

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents  
September 19, 2013

ACTION REQUEST

**SUBJECT:** Division of Student Affairs name change

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval to change name of the Division of Student Affairs to Student Life

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2013

In 1992, the University of Michigan's Office of Student Services officially became known as the Division of Student Affairs. At the time, the term student affairs served as a complement to the term academic affairs as a direct way to communicate about students' co-curricular needs and activities.

The core work of the Division of Student Affairs encompasses every aspect of a student's life including transformative learning experiences; community, intercultural, and personal development; social justice, health, and well-being education; intervention, support, and advocacy; and many other essential services.

At this time, we are recommending that the Division of Student Affairs be renamed Student Life. The new name, Student Life, powerfully and authentically describes the reality of this essential work. In conversations with Michigan students, staff, and parents, the recommended name resonates and excites, while the term student affairs fails to make a similar connection.

Additionally, over time the institution's need to communicate with audiences external to the University of Michigan has grown. The recommended name, Student Life, facilitates intentional and meaningful connections with diverse audiences outside the institution. The clarity of the new name will maximize success in the current capital campaign and launch future efforts to connect, inspire, and build community both within and beyond the University.

We recommend that the Board of Regents formally approve the name change of the Division of Student Affairs to Student Life. Regents' Bylaw amendments to reflect this change will be presented at a future board meeting.

Recommended by:

Recommendation endorsed by:



E. Royster Harper  
Vice President for Student Affairs



Mary Sue Coleman  
President

September 2013