Student Relations Advisory Committee

11 December 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Alphonse Burdi (Chair), Marty Gold, Maureen Hartford, Royster Harper, Colin Heitzmann, Donald Heller, Gerhard Olving, Robert Simpson, John Su, Phyllis Valentine, Teshome Wagaw

ABSENT: Branton Cole, Arvind Grover, Bruce Karnopp, Susan Pritzel, Ann Sprunger, Yvonne Tsai

GUESTS: William Zeller, Director of University Housing
David Schoem, Assistant Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

II. OPENING REMARKS
Burdi called the meeting to order at noon, thanking committee members for coming. The committee approved the minutes from the November 13, 1998 meeting. Burdi explained that the minutes serve as summaries of each meeting. He added that all corrections and/or comments should be sent to either him or Brown.

Burdi introduced guest speakers David Schoem, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, and William Zeller, Director of University Housing. Schoem and Zeller would both be addressing the day's focus topic of "Living-Learning Communities." Burdi reviewed the day's agenda and encouraged suggestions for future discussion items from the committee.

III. STUDENT CODE UPDATE
Gold began the discussion with an update of the Code review. Gold is also a member of the Civil Liberties Board and briefed the committee on their work with the Code. The CLB is currently discussing ways to educate the University community on the Student Code and its procedures. They resolved that Code violations and the disciplinary proceedings that follow should be made public with respect to the confidentiality of the parties involved. The CLB also proposes that instead of the current mandatory suspension for the hiatus if an accused student requests a delay in Code proceedings until proceedings in the criminal justice system have concluded, suspension or other conditions for the hiatus be left to the discretion of the Director of the Office of Student Conflict Resolution, whose decision in these matters may be appealed to the Vice President for
Student Affairs. The CLB agreed with the idea of downplaying the legalistic side of the Code and emphasizing its educational tone. One suggestion from the Board was to change its title from the Student Code of Conduct to the Statement of Student Rights.

Hartford updated the committee on the OVPSA's progress with the Code review. The final review will be submitted to the Regents in January. This review will be a compilation of the reviews submitted by such groups as MSA, the OVPSA, and the external review board. Hartford discussed briefly other issues relating to the Code: academic integrity and unequal access to University resources.

Burdi thanked Gold and Hartford for their continuing efforts and reports on educating the committee about the Code.

V. LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITIES

David Schoem led the discussion of undergraduate living-learning communities on campus. He posed the following question to the committee: How can the University transform undergraduate communities into scholarly communities? Schoem presented the committee with an outline of the features offered by living-learning communities.

*Scholarly and diverse undergraduate communities

*Graduate and professional school faculty collaborating with liberal arts faculty to work with undergraduates. Schoem stressed that undergraduate education should be the responsibility of all schools in the University.

*Flexibility and diversity in structure and focus, including residential and non-residential options.

*Interdisciplinary courses for upper level students and a variety of programs for first-year and sophomore students.

*Organized through schools and colleges (with collaboration from various units, e.g. living-learning programs collaborate with University Housing). Schoem said that current programs such as UROP and WISE could serve as models for future developments.

The committee raised the issue of faculty involvement in the implementation of these programs. Encouraging faculty participation in these programs remains one of the largest obstacles. Often untenured lecturers in programs such as the Residential College are paid a considerably lower salary than lecturers in other departments of the University. The committee agreed that faculty incentives to participate should be better structured and that untenured faculty in these programs should be given more permanent status. The committee suggested the participation of GSIs and emeritus faculty in the development of these programs.

This meeting was aimed at creating a blueprint for future living-learning communities on campus. Schoem thanked the committee for their suggestions. Burdi thanked Schoem on
behalf of the committee. Unfortunately, William Zeller had to leave early and was unable to fully participate in the discussion on "Living-Learning Communities."

In closing, Burdi announced that "Substance Abuse-Binge Drinking" would be the planned discussion topic of the next meeting (January 15, 1999). With no further business on the table, the meeting was adjourned 2:00 p.m.