Received by the Regents February 20, 2025



Central Student Government Office of the President

3011 Michigan Union530 South State Street

Ann Arbor, MI, 48109

Subject: Central Student Government (CSG) Report February 2025

President Ono, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, it is my pleasure to submit the following report.

My name is Mario Thaqi, and I assumed the role of Student Body President in December following the impeachment of my predecessors. I am a senior studying Philosophy, Politics, and Economics with a minor in Arabic. I am honored to be joined by my Vice President, Mr. Jake Frederick, who is a junior studying International Studies and Communications. Although Jake and I recognize we have a shorter term than previous administrations, we still have a very ambitious agenda for this semester. We are eager to work with you on implementing these goals and creating tangible change on our campus.

This past year has been an undeniably contentious one. Despite 2025 being labeled as the university's *Year of Democracy, Civic Empowerment, and Global Engagement,* community members have been silenced, peaceful protesters beaten by police, and students, faculty, and administrators targeted by violent, hate-driven attacks. Such hatred and suppression have no place at the University of Michigan, especially on a campus that prides itself on a rich history of student activism. This is why my administration is advocating for an ex-officio student position on the Board of Regents, a standard practice across all other Big 10 Universities. We also welcome the willingness many of you have already shown to participate in candid conversations with Student Representatives in relation to these issues. This is the first step in recognizing and healing as a community.

Additionally, students are finding it increasingly difficult to afford to live on our campus. While we are happy to see university housing projects in progress, students will not feel relief from these measures for years to come. Beyond housing, a large proportion of our students are also struggling with food insecurity due to rising prices and a lack of affordable grocery stores near campus. In response to these growing concerns, my administration is working to implement infrastructure that alleviates these challenges. We are collaborating with Student Life to research expanding Maize & Blue Cupboard services to North Campus, as well as with M-Dining to see how Blue Market spaces can be utilized to provide nutritious and staple food items. We are also working on the implementation of the federal SNAP program in various university-owned stores on campus to provide further financial relief to students in need.



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While there is so much more I would love to share with you all. Please refer to my full written report for more details. Jake and I look forward to meeting and working with many of you very soon.

Stay warm and Go Blue,

Mario M. Thaqi Student Body President



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Programming:

- The Department of Student Programs is hard at work with the planning and administration of over ten events and programs over the winter semester. The first event of the administration was held on January 29th as a winter wellness event in the diag, which allowed us to obtain over 600 responses on a housing survey from our policy team to understand the rental environment and pressure points for student renters.
- Other events and programs for the semester include (1) Go Blue Goes Green, a free thrift & clothing upcycle event; (2) a Valentine's Day wellness event; (3) Hydration Stations for St. Patrick's Day and Winterfest; (4) Women's History Month Brunch; (5) World Bites, a free event focused on bringing students of different cultures together over their culture's food and performances; (6) Sunset Cinema; (7) Black History Month programming; (8) a Finals Week Wellness event; and (9) Operation Graduation, which provides free graduation gowns to students with financial need.

Policy:

- The President and Vice President, along with the policy team, hope to revitalize the Saferide program by working with administrators in Finance, Parking, and Transportation, and teaming with popular rideshare services for subsidized rides during high-risk hours. Research is being conducted to see how other schools have utilized this avenue for successful rideshare programs.
- The policy team has begun research and meetings with administrators on reducing laundry fees in dorms, increasing grocery store transportation and access to culturally-relevant grocery stores, expanding information on housing resources, and collaborations with student organizations surrounding civic engagement, and recreational sports funding.
- The Disability Empowerment and Advocacy Committee has started planning for their InclusiviTEA Speaker Series, Adaptive Sports event, World Autism Awareness Day "Best Buddies" collaboration, and Disability Advocates and Caregivers Scholarship. They are also working on streamlining accessibility reporting services and sharing resources for personal care assistants and students with disabilities on campus.
- The Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Survivor Empowerment Committee has been working to spread resources to students centered around health and wellness. Thus far, they have tabled at Winter Wonderland and hosted their first event on the 12th surrounding Valentine's Day. In the upcoming months, they will be offering self-defense classes and bystander intervention training in addition to handing out more wellness-focused materials to students.



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Communications:

• The Department of Communications, in collaboration with the Office of Government Relations and the Office of the General Counsel, is developing materials to provide guidance and resources on federal immigration enforcement—an issue of significant concern for international students. Additionally, a statement is being prepared to address ongoing discussions surrounding campus censorship and freedom of speech.

Finance:

- The Winter 2025 Budget (<u>AR 14-062</u>) was approved by the Assembly on January 23rd which appropriated \$777,000 for government operations. Notable appropriations include the Student Organization Committee (\$429,000), the Executive Discretionary Fund (\$62,000), and the Legislative Discretionary Fund (\$66,581.30).
- Additionally, we renewed our contract with the New York Times for news (2 years) and games and cooking (1 year) for \$70,881.20. This is one of CSG's <u>most utilized resources</u>.

