



Central Student Government

Office of the President

3011 Michigan Union
530 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Subject: Central Student Government (CSG) Report
March 2024

President Ono, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, I am honored to submit the following report to you on behalf of the Central Student Government (CSG):

Current and Upcoming CSG Programming

Winter Student Organization Funding Opportunities

The [Winter 2024 Funding Application](#)¹ is currently open. Six of nine content-neutral application review periods have taken place following [CSG funding policies](#)², with \$809,299.51 in requests across 323 applications so far. We are on track to receive over \$1.1 million in requests this semester, and are looking forward to continuing our support for a wide range of student organizations at U-M.

CSG Events

CSG is coordinating a variety of events throughout March and April. On March 9th and 10th, we held our annual free thrift store event, “Go Blue Goes Green,” for which we collected donations the month prior. We also held an Adaptive Sports visibility-focused event on the Diag this past weekend, and we’re hosting an appreciation event for women student leaders at the end of this month. Additionally, CSG’s Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Survivor Empowerment Commission (SMPSEC) is hosting a book talk about healing after experiencing sexual violence (on 4/6) and an early Denim Day event (on 4/9).

High Risk Planning Advocacy

Vice President Bipasha Ray is working alongside a student subcommittee of the Student Life High Risk Planning Group to advocate for protections against drink tampering on campus and in the Ann Arbor community. The group is encouraging fraternities and local bars to have drink covers available for any customers who are feeling unsafe. They have been working with the Brown Jug and Blue Leprechaun to pilot the program in bars, and have had three fraternities agree to serve as pilots for Greek Life.

Rec Sports Funding Advocacy

Bipasha and myself have been focused throughout this year on raising student awareness and gathering support for increased funding for Recreational Sports. CSG passed a [resolution](#)³ last month that highlighted this matter; the resolution was passed with unanimous consent. We will continue to speak with the Chief Financial Officer, the Provost, and the Vice President for Student Life about crafting a smart solution to make sure our students’ wellbeing is prioritized.

¹ <http://csg.umich.edu/sofc>

² <http://csg.umich.edu/funding-policies>

³ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qMoYIdGjaCFEmoz_k4rGCIBMekKZ-TvW/view?usp=sharing

D.C. Trip with the Association of Big Ten Students

From March 23-26, myself and CSG VP Bipasha Ray traveled to Washington, D.C. with the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS). In D.C. we met with student government colleagues from across the Big Ten as well as legislators from the state of Michigan. We are happy to share some of what we learned and spoke with legislators about, and we plan on providing a verbal update in our March remarks.

CSG Elections

CSG elections are taking place Wednesday, March 27th and Thursday, March 28th. Students will be voting for the CSG President and Vice President, 45 Assembly Representatives, and 1 Representative on the UMPD Oversight Committee. On Tuesday, April 9th, the new President and Vice President will be sworn in and the 14th Assembly will begin.

Notices

This is the last Regents meeting that Bipasha and myself will be participating in, so to close out our time in these roles, I'd like to share some general thoughts and reflections from the past year:

When I started this position back in the Spring, I could not have anticipated the amount of added pressure and responsibilities I would take on during my term. Many leaders at this University have aptly reminded me that I “didn’t run with ‘this’ in mind for my term,” referring to a contentious midterm election, growing tensions between administrators and students, and increased protest on campus. While I agree with them that I did not have all of “this” in mind, I am confident that myself and Bipasha were equipped to take on the challenge. And today I am just as proud of all that we have accomplished to advance our agenda as I am of our conduct when dealing with unexpected challenges. I also walked away from my *experience* this year with many thoughts about how this University could better support its students and, in particular, its student leaders.

First and foremost, it is absolutely unacceptable for fear to prevent leaders at our University from engaging with students. At a University where we intend on equipping students with the necessary skills to engage in dialogues across differences and recognize discomfort as an opportunity for learning (and as distinct from fear), I believe many leaders at our University struggle to exemplify this. As protests on our campus have intensified this past semester, I have noticed a trend wherein senior leaders at our University outsource their meetings with students to lower level staff members. The hesitancy to meet with students looks like avoidance and is harmful. As a campus leader, I have tried to the best of my ability to engage with peers of mine with whom I disagree. I find this to be productive and provide me with accurate information so I can best represent the student body. I would encourage you all to look at meetings with adversaries or opponents as opportunities to learn (and perhaps to even strengthen your convictions) rather than shying away.

Secondly, student leaders complete a lot of work at this University that is underrecognized, underappreciated, and oftentimes unpaid. Students who are asked to provide opinions to University leadership are deserving of compensation and appreciation. Throughout the last year, I have often found myself sitting in meetings and realizing that I am the only individual present

who is not being paid for my time, even though sometimes I am being asked to contribute more than others. I ask you to please not put future student leaders in this frustrating position. At an institution whose primary mission is to educate students and prepare them for their future endeavors, student input in University policy and process changes is vital, and it deserves appropriate valuation. Burnout among your student leaders is a real issue, and by failing to adequately recognize students' contributions and dedication, you are not living up to your goals of being a wellness promoting campus, and you are putting your students in a very challenging position. Please think intentionally about the value you place on student input, and compensate for it as such.

As a tangent to this last point, I have discovered a large disconnect around schedules between students and administrators. Student leaders have breaks built into their schedules because they cannot take paid time off. Please do not intrude on this protected time, and ensure that meetings where student input is needed are not scheduled during break times. Also, do not plan on soliciting student input in the Spring or Summer semesters. Students will not respond to emails or requests for meetings during this time, as they are oftentimes busy working or pursuing internships. Attempts to survey or engage students during the Spring/Summer are looked at with skepticism and frustration by student leaders.

