



The University of Michigan
Central Student Government

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Central Student Government (CSG) Report

President Schlissel, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University,

We are pleased and honored to submit the following report to you on behalf of the Central Student Government (CSG):

- I. Introduction of the New President and Vice President
 - A. **President:** Amanda Kaplan is a rising Senior from Sharon, Massachusetts, pursuing a major from the Ford School of Public Policy and a minor from the Ross School of Business. She served as Chief of Staff last year under the Gerstein administration and previously as an LSA Representative, the Vice Chair of the Finance Committee, and as a member of the Student Organization Funding Committee. Amanda also currently serves as a representative on the President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights and on Dean Barr's Advisory Committee on Election Year Activities. Amanda is passionate about democratic access and civic engagement, and she is excited to initiate programming related to the 2020 Debate and Election. She is honored to serve in this position, alongside Saveri, during this historic and unprecedented time.
 - B. **Vice President:** Saveri Nandigama is a rising Senior from Farmington Hills, Michigan. She is studying philosophy and minoring in religion in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. In CSG, she served as the youngest Chief of Staff in Daniel Greene's administration (2018-2019). She's also heavily involved in campus activities as a student employee at the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs, in the South Asian Awareness Network, and various other community building projects and activities. She is honored to have the opportunity to serve to continue elevating the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, especially during the 2020 Debate and Election. She is also honored to have the opportunity to serve with Amanda in representing the student body through the year.
 - C. **Our relationship:** Amanda and Saveri are unlike previous CSG administrations in that we are first and foremost best friends. We decided to run for these positions together, and the titles are merely secondary. In fact, we largely ignore the traditional separations of a CSG President and Vice President. We have re-defined the roles to better facilitate our partnership and play to our strengths. We both plan to attend meetings of the Board of Regents, and either (or both) of us will give the CSG report depending on the nature of its content that month. Both of us are so excited to represent the Student Body this year, and we look forward to working with you all. Please reach out to us (amkaplan@umich.edu and snandiga@umich.edu) at any time.
- II. Goals for the Upcoming Year



The University of Michigan
Central Student Government

- A. **COVID-19 Relief:** The current crisis has underscored existing structures of inequity on our campus. We want to ensure every student has access to food, housing, academic materials, mental and physical health resources, and more.
 - B. **Administration:** We hope to work with the Administration to disseminate information, promote resources, and foster an environment conducive to student well-being and success for this upcoming academic year, regardless of its form.
 - C. **DEI:** Amanda and Saveri are extremely passionate about DEI policies on campus and their intersection with a host of other issues. We hope to promote DEI in hiring processes, academic curricula, student organization funding, and more.
 - D. **Debate and Election 2020:** The upcoming Presidential Debate and Election are exciting opportunities for the University to further civic engagement and dialogue, but we must also prioritize campus climate and safety protocols.
 - E. **Sustainability:** We are excited to continue the work of previous administrations in advancing University-wide sustainable practices and environmental justice.
- III. Recent and Ongoing CSG Projects
- A. **Leadership Engagement Scholarship (LES):** Recognizing the impacts of COVID-19 on student leaders, we have been in contact with the Dean of Students and Development Office to ensure the LES is implemented in a timely fashion. We are also brainstorming ways to expand the program for future years.
 - B. **Housing Affordability:** Amanda and Saveri worked with members of the Assembly to pass a resolution supporting the Washtenaw Housing Alliance's Affordable Housing pledge. This working group will be meeting this Summer to develop policies which address issues of housing affordability in Ann Arbor.
 - C. **Food Insecurity:** We are working to implement a CSG-subsidized food delivery service for students to mitigate affordability and accessibility issues surrounding food acquisition. This service would also promote social distancing practices.
 - D. **Title IX Policy:** We are currently working on an info-graphic for students to explain the Department of Education's recently released Title IX guidelines and their impact on University of Michigan students.
 - E. **Student Organization Funding Committee (SOFC):** During the Winter semester, SOFC supported 116 student organizations. During the 2019-2020 school year, SOFC received 752 applications requesting \$1.36 million and awarded \$507,421.73.

