

**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Central Student Government Report

Attached is the November/December update on the projects and activities of the Central Student Government



Respectfully submitted,

David Schafer
President, Central Student Government

November 28, 2016

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.

Provost Search

- We would like to congratulate Provost Pollack on being selected to serve as the next President of Cornell University. We thank the Provost for her years of service to the University of Michigan community, and we look forward to hearing about the wonderful work that she will do in Ithaca.
- Central Student Government and Rackham Student Government have delivered a letter to President Schlissel, in which we formally requested student involvement in the search process for the next Provost. We believe that student input is critical, as the next Provost will administer the University's budget, play a large role in the implementation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategic plan, and directly impact students' educational experiences.

Student Support

Undocumented and DACAmented Students

- The Presidential Election and its aftermath have left undocumented and DACAmented University of Michigan students feeling unsure of their status both on-campus and off-campus. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) refers to a process that allows eligible undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children to apply for a temporary deferral of deportation.
- President Schlissel and more than 250 University and College Presidents across the United States have signed a letter, which called on DACA to be "upheld, continued, and expanded." CSG joins these leaders of higher education in their support of undocumented and DACAmented students.

Student Wellbeing

Physical Safety

- Over the past month, several incidents around Ann Arbor, including the forced removal of a woman's hijab, have left students feeling unsafe. I have met with representatives from the Division of Public Safety and Service (DPSS), including Housing Security and the University of Michigan Police Department (UMPD), to discuss how best we can enhance student safety on and around campus.
- While there is no one perfect way to address this, the following steps were discussed:
 - Providing additional opportunities for students to take self-defense classes;

- Analyzing student demand for the SafeRide service and accommodating where appropriate; and
- Establishing more student staff and volunteer positions within DPSS.
- Regardless of the exact path we take, it is imperative that we continue to work to enhance the safety of Michigan students.

Mental Health

- We have commissioned the first ever Mental Health Taskforce, which is comprised of student leaders of mental health-focused organizations. The Taskforce has been charged with analyzing the data from the mental health surveys that we disseminated to the student body in October, as well as developing a diverse set of mental health-centered policy recommendations for the U-M administration.
- We anticipate that the Taskforce Report will be finished by early March. Thus far, the Taskforce has reached out to a number of different departments and divisions at U-M, including the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) and the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Textbook Affordability

- Rising textbook costs often require students to choose whether or not to buy their textbooks. Research shows that the majority of students who forgo buying a book did it so for economic reasons, despite knowing that it would adversely affect their academic performance.
- We have begun to work on several projects to address this issue, including:
 - An expansion of the UM Library Course Reserves program, focusing on classes with large enrollments that require the highest level of textbook interaction; and
 - Potential formulation of a University-sponsored eText program to offer significantly discounted electronic books and resources to students. We are working with our fellow Big Ten schools as well as several University offices and departments.

Student Organization Funding

- Over the first nine weeks of the Fall Semester, Central Student Government's Student Organization Funding Commission (SOFC) has reviewed 322 applications for funding from student organizations. During this period, these organizations have claimed more than \$131,000 in funding.

Leadership Engagement Scholarship

- As I noted at the October Board of Regents meeting, CSG, in partnership with the Division of Student Life and UM Development, has created a Leadership Engagement Scholarship. This scholarship seeks to remove the cost barriers to extracurricular

involvement by providing a cohort of emerging and established student leaders with financial awards.

- We view this scholarship as a “tool of equity” because it will expand opportunities for lower income students to become engaged in the rich extracurricular life of Michigan.
- It is our goal to raise \$500,000 to endow the scholarship, as that will allow us to fund around 10-15 student a year. Donors have already pledged \$100,000 to this fund.
- We will be conducting major outreach and marketing efforts to raise money on Giving Bluesday. Our fundraising will continue into the Winter Semester and will extend for at least the duration of the academic year. We look forward to working with the Board of Regents on this initiative.

Overall, with the end of the semester and calendar year near, I wanted to express my gratitude at having the opportunity to meet and work with all of you over the past six months. Thank you for your continued commitment to the University of Michigan and the student body. Your work and passion will be long remembered and forever appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

David Schafer
President, Central Student Government



University of Michigan-Dearborn Student Government

December 2016 Regents' Report

President Schlissel, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, it is my pleasure and honor to submit the following report to you on behalf of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Student Government (SG). We truly appreciate this opportunity to inform you on all the initiatives Student Government is working on throughout the year.

Dean of Students: Over these past few weeks, Student Government has been working in a variety of capacities to increase transparency in the Dean of Students hiring process. We have invited our Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management and Student Life to multiple meetings in order for us to gather adequate information on the reasoning and proposed process for the hiring. We have scheduled an Open Forum to take place on December 7th with the Vice Chancellor where student organization leaders will have the opportunity to engage in a dialogue around what we want this position to look like and to begin shaping the administrative process.

Continued work around Sexual Assault: The Sexual Assault and Public Safety Committee has continued its efforts to support sexual assault survivors on our campus. Our PSA video, created to raise awareness for the issue and how it affects our students, has been completed. We are currently brainstorming the best means of releasing it. We have also created and released a short, grassroots sexual assault survey so that we can get a better understanding of where our work should be concentrated in the last few months of our administration. We will continue collaborating with the Office of Institutional Equity to create more informational material around the soon-to-be released Sexual Assault Policy. Additionally, we are planning to work more with student organizations who are doing sexual assault prevention work, developing a curriculum for in-class presentations around consent and bystander intervention, and creating an app that has continuously updated and accurate information on where to report, how to report, on-campus resources, off-campus resources, rights during an investigation and more.

Post-Elections: In the wake of the election, Student Government collaborated with administration, faculty, and other student leaders to host a healing space on November 15th where students were invited to talk about how they are processing the socio-political climate today and to brainstorm ways for our campus to protect all students. We are currently still working with administration to release a condensed piece of literature that has resources for students who have faced discrimination, harassment, or other forms of identity-based aggression. We are constantly building our relationships with faculty and student organizations so that we can build a better safety net for students to fall back on in these difficult times.

Environmental Sustainability: Our Environmental Sustainability Committee has continued to nourish our partnership with the Henry Ford Estate by volunteering for service days at the Estate. Additionally, the

committee is working to maintain our adopted habitat, removing invasive species and helping contribute to a good and healthy ecosystem. The committee is also taking care of the community garden assigned to us by the Environmental Interpretive Center. We will continue growing organic vegetables and fruits to be donated to our food pantry in order to ensure that students in need are able to consume fresh foods. We plan to create information on and survey reactions to our future aerators, estimated to be installed within these next few months. We are also currently collecting signatures from faculty, staff, and students in support of our #NoDAPL letters to Senators Stabenow and Peters, which were written by our Environmental Sustainability Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update regarding the work done by the UM-Dearborn Student Government, and thank you for your commitment to the University of Michigan System and its students.

Best Regards,

Fiana Arbab
President, UM-Dearborn Student Government