#### Received by the Regents March 20, 2025



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 2025

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

Although I delivered my inaugural Regents report just a month ago, this will be my final address before my term concludes in April. In May, I will be the first in my family to graduate from college, and I am extremely grateful to the University of Michigan for their academic, professional, and financial support throughout the past four years. While I am excited to begin my career, I can't help but wish I had more time to advocate for the 50,000 students of this great institution. However, even within a four-month presidential term, I am incredibly proud of what my team has accomplished, and I am confident that our successors will be well-equipped to carry on the work we have begun.

Our efforts have addressed a variety of areas that are important to students. First, we've revitalized efforts to establish a partnership between the University of Michigan and Lyft to provide subsidized late-night transportation for students. Similar programs have been successfully implemented at peer institutions, and we are optimistic that this initiative will enhance campus safety by ensuring that all students, regardless of financial circumstances, have access to safe transportation. We have high hopes that this project will be implemented before our term ends.

We've also collaborated with M-Dining and the Maize and Blue Cupboard to identify expansion opportunities on North campus as well as ways to improve awareness and access to federal food assistance programs, including SNAP. With 30% of our campus facing food insecurity, we believe that these efforts will have a profound impact on our students and their families.

Finally, a significant issue many students face is navigating the decentralized network of campus resources, particularly those related to financial assistance and grievance reporting. My Vice President, Jake, has been working alongside student representatives to address these issues in several ways. For one, they are working to compile a guide of emergency funds, scholarships, grants, and student organization funding opportunities to ensure that all students can easily access support in times of need. Additionally, he has authored two press releases related to censorship and ICE presence on campus to provide clarity for affected students. Jake has also been working with Representative Wade Velky on streamlining the student employee grievance reporting process. Ultimately, students on our campus face a wide range of issues that can affect their livelihood and overall college experience. It is our responsibility to ensure that essential



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resources are centralized and widely accessible; therefore, I encourage all of you to assess the accessibility of the resources provided to students so they may be fully utilized by those who need them most.

In closing, I urge this esteemed body to continue to look towards our bright students as a guiding light in these uncertain times. With new federal guidance regarding higher education emerging almost daily, a rapidly evolving international political landscape, and university policies that threaten freedoms of speech and protest across all levels of the institutional hierarchy, as well as the University's principles of inclusivity, student voices remain the common denominator for shaping the path forward. With this in mind, university decisions should always prioritize the interests of the largest stakeholders on campus – the student body. I encourage our administrators to consider student sentiment and the impact that particular programs under attack have on our campus community at large. Now is not a time to compromise our values, it is a time to reinforce our University's commitments to its students and continue to cultivate a community of the leaders and best.

President Ono, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, it has been an honor to serve in this role. While Jake and I may be concluding our official capacities, our dedication to advocacy is a lifelong, unwavering endeavor.

Go Blue Forever,

Mario M. Thaqi Student Body President



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## **Senior Staff**

- Vice President Jake Frederick is working with Student Organization Committee (SOC) Director Daphne Welter to create two Financial Resource Databases. One will be for individual financial resources, and the other will be for student organization funding. The intention is to create one centralized location for students seeking information. If you have any questions about what information is included, or have a resource that should be included, please reach out to jakefred@umich.edu.
- The President and Vice President have been working with DPSS to facilitate a campus walkthrough and identify at-risk areas on our campus where more infrastructure can be implemented for a safer environment (increased lighting, for example).
- The President and Vice President have been communicating with various organizations on campus that assist students in applying for federal food assistance programs (SNAP), like the Maize & Blue Cupboard, and the Student Insurance Office, to learn more about their methods and the process. The end goal is to provide information about SNAP in students' financial aid portals so they are aware of eligibility and can seek resources for applying.

# **Programming:**

• The Department of Student Programs is actively planning and executing over ten events and programs throughout the winter semester. Our first event, a winter wellness initiative held on the Diag on January 29th, not only supported student well-being, but also enabled us to gather over 600 responses for our policy team's housing survey. This, ultimately, allowed us to better understand the rental landscape and key challenges student renters face. Other events and programs for the semester include (1) Go Blue Goes Green, a free thrift & clothing upcycle event; (2) Valentine's Day Bash; (3) Hydration Stations for St. Patrick's Day; (4) Women's History Month Conference; (5) World Bites, a free, cultural showcase focused on bringing students together through 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, are working to revitalize the Saferide program by collaborating with administrators in Finance, Parking, and Transportation, as well as partnering with popular rideshare services to offer subsidized rides during high-risk hours. Research is underway to explore how other universities have successfully implemented similar rideshare programs.
- The policy team is also conducting research and holding meetings with administrators to address several key initiatives, including reducing laundry fees in dorms, increasing grocery store transportation and access to culturally relevant grocery stores, expanding



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information on housing resources, and collaborating with student organizations on civic engagement efforts and recreational sports funding.