Saveri and Amanda look forward to working with each of you this upcoming year to best support students and ensure the long-term success of the University.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Kaplan

President, Central Student Government

Saveri Nandigama

Vice President, Central Student Government



Received by the Regents
May 21, 2020

Subject: Rackham Student Government (RSG) COVID-19 Report

President Schlissel, 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 Rackham Student Government (RSG). Below is an update on the work RSG has conducted these past months amidst COVID-19 and how it has impacted graduate researchers, teachers, and students.

The Monday following President Schlissel's announcement of switching classes to online teaching formats, RSG launched the COVID-19 Concerns Survey and Town Halls. **Eight town halls were hosted to provide a forum for graduate students to voice their concerns.** In addition, we worked with Rackham leadership and campus offices to highlight resources the graduate population could utilize in this time.

- Town Hall 1, 2, & 8: Q&A with Rackham Leadership
- Town Hall 3: CAPS presented UM CAPS Mental Health Care Package
- Town Hall 4: Wolverine Wellness resources, including virtual wellness coaching
- Town Hall 5: Shared the RSG Resource Guide
- Town Hall 6: Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR) presented resources to help students navigate existing or new conflicts in the current digital world
- Town Hall 7: Loss and grief counseling resources from CAPS Grievance Counselors

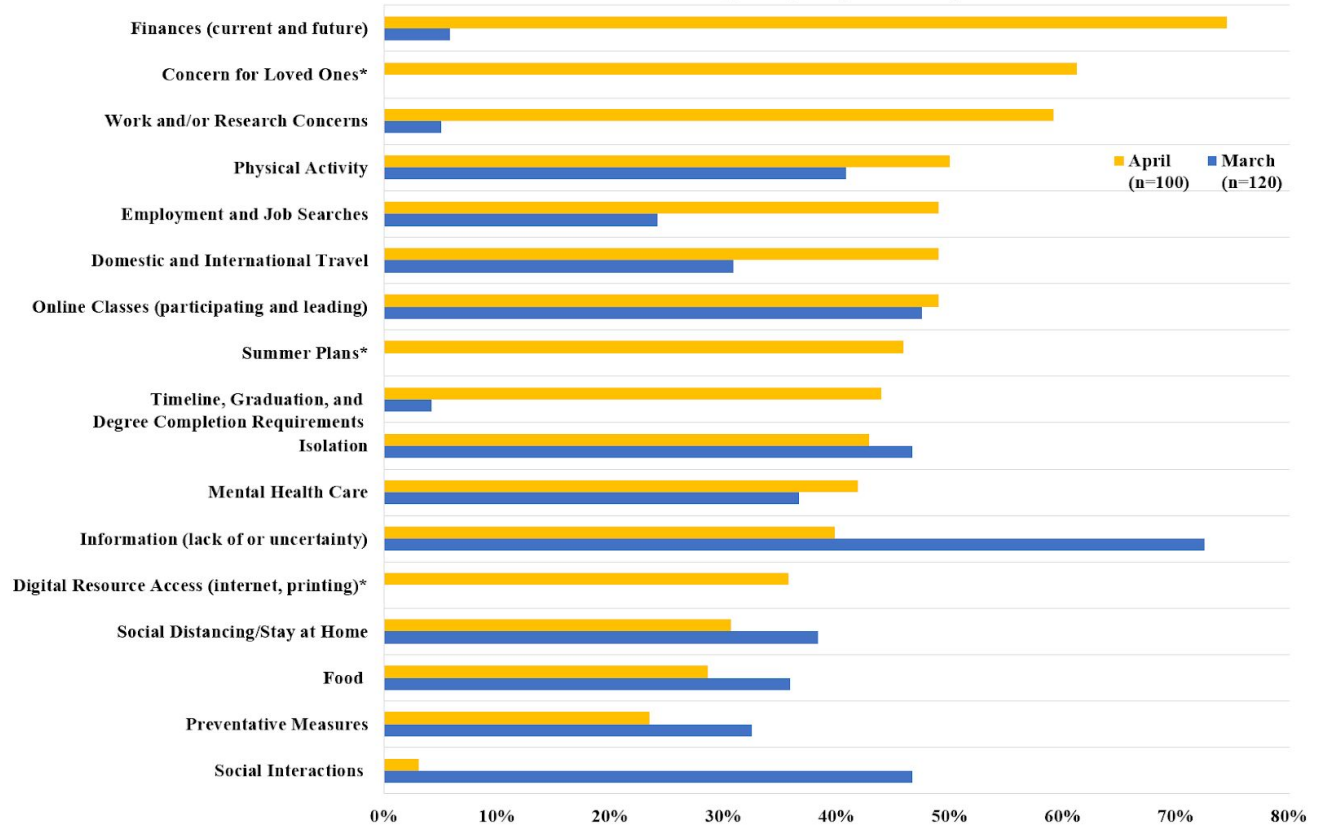
The COVID-19 Concerns Survey was used to gauge individuals' immediate **concerns throughout March and April** and ask what RSG and the university could do to support them; updated reports were shared regularly with Rackham leadership as well as during town halls. RSG also used the survey to determine where surplus funds should be donated, resulting in **RSG pledging a \$2,500 donation to Michigan Medicine and a \$2,500 donation to the Maize and Blue Cupboard.**

