

**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

Received by the Regents
February 19, 2009

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Michigan Student Assembly Report

Attached is the February 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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sabrina" and the last name "Shingwani" clearly distinguishable.

Sabrina Shingwani
President, Michigan Student Assembly

February 2009

Dear President Coleman, Regents, and Executive Officers,

We appreciate the opportunity to present to you. Here is a list of initiatives on which MSA has been working:

Environmental Issues - We will be holding our Second Annual Sustainability Fair on February 12th to celebrate the local organizations, businesses, and student groups that devote their time to sustainable development. The Fair will also feature cutting edge research of UM professors. In addition, Enviro-Facts is our Environmental Issues Commission's newest initiative that focuses on the dissemination of specific "actionable facts" through emails, The Daily, and poster board displays with the intent to educate the campus community about thinking green.

LGBT Issues - Our LGBT Commission just held it's annual Safe Sex Workshop to educate students of all sexual orientations about safe sex, sex toys, consent, and myths about sex. This month, we will also be screening a film at the Trotter Multicultural Center called "Black./Womyn: Conversations with Lesbians of African Descent". Finally, with the 40th anniversary of the spectrum center around the corner, we recently submitted a 2011 bid to host MGLBTACC, a national LGBT conference, at the University of Michigan and hope to hear back soon regarding the status of our application.

Internship Program - Now in its fourth semester, the internship Program is once again ready to take full swing with its first meeting for a new batch of interns this upcoming week. With the curriculum significantly more developed now that the program has had three cycles to reflect upon, we aim to help interns develop or polish their leadership skills, coordinate a project with tangible effects on the Michigan community, and learn more about your student organizations and the administration.

Disability Issues - After responding to student concerns regarding the accessibility of parking on campus, we will be taking an inventory of handicap parking spots in key locations on campus and surveying students with disabilities who have parking needs to ensure that they are being properly served. We also intend to survey students to understand

accessibility needs with regards to buildings around campus, as many older facilities are not handicap accessible.

MSA Elections - With our new Election Director selected over a month early to start preparation for the March election, we are excited to start off the year with a strong goal to increase voter turnout. Some of the ways we intend to achieve this goal are adding polling stations to high traffic areas throughout the voting period, advertising through ITCS and The Daily, encouraging our representatives to advertise for a minimum number of hours each, and holding a presidential debate. With two new political parties recently created, we hope that competition will also lead to a greater interest in the elections, more education about what student government has done and plans on doing, and a higher voter turnout.

MSA Retreat - We just held our Winter Retreat for our representatives and our committee and commission chairs at a conference center off campus. With a weekend full of team building exercises, goal setting, and project planning, we're ready to finish off this semester strong and, as early as it is, get ready for summer projects as well.

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