STUDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1989

The November 1989 meeting of the Student Relations Committee was held in the Bates Room of the University Club. The chair, Professor Katarina Borer distributed copies of the October minutes and asked for corrections. It was moved by Professor Rickert and seconded by Dr. Roselle Wilson that the minutes be approved as distributed.

Professor Borer then requested that the order of the agenda be changed for the purpose of dedicating an adequate amount of time to discuss new issues and developments regarding the Discrimination and Harassment Policy. Professor Gailann Rickert and Vice President Henry Johnson explained that issues pertaining to the policy will be coming up within the next two weeks which would be of vital interest to the Committee.

Before hearing item "2" on the agenda, Professor Gailann Rickert's report on the Discrimination and Harassment Policy in her capacity as the SRC Civil Liberties Board liaison, Mr. Johnson referred to two proposals that were distributed during the November 28 President's Council meeting entitled, (1) Hearing Procedures for Resolving Complaints of Violations of the Policy on Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression and (2) Summary Report: The University of Michigan Policy on Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment by Students in the University Environment. The latter will be on the agenda for the December Regents' meeting as an information item. Mr. Johnson reported that three concerns complicate this particular policy: (1) the unanswered question -- "Where is the faculty/staff consensus?"; (2) the University Council's reaction to the Civil Liberties Board (CLB) recommended Policy on Freedom of Expression; and (3) SACUA is writing a statement of Rights and Responsibilities for Students"(couch in very supportive language). Mr. Johnson referred to all these proposals as a lot of pieces going on simultaneously. It was noted that the Senate Assembly will be reviewing the SACUA statement and the Freedom of Expression statement.

Vice President Johnson also noted that three commissions convened by the President are currently reviewing the new proposed Policy on Harassment and Discrimination -- (1) composed of faculty, (2)
composed of staff and (3) composed of students. He mentioned that the student commission is a very broad and diverse group and must decide what an incongruous student body wants to see in such a policy.

Report on the Discrimination and Harassment Policy/Freedom of Expression

Professor Rickert reported that the policy has been in effect since it was published at least in terms of big-name speakers who are invited on campus. She said there are agreements where protesters can do their protesting which is going relatively well. She noted that CLB has a big part in creating the document which has been approved by SACUA and the Regents and currently CLB is using the recent visit of Supreme Court Justice Rehnquist who spoke at the Law School Graduation as a test of the policy.

Professor Edward Chudacoff added that SACUA met with CLB and two members from the University Council. He indicated that the policy is complicated by two issues: (1) resistance to proposed procedures for implementing this policy on Freedom of Expression and (2) pressure on UC to come up with a set of procedures.

Mr. Johnson reminded the Committee that the Regents established the University Council as a standing committee of the University (Bylaw 7.02) which has a membership of three students, three faculty, and three staff members.

During the course of the discussion, the proposed Code of Student Non-Academic Conduct was brought up. Ms. Shira Goodman, the student member, was asked her opinion on where the students presently stand on the Code. She said the spirit of the Code is a little distressing to students and that maybe there should be a policy on Rights and Responsibilities because it takes in the whole community whereby everyone is treated equally.

The legality of double jeopardy as it relates to the Code was questioned by Professor Chudacoff. Vice President Johnson gave examples of its legality.

Professor Rickert distributed a portion of the Interim Policy on Discriminatory Conduct pertaining to prohibited discrimination
and discriminatory conduct. She said that CLB believes the section on "words on or actions are directed and that are not made as a part of discussion" could be tightened and still pass the First Amendment standards.

The committee was reminded that the policy was enacted by U-M President James J. Duderstadt after a federal judge struck down as unconstitutional portions of an earlier policy. The judge ruled the policy infringed on freedom of speech. The interim policy is more concise about when the U-M will intervene in speech.

Professor Rickert also mentioned that CLB inquired about the Hash Bash. She reminded the Vice President that he allayed many fears about it and CLB hopes he remembers his promise that if it should happen again, he would consult with them.

Mr. Johnson called attention to a meeting scheduled for Friday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the Michigan Room of the Union with various University administrators to discuss how to protect the rights of students to hold a Hash Bash -- they are interested in the freedom of expression aspect. He proposed, and it was approved by the committee, that Professor Rickert have a role in this because of her Liaison to CLB.

The subject of drugs and alcohol was brought up. Mr. Johnson reported there is a University-wide Task Force on Alcohol and Other Drugs co-chaired by Professor Beth Reed and Dr. George Zuidema. He expressed concern about the serious alcohol problem on campus and referred to the study on the Greek system from the University of Illinois.

After a lengthy discussion, Professor Borer asked the SRC members how they would like to react to the aforementioned developments. Mr. Johnson reminded her that the committee is a SACUA committee advisory to him and can take a position on whatever issue they wish. He stressed that they are not bound to act through him. He recommended that the place to find out about the Rights and Responsibilities document is through SACUA. Professor Borer suggested that Professor Chudacoff keep the committee informed on developments on these issues from SACUA and the Senate Assembly.

Professor Chudacoff suggested that someone form the SRC call Laina Savory in the SACUA office and inform her that the Committee is
interested in being involved in this and would it be possible to get copies of the proposed policy for the December 14 SRC meeting.

In the meantime, Mr. Johnson agreed to send each member a copy of the Discrimination Summary, Interim Policy on Discriminatory Conduct and the Hearing Procedures for Resolving Complaints of Violations of the Policy on Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression.

It was also agreed to have as an agenda item for the December 14 meeting: Hash Bash and the issue of alcohol and other drugs. Vice President Johnson recommended, and it was agreed, to invite Ms. Teresa Herzog, Health Educator from Health Service, Professor Beth Reed, co-chair of the Task Force on Alcohol and Other Drugs and two student members to speak on the alcohol problem at the U-M.

Before adjourning, Professor Borer said she will write a memo to MSA reminding them that SRC is in need of three more student members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.