In April, **Financial Concerns (including future funding and financial aid) was the top reported concern at 74%.** One respondent elaborated on these concerns: *"My husband is... not being paid during this time... I am concerned to have enough money to pay bills and even food for my kids."*



RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Which of the following are you personally concerned about?



*Added in April, no March comparison available

Other participants described their **inability to care for vulnerable family members or find necessary funding for childcare**, resulting in deleterious consequences:

“As things currently stand, with no clear timeline for relief/assistance with childcare, I am not certain how I will be able to complete my dissertation on time, or prepare adequate materials (i.e. chapter draft) to be competitive for external grants to complete the dissertation. I’m not sure where this leaves me, and other students”

International students describe the **impossible financial situation** they find themselves in. Shared by Graduate Rackham International (GRIN), **international students “feel ignored and invisible”** and feel excluded from communications shared by the university. With the changing exchange rates, visa restrictions, and the lack of on-campus jobs, international students fear what will become of them; *“If I run out of money I can’t pay my rent and bills.”*



RSG is asking for a **freeze to tuition and housing costs**. These efforts can be seen in other major universities, including Penn State University, Rutgers University, and Michigan State University. Furthermore, RSG asks that **all student fees be frozen for the fall term and that the \$500 per semester international student fee be ended and refunded to students for the Winter 2020 term**. In addition to going against the university's core DEI principles, international students are being severely impacted by the pandemic and disproportionately withheld aid, as demonstrated by the CARES act.

Finally, we ask that **graduate researchers, teachers, and students be given seats at the table** in discussions surrounding our future research, teaching, and learning moving forward. **All graduate students are being adversely affected by COVID-19**, with students of color, working-class students, students with disabilities, first-generation students, undocumented students, international students, and students with children being disproportionately affected.

RSG is already leading through the collection, synthesis, and sharing of student feedback. We want to continue to **work with the administration** to implement policies students desperately need, such as

- **a one year extension** of program deadlines and time to degree requirements for all enrolled graduate students,
- **financial relief** through this unforeseen crisis,
- **childcare funding be expanded to in-house care**,
- **an end to the international student fee**, and
- **a freeze to tuition, housing, and student fees**.

Including a diverse group of graduate researchers, teachers, and students in these discussions will increase the efficacy of university initiatives and demonstrate the university's commitment to us.

Respectfully,

Sarah Jane Bork

President, Rackham Student Government



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**University of Michigan-Dearborn
Student Government
April 202 Regents' Report**

**Received by the Regents
May 21, 2020**

President Schlissel, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, it is my honor to submit the following report to you on behalf of the administration of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Student Government (SG). We look forward to involving you in our initiatives and sharing all that we have worked on.

A Year of Reflection: As we move toward a new Student Government administration, we are proud that our accomplishments this year were many. We made partnerships that will allow students to rent resources they need for years to come and committees worked tirelessly to provide capital improvements and services for our students. Student Government formed a recycling partnership with the Union at Dearborn. We worked with DPPS to ensure that our campus is properly lit for the safety of students, and hosted a self-defense event. We also worked with facilities to stock feminine hygiene products funded by the student government for years to come. These are just some of the accomplishments this year. We are excited to keep the energy going and invest in other projects in the future such as a 24-hour study room and scooters.

