

The University of Michigan Regents' Communication

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Central Student Government Report

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



Respectfully submitted,

Anushka Sarkar
President, Central Student Government

October 9, 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 an update on CSG and the student body during the month of October as we continue to serve the students of this University.

Our Work and the Road Ahead

CSG has continued to prioritize addressing issues of campus climate by listening to the concerns and viewpoints of various campus community organizers and leaders and channeling them into the work that we do in order to be responsive to student concerns. It has certainly not been an easy month for the campus community, and the events that have transpired over the last few weeks show that there is a lot of progress to be made in the ways of fulfilling our commitment towards diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University. In the wake of a string of bias-motivated incidents that occurred on and near campus which specifically targeted communities of color, including the anti-black vandalism of doors and nametags in the West Quad residence hall and the graffiti message supporting the white supremacist and terrorist Dylan Roof on East Liberty, student organizing and ongoing community-wide engagement have led to subsequent demonstrations on campus which have largely called for privileged members of the community and the University administration to serve as allies and find constructive ways to take on these bias-motivated incidents. The racial injustices on a national and campus scale inspired a fellow student named Dana Greene to kneel on the central campus Diag for 21 hours, where he was joined and supported by many members of the University community and called national attention to the fact that hatred and racism are still well and alive on our campus, and no one individual can afford complacency anymore. His actions, along with the remarkable subsequent mobilization of community members in various ways has affirmed the commitment of CSG and the Michigan community to advocate for change with regarding how the University addresses the profound harm that these bias-motivated incidents cause to marginalized communities here.

Central Student Government is currently working on several projects and initiatives, some of which are briefly outlined below.

Projects

- Changing our Bias Response and Prevention Procedure
 - CSG Executive Officers, Representatives, and Commission members are working with various community leaders throughout the University to discuss ways the University can be more intentional and effective in responding to and preventing

bias-motivated crimes and incidents, including policy changes, instituting new leadership bodies, and expanding accountability measures.

- Big Ten Voting Challenge
 - CSG is working with the Ginsberg Center to help coordinate the Big Ten Voting Challenge on campus - it launched on September 26, 2017 on the Diag. The project is utilizing TurboVote to register students to vote.
 - CSG Executives and Representatives have starred in a video to encourage their peers to vote: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4O5dng4CE38>.

- Hydration Stations
 - In collaboration with the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Panhellenic Association (Panhel), and LSA Student Government, CSG is hosting Hydration Stations at various high-risk and high-traffic areas during home football games this fall semester. The stations have water bottles and free KIND Granola Bars, and CSG is partnering with these organizations and others to sponsor alternative programming options during Homecoming Weekend and the night games. Initial reports show that our hydration stations for the Michigan State game were immensely popular. Not including the Michigan-Michigan State hydration stations, CSG has handed out over 24,000 water bottles during game days.

- Safe Travel Fund
 - CSG has also piloted the Safe Travel Fund that will aid student organizations in making sure that traveling students have adequate funding to make safe, pragmatic, and responsible accommodations when traveling on behalf of the University across the country during high-risk times.

- Sexual misconduct reporting within the context of immigration/citizenship status
 - CSG executive units have been researching and developing language to help students understand the intersection of their immigration status with their choice to report sexual violence on campus. The proposed language will be presented to the on-campus Title IX Coordinator and vetted by the Office of General Counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

Anushka Sarkar
President, Central Student Government