

**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

Received by the Regents
March 19, 2009

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Michigan Student Assembly Report

Attached is the March 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

March 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:

LGBT Issues – We invite you to out kick off for Spring Pride Week with annual Spring Pride Rally on Monday, March 16th at noon in the Diag where we have invited students, faculty and staff to perform, write poems, songs or speeches about their LGBT pride. We have also planned a week's worth of events, including a Spring Pride Dance, a keynote speech by Jeff Sheng (a photographer for LGBT student-athletes), and Discussion of Faiths (a dialogue about the intersectionality of sexual orientation and faith) among other social and educational events.

MSA Elections – The campaign period has now begun for the MSA elections. We have three parties with slates of both representative and presidential/vice presidential candidates as well as one independent running for a representative seat. To increase voter turnout this semester, MSA has added polling stations to several residence halls and academic buildings, submitted ads into campus newspapers and Facebook, ordered bus signs and Diag board, reached out to student leaders to encourage their organizations' members to vote, visited student organization and other student government meetings to make announcements about the elections, working with ITCS to advertise the elections on university computers, and have been using traditional methods of flyering and emailing. We have also organized a debate for Monday, March 16th where students will be able to directly ask the presidential and vice presidential candidates questions about their visions and plans for MSA.

Disability Issues – After spending the past month collecting student testimonials regarding disability issues on campus, we now have a considerable list of concerns to tackle. We are now working very closely with the University's ADA Coordinator and Services for Students with Disabilities on parking accessibility, building accessibility, education for professors and students at large about the needs of students with disabilities, and creating social support systems for new students that have disabilities.

Students' Association of Michigan (SAM) – SAM is the statewide organization of Michigan colleges and universities largely created by MSA to coordinate the Higher Education Funding Rally held last year. At the recent conference, we were able to collaborate with our colleagues and share each of our campus's concerns regarding tuition and state funding. We will be largely working with the other two UofM campus student governments in particular, hosting a luncheon here in Ann Arbor in the next two weeks to discuss lobbying and other issues.

Students' Rights – After meeting with University Health Service and Student Legal Services, we are currently designing layouts for our new students' rights wallet sized cards that have information about them about alcohol laws, breathalyzation rules, emergency contacts, etc. We look forward to facilitating the distribution of them during Orientation and Welcome Week.

Campus Safety – We have gotten a very positive response from landlords regarding our free automatic porch light program and are currently coordinating efforts with them to ensure for the purchase and installation of all the sensors. Meanwhile, we were continuing to work with both DTE and City Council to get price quotes on LED street lighting for key off-campus areas of housing.

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