

**The University of Michigan  
Regents' Communication**

Received by the Regents  
January 22, 2009

**ITEM FOR INFORMATION**

Subject: Michigan Student Assembly Report

Attached is the January update on the projects and activities of the Michigan Student Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sabrina Shingwani". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, looped letters.

Sabrina Shingwani  
President, Michigan Student Assembly

January, 2009

Dear President Coleman, Regents, and Executive Officers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! Again, we appreciate the opportunity to present to you. With a new semester underway, we are ready to kick off some new and exciting projects in addition to wrapping up some of last semester's initiatives. Here is a list of initiatives on which MSA has been working:

***MLK Symposium Event*** – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that hearing Mahalia Jackson perform a single gospel song was as powerful as ten of his speeches. King believed in the transformative power of music and frequently asked Jackson to perform at his public appearances. In sharing Dr. King's vision and believing in the arts as a medium for social change, our Minority Issues Commission is participating in the MLK Symposium by co-organizing (along with the student organization F.O.K.U.S.) a student concert featuring Grammy nominated Janelle Monáe. Monáe's distinct blend of imaginative lyrics and futuristic soul grooves has made her an undeniable presence in the current music scene.

***Women's Issues*** – Our Women's Issues Commission is screening a documentary this month called "To See If I'm Smiling". It is about the story of six women's experiences in the Israeli army in occupied territories. This screening and forum offers an opportunity for students to debrief and discuss their personal and political views on the film in a safe nonpartisan setting. We will also have informed moderators for the discussion.

***LGBT Affairs*** – Creating Change is the nation's largest conference for LGBT equality. MSA's LGBT Commission was selected to lead the Youth Caucus about the state of the Youth Movement. With a unique perspective on the past and future direction of the movement peer moderators will challenge the caucus to contextualize the youth experience. By providing a space for intra-generational conversation, the caucus will also seek to define key issues and action areas facing LGBT youth today.

***Campus Safety Walk*** – Our Campus Safety Commission and our External Relations Committee are organizing a Campus Safety Walk through on and off campus areas. We will be taking pictures and surveying students along the way. The goal is to determine what areas have additional lighting needs so we can use this information in our efforts to work with City Council on street lighting this semester. We also plan on offering landlords motion detector porch lights.

***Internal Matters*** – With the budget requests from every committee and commission now submitted, we are planning the rest of our projects, events, and other initiatives for the semester. We have also completed the updated funding application and have it available on our website for student organizations to begin budgeting their own initiatives for the semester. With our executive board retreat and our Assembly wide retreat coming up, we have plenty of after action reviews, brainstorming sessions, and planning meetings underway.

***Buses to Inauguration*** – With only a few seats still available, MSA sponsored a bus to inauguration through the NAACP. It will be leaving Ann Arbor on the 19th and arriving in DC on the 20th, and then leaving later that evening and arriving back in to Ann Arbor on the 21st. Despite our efforts to move quickly with this planning and our efforts to book more buses, after contacting every charter bus company in the area we learned that every bus in the state of Michigan was booked immediately after Obama was elected. A good lesson for MSA to keep in mind four or eight years from now.

I appreciate your time and look forward to seeing you again next month.