That being said, the campus enriching work students do is impressive; to demonstrate your support for their work, please engage with students in meaningful ways outside of formal meeting contexts. I am often struck by the deluge of social media content that displays our University's leaders meeting with donors or attending Athletics events. I am honored and excited when Student Life administrators attend events that are organized by *student organizations*. I have not noticed many other leaders at our University attending student-run events, and despite encouraging many to do so throughout my term, I was disheartened by their lack of participation.

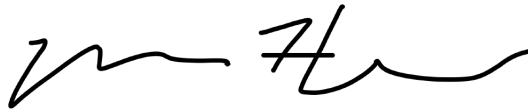
My biggest takeaway from this role, and something that it saddens me to express, is that the University of Michigan is not currently a conducive environment for students to pursue advocacy and challenge the status quo. I have been involved in Central Student Government for the past four years. I have witnessed three of my predecessors argue for increased student engagement with the Board, better late-night transportation services, increased Student Life funding, compensation for student government leaders, balanced University statements, an investment in mental health services, and countless other things. Student leaders push for the same types of incremental (not universal, not impossible) changes year after year, and any notion of progress is stopped at the Regential level.

Our student leader counterparts at peer institutions have established cordial, collegial relationships with their Regents and Trustees. Many of them sit on their Boards, some of them serve in Ex-Officio roles, or are given time in informal meetings. The lack of structure and expectations for U-M's Regents to interact with student leaders hampers growth on our campus. I have also grown suspicious that administrators feel a sense of relief every school year when they get a fresh slate of student leaders who do not start their roles with this context; I want to conclude this note by reassuring you all that my successor will be well informed of the student-administrator dynamics I have observed while in this role. I hope that with that added

background, they may see goals come to fruition that myself and many of my predecessors dreamed of accomplishing.

It has been my honor to serve in this role and interact with you all for the last year and to speak up for our student body at every step along the way. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this report, and we hope you will take what I've said in a constructive manner. Should you have any questions or wish to meet with us, please do not hesitate to email csq.president@umich.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meera Herle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Meera Herle
Student Body President

The Student Government of
the University of Michigan - Dearborn



March 2024 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 University of Michigan-Dearborn's Student Government (SG). We look forward to updating you on our initiatives and sharing all on which we have worked.

Beginnings

Our Student Government continues to prioritize our academic success initiatives. In the past month alone, we've organized two highly beneficial mock graduate-level exams, free of charge, to help our students prepare for their DAT and LSAT exams. These events have seen an impressive turnout, with dozens of students participating and providing overwhelmingly positive feedback. I'm excited to announce the establishment of a new Executive Board position: Director of Student Life. We're delighted to welcome Muneer Elshaikh to this role, and we're confident that his contributions will significantly enhance the well-being of our students and organizations.

Looking Forward

With Ramadan approaching, our Student Government is creating Ramadan goodie bags to distribute to students who will be breaking their fast on campus. Furthermore, our Director of Inclusion will be hosting Inclusion Week and collaborating with many different organizations to uplift our diverse student population on campus. This next month will bring about even more advancements in our academic success initiative with many more free graduate-level exams for our students.

Conclusion

Student Government is committed to serving and representing the student body. We have achieved several notable accomplishments and have important projects in the works. We hope to continue our efforts to make the college community a better place for all students.

Forever proud to be Dearborn Wolverines,


Jana Rida

Student Body President, University of
Michigan-Dearborn



Student Body Vice President, University of
Michigan-Dearborn

Muhammad Dakhllallah



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

President Ono, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, we are pleased and honored to submit the following report on behalf of the University of Michigan-Flint Student Government. The following serves as an update on Student Government's activity in March.

Alternative Spring Break:

Student Government this year under the Azeim-LaPeen administration significantly focused on Community and Traditions. Recently, we had the opportunity and privilege to financially contribute to the University of Michigan - Flint Alternative Spring Break (ASB), where students stayed off campus in Flint, spending time in the community learning about complex social, cultural, and environmental issues while volunteering at local community organizations. Student Government was proud to support this program's revival post-COVID and contribute to building sustainable relationships in our Flint community.

Free CPR Training for Students:

Senator Saman Amin passed Senate Bill 2024-001, which provided funding for CPR training for the Student Body on the Flint campus. Senator Amin worked with the Department of Public Safety police officers to train students to increase CPR certification on campus and provide students with major and future careers requiring certification..

Wolverine Essential Donations:

Senator Noor Ruzhan passed Senate Bill 2024-002, which provided funding to our food pantry on campus, Wolverine Essentials, specifically for items in need, like bedsheets and laundry detergent.

Student Organization Roundup:

Director of Student Organizations and Partnerships Jacquindre Brown planned and hosted the first Student Organization Round, inviting all Student Organizations to participate in recruitment tabling to spread information and awareness around their organization and upcoming events as we end the Winter semester. This event was a major success and helped to increase student involvement during the Winter semester.

Campus Sustainability:

Campus sustainability has been at the forefront of our work in student government for this administration. Recently, all student government members were invited to participate in sustainability training through Planet Blue Ambassadors to help ensure that all projects consider sustainability.

Student Government will also host our annual day of service to our University Community Garden, which feeds local residents and provides a wellness space for students and the Flint community.

We appreciate your support of our administration and the Flint campus over the past year as we have undergone a transformation. We look forward to the positive outcomes of appointing our next Chancellor and the full implementation of the transformation plan as a successful and sustainable Flint campus depends on it.

In Maize and Blue,



Lina Azeim
Student Body President



Logan LaPeen
Student Body Vice President