Health for Students: On February 25th, Student Government, Chancellor Grasso, Provost Alcock, and Dean of Students Finley hosted an Open Ice Skate event. This event increased awareness about the Ice Skate rental program that Student Government created, as a way to not only provide leisure, but also to allow physical exercise. We want students to be aware that campus gives them great resources they can take advantage of to promote a healthy lifestyle.

A New Leaf: On April 8th, Student Government elections were held. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the student body. There is a lot of work to be done. We will continue collaborating and forming partnerships with entities on campus. We hope to increase the support of our student organizations and help student life continue to grow for students. Student Government will always serve as a helping hand and with the new year approaching, there are additional opportunities to develop resources and initiatives.

Thank you,

Sarah Nassar

Student Body President, University of Michigan-Dearborn



STUDENT
GOVERNMENT

President Schlissel, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, I am pleased and honored to submit the following report on behalf of the Student Government at the University of Michigan-Flint. The following report will be an update on our newly elected administration, we look forward to working with you and serving the students of our campus.

I am Samantha Uptmor, the new President of Student Government. Together, with Carl Grolle, the new Vice President, we were elected to serve the students at UM-Flint. We have accepted these positions with pride and we look forward to supporting students throughout our time in office.

Platform:

During the election process we prioritized speaking directly with students to assess their wants and needs to directly impact the University of Michigan-Flint community. In doing so three primary points became our platform: Engagement; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Sustainability.

In the best interest of students, our engagement platform focuses on both student and civic engagement. We will collaborate with on campus organizations to maximize student interaction thus enhancing the student experience on our campus. The second aspect of this point is civic engagement, where we will provide education and opportunity to students surrounding the upcoming election.

Our second platform point, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was constantly mentioned in conversations with students so often that we knew this topic needed to be at the forefront of our platform. We decided that advancing DEI was too great a task for our current student government framework, so we made the decision to create a new cabinet position focusing on these goals. Additionally, our vision for this work closely aligns with the vision of the One University campaign. Our administration plans to work alongside the One University student organization, along with other organizations to make a significant impact in the lives of students on the Flint campus. Additionally, we plan to strengthen relationships with identity based organizations, standing institutional departments and Chancellor Dutta's DEI Committee. It is our hope that D.E.I. will become a staple of not only our administration, but the University of Michigan-Flint as a whole.

Our final platform point of sustainability has two components: environmental and university wide. In order to further our goals of environmental sustainability we will work with campus administration to develop the framework for achieving carbon neutrality. Additionally, campus wide sustainability will involve sustaining the university through assisting with recruitment as well as working to provide students with the necessary tools they need to succeed on our campus.

Key Issues:



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Our administration is dedicated to continuing our support of the students that attend the University of Michigan-Flint. We plan to build on the work of our predecessors, while also moving forward with new ideas and initiatives that benefit the community we have been elected to serve. We will continue to strive to reduce food insecurity, improve mental health, and maintain accountability. Though our work will continue on these key issues, we will also be working towards providing legal services to the students of our campus, creating a student committee for Diversity Equity and Inclusion and serving students in any way we possibly can. We believe that working actively in collaboration with on campus groups, especially the One University Student Organization and identity based organizations, will benefit the ongoing fight for a more fulfilling student experience at U-M Flint. Much of our platform is centered around issues raised by the One University coalition. The Student Government passed resolution 2019-004 in support of 1U in 2019. As President, I am recommitting to the ideas expressed in that resolution. I encourage the administration to work with the 1U campaign to implement programs that are included in a proposal drafted by the coalition. These ideas, coupled with the *Project 2020*, will transform the student experience at UM-Flint.

I am thrilled that the board has formed the Flint and Dearborn Governance Committee. I hope this committee will become a priority and hold their first meeting soon. Student Government is looking forward to working with this group so that we can begin delivering a true U-M education to students in Flint and Dearborn.

COVID-19:

Before I close, I think it is important to acknowledge the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 crisis that has affected us all. In the wake of the current pandemic, we would like to report that despite the transition from administrations; the Student Government at the University of Michigan-Flint remains committed to supporting students during this difficult time. We are all navigating uncharted territory but we will continue to deliver information and services to students in an appropriate and transparent manner.

It is an honor to work with you all and I am looking forward to working with all of you during my term as President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Uptmor

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