- The Director and Deputy Director of Policy and the Student General Counsel attended Big Ten on the Hill where they worked alongside other student governments in the Big Ten to advocate for the protection of the SNAP program and removal of qualifications that harm college students; continued federal financial aid, such as Pell Grants; and safeguards for research funding essential to the advancement of medicine and keeping the US at the forefront of discovery and innovation.
- The Disability Empowerment and Advocacy Committee has begun its InclusiviTEA Speaker Series, alongside organizing an Adaptive Sports event, World Autism Awareness Day collaboration with "Best Buddies", and the administration of the Disability Advocates and Caregivers Scholarship. They are also working to streamline accessibility reporting services and share vital 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, "Cookies and Care Packages," on February 12. They also held an event around Valentine's Day surrounding sharing resources about domestic violence and sexual health.

## **Communications:**

- The Department of Communications has released official statements regarding the ongoing discussions on campus censorship and the potential presence of ICE on campus.
- The communications team has also collaborated with DPSS to produce a short video showcasing the latest U-M Public Safety App updates. In particular, the video highlights key new features, with a special focus on the "Walk with a Friend" function, while also providing essential instructions and disclaimers to ensure the app is used effectively.

## Finance:

CSG continues to spend student fee money on a variety of worthy pursuits. These
include: (1) Scholarships for refugee and conflict-affected students; (2) Scholarships for
student caregivers, and (3) students who promote Black excellence on campus; and (4)
LSAT and MCAT prep materials for students, as well as rentable calculators for students
taking math classes.

## 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



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to the ECRT office to work toward establishing a similar Corps for Title VI and IX complaints.

• The University Elections Commission is preparing for CSG's upcoming presidential election on March 26 and 27. This year's election includes 4 executive tickets, 11 UMPD candidates, and 93 Assembly candidates.

# 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>Sankofa Gala</u>, <u>among other things</u>.

The Student Government of the University of Michigan - Dearborn



March 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:**

Over the past month, the Student Government has fully staffed all committees with newly appointed chairs, ensuring that leadership remains strong. On February 25, we held a successful Presidents' Roundtable that fostered collaboration among student organization leaders and helped gather valuable feedback. We have also launched our free Notary Service, which is now available on our website, making document notarization more accessible to students.

### **Ongoing Initiatives:**

Our business discount program continues to expand, adding several local restaurants to serve the campus community better. We have packaged and plan to distribute Ramadan goodie bags throughout March so students observing can comfortably break their fast on campus. Our Director of Inclusion is coordinating with multiple student organizations to plan an Inclusion Week in April, promoting the university's commitment to celebrating diversity. In addition, we will host a badminton tournament to encourage health and wellness among students.

## Looking Ahead:

Building on past successes, we are preparing a combined mock graduate exam day, featuring the DAT, LSAT, and MCAT scheduled for April 4, supporting academic preparedness and success.

#### Conclusion:

Student Government is committed to serving and representing the student body. We hope to continue our efforts to make the college community a better place for all students.

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

# **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.

#### **Recent and Upcoming Engagements**

- Taste of Culture and Joint Networking Mixer—Student Government was honored to co-sponsor an event full of great food, conversations, and the chance to learn about Black American heritage. Student Government Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Jamiah McQuiller and Senator Kamarea Johnson sponsored legislation, which passed unanimously to provide funding. This event and many others during Black History Month were a great testament to the value of celebrating culture and the university's role in creating space to engage in rich new learning experiences.
- Foodbank Volunteering Event—Organized by Student Government Director of Foreign Outreach, Martez Johnson, members of Student Government and the campus community volunteered at the Foodbank of Eastern Michigan and were also able to raise money through volunteering for our campus food pantry, Wolverine Essentials.
- Student Organization Resource Event—Organized by Student Government Director of Student Organizations and Partnerships Hambleton in collaboration with Director of Financial Affairs Ali Barto, Director of Marketing and Communication Aminata Diop, and Vice Chair of the Senate Abigail Bingley. Student Government hopes to bring about meaningful discussion and impact by providing financial, marketing, and internal Student Organization support.
- First Generation Networking and Panel Event—Organized by Student Government Director of Academic Affairs Samantha Jarbou, who founded this annual event in the Winter 2024 semester, as well as Senator Kamarea Johnson to bring first-generation college students together into a space to discuss experiences, make connections and create community and belonging through navigating college.
- Student Government Iftar Event—Organized by Senator Noor Ruzhan in partnership with the Center for Global Engagement as well as the International Student Association to be held on March 25th from 7-9:30 PM to bring students together during Ramadan and break their fast
- Neurodiversity Night- Organized by Senator Kamarea Johnson in partnership with the Campus Activities Board, The Disability Network, K-12 Partnerships, and others. The event aims to bring more awareness to this community and allow for an open space with a variety of activities for people to come together and have fun. It will be held on April 3rd from 4-9:30 PM.
- United Student Government Conference of Michigan—On March 22nd, ten Student Government members will travel to
  Oakland University to collaborate with Student Government colleagues across the 15 public universities in Michigan.
  Members will learn of new ideas and share UM-Flint initiatives with other governments, hoping to work together to create
  real change through shared advocacy for college students.

The University of Michigan-Flint Student Government is fully dedicated to advocating for the issues that matter most to our student body. As the Federal Government challenges free speech and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives that support our diverse students, we remain firm in our commitment to transparency and collaboration with the University Administration. We will continue to assert that these services are vital to the retention, academic success, and well-being of students from all backgrounds and beliefs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Logan Lafeen

Logan LaPeen Student Body President University of Michigan - Flint