echoed.

Chair Potter noted that we should be kept up to date on the number of investigations on these cases, where we are with follow-up to these cases, what kind of pressures that is putting on the system, and how this process is unfolding.

Process is key, the committee agreed. That said, when someone reports an incident such as this, there should be a comprehensive and streamlined process among which the informant understands.

Professor Fauman noted that the Statement’s board is comprised of three members, and three alternates, as the process currently is in place.

Utilizing the minutes as the backdrop for a memo, we will proceed to formulate a comprehensive strategy and structure, to be outlined in this memo.

Chair Potter noted that the first order of business at the next meeting will be to look at the memo in its drafted form, and the next will be to look at internships and available positions and opportunities.

Chair Potter noted his displeasure with the change of the standard of evidence from the “Clear and Convincing” standard to the “Preponderance” standard, but also noted that OIE tends to be extremely cautious in its investigations and that with a strong appeals board it was likely that sufficient caution would be shown in protecting the interests of all parties during the investigative process.

Chair Potter notes that the University would often have to take steps ahead of any action by law enforcement authorities to ensure the safety of the community, and expressed grave concern about the journalistic habits of AnnArbor.com.

Per a question from Professor Fauman, Vice President Harper noted that Rec Sports are being looked into, with a student committee, an outside consultant, and a potential tolerance of a student fee. We will need to be mindful of the implications of a student tuition discussion, the overall fees; there are a few alumni who may be influential donors. They were met with last week, and the last thing we want to talk about is renovating facilities.

There are multiple stakeholders, multiple points of view, and multiple perspectives here, Harper noted. Everyone is ready for this to be done, but there are costs involved, and various externality implications involved, understanding what this means in the long-term.

Chair Potter noted that there should be a sense of urgency; but that the University is awfully vulnerable in the public eye of the state.

Vice President Harper echoed this, stating that public opinion is certainly something to bear in mind – with people losing jobs, people may question the distribution of monetary funds for what could be considered a luxury item or luxury services.

Professor Fauman mentioned that a five dollar lunch card or alternative incentive program may increase involvement in some type of research study program, to aid in the engagement from the student community and garner insight for this type of recreational sports facility renovation process.
Meeting was adjourned at 12:51.

**Notes for Follow Up / Planning for Next Meeting:**

*Memo on process / strategy for our response to sexual assault procedures, incorporating the above meeting’s notes*

*Discussion of recreational sports facilities / engagement / process for this, including potential revenue sourcing / funding*

*Student internship opportunities and engagement from University community on this*