Legal:

• The Department of Legal Affairs is working with representatives from the Office of Student Conflict Resolution to implement a student Advisor Corps to advise students throughout the course of an OSCR complaint. The existence of a Corps is permitted under a never-utilized provision of the SR&R. The Department will also be reaching out to the ECRT office to work toward establishing a similar Corps for Title VI and IX complaints.

Assembly:

• CSG's legislative body has been hard at work passing resolutions related to a variety of topics, including <u>transparency in "hidden costs"</u> associated with courses, a <u>scholarship</u> for students affected by political conflict and refugee status, advocacy for <u>students with disabilities</u>, subsidization of <u>professional development</u> and graduate school prep materials, and the establishment of a <u>Black Excellence Gala</u>, <u>among other things</u>.

The Student Government of the University of Michigan - Dearborn



February 2025 Regents Report

President Ono, Members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, it is our honor to submit the following report to you on behalf of the administration of the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Student Government (SG). We look forward to updating you on our initiatives and sharing all we have worked on.

Completed Initiatives:

- 1. **Partnership with DPS:** We joined forces with the Department of Public Safety to adopt local families during the holiday season, raising over \$1,000 for gifts and essential items.
- 2. **New Senate Speaker:** Maya Sandu, a well-respected sophomore, was elected as our new Speaker of the Senate, bringing fresh leadership and enthusiasm to our legislative process.
- 3. **Greek Life Appreciation:** In January, we hosted a get-together for fraternities and sororities, complete with desserts and camaraderie, celebrating their contributions to campus life.
- 4. **Mock Entrance Exams:** Our December mock LSAT, MCAT, and DAT sessions were a success, with strong attendance that inspired us to schedule another round at the end of February.

Ongoing Initiatives:

- 1. Business Discounts & Charity Expansion: We're expanding our business discounts program for students and exploring additional charitable partnerships to support community needs.
- 2. **Presidents' Roundtable:** On January 23, this forum brought together student organization leaders to share feedback, voice concerns, and foster collaboration.
- 3. Fashion Week & Notary Service: Plans are underway for a campus-wide Fashion Week to celebrate our diverse community. We're also introducing a free notary service for students, reducing barriers to important paperwork.

To Conclude:

Student Government remains dedicated to creating a supportive, vibrant campus culture. We look forward to building on these achievements, championing new ideas, and working tirelessly to meet the needs of our Wolverine community.

GO BLUE, GO DEARBORN - MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER!

Rupinder Singh

Zahra Patni

Rupinder Singh

Student Body President, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Zahra Patni

Student Body Vice President, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Approved by the Regents February 20, 2025

INT | STUDENT GOVERNMENT

President Ono, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, I am pleased and honored to submit to you the following report on behalf of the University of Michigan-Flint Student Government. The following serves as an update on Student Government's activity this past month.

Academic Advising Forum

The Student Government at the University of Michigan-Flint, in partnership with the Office of the Dean of Students, hosted an Academic Advising forum on February 4th, 2025. This forum, planned and led by Student Government Director of Academic Affairs Samantha Jarbou, aimed to allow the student body a structured opportunity to discuss their shared experiences with Academic Advising at the University. The forum had a section for each school and college so students could sit within their respective colleges and voice their experiences. Each School and College brought a staff facilitator, and a Student Government member worked as a scribe at each table to document the conversations. The following steps of this event are reviewing the data found and sending respective data to the Provost and each school and college with the hope of improving the academic success of our students.

Safe Ride Expansion

Student Government has also been in the process of expanding Safe Ride services in partnership with the UM-Flint Department of Public Safety. A Student Government Resolution sponsored by Senator Abigail Bingley passed by the Senate on December 4th, 2024, calling for an expansion of hours of operation, an increase of diverse and cost-friendly grocery and pharmacy options, a new feedback mechanism, outside transportation resources, and the creation of the co-led by Student Government and Department of Public Safety Committee of Saferide Feedback. In the weeks and months following, Student Body Vice President Abe Dabaja and I have been working with DPS to advocate and incorporate positive changes. We are very excited and optimistic about Saferide's future and the continued partnership with the Department of Public Safety to meet student's needs.

Campus Privacy Issues

Student Government advocacy efforts have also focused on campus Accessibility and Privacy. Starting last October, Senator Kamera Johnson, after hearing concerns from various students regarding the lack of privacy in some of our restrooms, brought forward legislation advocating for increased privacy efforts within restrooms on campus. Specifically calling for the installation of dividers in all restrooms with urinals and updates in restrooms with stalls with significant gaps between the doors. Senator Johnson has been working with Facilities and Operations continuously and has authored and passed a bill to allocate funding toward updates on campus, making our restrooms more private and bringing these issues to light. The first set of urinal dividers was installed last month, and the Student Government is very appreciative of Senator Johnson's work and Facilities and Operations efforts.

The University of Michigan-Flint Student Government is dedicated to advocating for the issues that matter most to our students. During these challenging times of uncertainty within the federal government, we recognize the importance of maintaining a clear, strong partnership between the University and its students. Now more than ever, effective communication and collaboration are essential as we navigate the future together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Logan Lafeen

Logan LaPeen Student Body President University of Michigan - Flint