

**The University of Michigan  
Regents' Communication**

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Central Student Government Report

Attached is the April update on the projects and activities of the Central Student Government.



Respectfully submitted,

David Schafer  
President, Central Student Government

April 10, 2017

President Schlissel, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, I am pleased and honored to submit the following report to you on behalf of the Central Student Government (CSG). Below is a brief update of our activities, operations, and goals as we continue to serve the students of this University.

### **Central Student Government Elections**

- Approximately 8,000 students, or 17.3% of the student body, voted in the CSG election.
- Running with the “eMerge” ticket, University of Michigan Juniors Anushka Sarkar and Nadine Jawad won the CSG presidency and vice presidency, respectively, on a platform to elevate student voice and expand students’ opportunities at Michigan.
- Their victory is historic, representing the first time that an executive ticket with two women of color was elected.

### **Summary of Year’s Work**

- Started the Leadership Engagement Scholarship to reduce the cost barriers to extracurricular involvement and leadership that some Michigan students face, ultimately raising more than \$180,000 in support of the scholarship during the year.
- Launched a bystander intervention training program to educate student leaders on ways to effectively respond to potentially high-risk situations around sexual misconduct and alcohol and other drug misuse. More than 315 students from 205 student organizations attended the training sessions.
- Commissioned the first-ever Mental Health Taskforce, bringing together student leaders throughout the mental health community on campus to craft recommendations that would enhance students’ access to resources and strengthen the classroom climate around mental health.
- Worked with the Ann Arbor City Council to establish a Student Advisory Council, promoting the elevation of student voice on the city level.
- Established hydration stations on Football Saturdays, providing more thousands of students with water to stay hydrated and safe before attending the games.
- Hosted an alcohol-free tailgate on Elbel Field that was attended by over 2,500 students.
- Awarded roughly \$500,000 to more than 300 student organizations throughout the year to support their events and initiatives.
- Established a Constitutional Convention that successfully drafted a series of amendments to the CSG Constitution to enhance the organization’s efficiency. The amendments were overwhelmingly passed by the student body in the March elections.
- Worked with Student Life administration, including Vice President for Student Life Royster Harper and Associate Vice President for Student Life Anjali Anturkar, to establish the Student Fee Advisory Committee, ensuring for student participation in the crafting and recommendation of student fees.

- Collaborated with University administration to successfully reintroduce Section 7.01 to the Regents' Bylaws, which discusses the importance of "student participation in University decision-making."
- Actively encouraged President Schlissel to include a student on the search committee for the next Provost.
- Launched the "It Starts With Me" campaign to encourage all U-M students to embrace allyhood and work to advance of culture of inclusivity on campus.
- Forged a partnership to provide free digital access to *The New York Times* to students on campus. The service has been used more than 1,000 times.
- Provided funding to the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) for the purpose of building a Wellness Zone on North Campus.
- Established a pilot program to increase accessibility to menstrual care products by placing free tampons and pads in bathrooms in the Moore Building on North Campus.
- Provided funding to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) to support their Raise the Bar program, which provides workshops and trainings on sexual assault and bystander intervention to bartenders at local bars.
- Partnered with Meijer to launch a Grocery Store Shuttle on Sundays that has since provided hundreds of U-M students with free transportation to and from Meijer.
- Created a mentorship program for incoming international students.
- Hosted a town hall on the subject of improving affordable housing in Ann Arbor, bringing together a City Council member, a State Representative, and other members of the community.
- Partnered with Michigan State University's student government to host the first-ever Advocacy Day, in which students traveled to Lansing to meet with state legislators to discuss the importance of implementing an affirmative consent sexual education policy in K-12 curricula.
- Published the first-ever CSG Demographic Report, providing the organization with concrete information on the status of its internal diversity.
- Launched the "200 for 200" campaign in honor of the University's Bicentennial, in which we will ultimately spotlight 200 of U-M's most engaged and involved students.

### **Issues on Our Radar for Next Year**

- **Student Input in University Decision-Making:** This year, our work largely rested on one major ideal: students are not simply at the University; they *are* the University. Additionally, students have their finger on the pulse of campus issues unlike any other constituency or stakeholder at U-M. For these reasons, it is critical that student input is continuously solicited in University decision-making via institutionalized mechanisms, including the newly formed Student Fee Advisory Committee. This should extend all the way to the Board of Regents, which, unlike many other schools in the Big Ten and across the country, does not have any formal student representation. Overall, by including

students in important conversations and diversifying the perspectives at the table, the decision-making process will only be enhanced.

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** We appreciate the University's commitment to realizing a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community. Going forward, it will be critically important that the status of the Strategic Plan's objectives is constantly and efficiently communicated to the student body, and that any concerns are validated and channeled to elevate both the Strategic Plan and the overall student experience.
- **Student Health and Safety:** Over the past few years, students have strongly advocated for an expansion of mental health services to better meet an increase in demand. While progress has been made, additional resources are still needed to improve students' access to these invaluable services. In the area of sexual misconduct, we believe that it is essential that every Michigan student is educated on effective prevention techniques throughout their time on campus. We advanced that goal through the pilot bystander intervention training program that we launched this semester.

Now that my term as CSG President has concluded, I wanted to thank all of you for your collaboration and support over this past year. It has been wonderful working with you, and your continued commitment to the University of Michigan and the student experience is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

David Schafer  
President, Central Student Government