

Received by the Regents
February 16, 2012

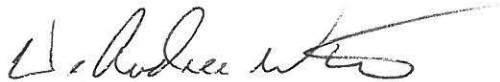
**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Central Student Government Report

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

Respectfully Submitted,



DeAndree R. M. Watson
President, Central Student Government

February, 2012

President Coleman, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, it is my privilege and honor to submit the following report to you on behalf of the Central Student Government. Below is a brief update of our activities and operations, as we continue to serve the students of this University.

Medical Amnesty

The Student Assembly recently passed a resolution to support the implementation of a medical amnesty policy at the University. We believe that the overconsumption of alcohol is a very serious issue for college students, not just here at the University of Michigan, but for other campuses throughout the state and across the nation as well. When a student is in need of medical attention, there should be no hesitation about dialing 911 to call an ambulance. However, unfortunately many students either hesitate before making the call, or choose not to call at all, out of fear that they will have to face the consequences associated with underage drinking. This is why medical amnesty is so important. It will protect the health of students in need by encouraging a culture of responsible community involvement. Over the course of the next several weeks, we will work closely with the administration to explore medical amnesty and other alcohol-related policies of the University to determine what works best for Michigan.

Tuition Equality

The Student Assembly also passed a resolution encouraging the University to extend in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants residing in Michigan. Several students have attended Assembly meetings to share their personal stories as undocumented students. They spoke about their childhood experiences as students of the public school system in Michigan, and how many of their friends either dropped out of high school or decided not to attend college as a result of the high costs associated with their undocumented status. Many of them also spoke about their current experiences as undocumented U-M students, and the difficulties they face with paying a higher tuition rate. We believe that the University of Michigan is a flagship institution with the responsibility of providing exceptional education for the people of the State of Michigan, and that there is no reason why individuals who have worked hard throughout high school to get accepted to this institution should have to pay out-of-state tuition if they live in this State. As a result, we look forward to working closely with the administration to resolve this issue.

Lansing Blitz and Summit on Higher Education

The External Relations Commission of the Central Student Government is working closely with the Student Association of Michigan (SAM), an organization that represents all fifteen public universities in

the State of Michigan, to host the Lansing Blitz and Summit on Higher Education. At the Lansing Blitz, students from across the State will gather in front of the Capitol to discuss the importance of higher education. The Summit will be an opportunity for student leaders from all fifteen public universities to meet with several state legislators in the Capitol to share personal experiences, discuss the importance of higher education funding and support from the State, and seek commitments from legislators to make higher education a priority. Given the current situation, with the rising costs of higher education and declining State support, we believe that it is absolutely imperative for students to voice their concerns directly to their legislators. The Summit on Higher Education and Lansing Blitz will take place on March 29th and March 30th respectively.

Underrepresented Minority Recruitment and Retention

The Minority Affairs Commission of the Central Student Government is hosting two town hall meetings to discuss underrepresented minority recruitment and retention at the University. The first meeting is to discuss recruitment strategies currently being used by the University, and the second is to discuss issues related to campus climate and the quality of student life for underrepresented communities. Both of these town hall meetings will include several administrators, including Deans from the various schools and colleges, and representation from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives, and the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs, as well as the Comprehensive Studies Program, and other administrators within the Division of Student Affairs. At these meetings, students will have the opportunity to learn what members of the administration are already doing through their respective offices, and they will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback as well. The purpose of these meetings is to spark a campus discussion about how we can work together as students, faculty, and staff to achieve the level of diversity we all desire. The town hall meetings are scheduled to take place on February 8th and February 10th, focusing on recruitment first and retention second. I look forward to providing an update in person.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



DeAndree R. M. Watson
President