

**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

Received by the Regents
October 23, 2008

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Michigan Student Assembly Report

Attached is the October 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

October, 2008

Dear President Coleman, Regents, and Executive Officers,

Thank you once again for the opportunity to present to you. This past month was incredibly busy for MSA, and we're looking forward to another month full of hard work. Here is a list of initiatives on which MSA has been working:

Voter Registration Recap – Our Voice Your Vote Commission has reported registering over 1,500 voters this season, which we are incredibly proud of. The City Clerk, with whom we worked to place drop boxes in several facilities such as the residence halls and the University Unions, has reported that over 125 forms were submitted via the drop boxes just in the last 10 days of registration. This proves that the locations were strategically chosen and that the greater access was appreciated by students.

Voter Education - We are now working on educational and Get Out the Vote efforts. We are working with other non-partisan organizations to plan a Town Hall by inviting local Ann Arbor politicians to educate students about local elections. We are also planning a forum on Social Identities in the Election in collaboration with two other student organizations. We are also spending this month handing out voter education guides and urging students to sign pledge cards to promise to vote. We are working with Housing to place door hangers in the Residence Halls that tell students where their polling locations are. Finally, we will be coordinating phone banking efforts the night before the elections.

Alumni Relations – For the past year, we have been making an effort to reach out to MSA alumni and keep them abreast of our initiatives. We must have learned a thing or two from Development because one alum made a donation to us. We recently held a Recent Grad networking event where MSA alumni from the past few years had a chance to meet our executive board, representatives, and committee/commission chairs. We found them to be a great source of advice, as many projects and initiatives on MSA are ongoing.

Homecoming Week – The second year that MSA worked to coordinate Homecoming Week was a success! Our carnival in the Diag got rained out and we had to end it early, but our student showcase, sneak preview movie night of The Express, Environmental Philanthropy Day and Student/Alumni Networking events were a huge success. The T. Boone Pickens Town Hall was a big hit, and the Power Center was packed full of students, faculty, staff, and Ann Arbor residents. Finally, our Pep Rally in the Diag was the perfect ending to Homecoming Week. We had great support from athletic teams and coaches as well as the Men's Glee Club. Rich Rogel was our Honored Alum, and the students were blown away by all he does for the University. All in all, Homecoming Week

was a success, and we thank all of our partners across the University that helped make it happen.

Academic Affairs – We are currently working in collaboration with ITCS so that we can establish advisory groups to help provide insight into current issues that students are having with ITCS services and so that we can provide feedback to ITCS on their new initiatives. We are also working with the Provost's office to help relay the importance of filling out course evaluations to students now that this service is online, and to help relay the Textbook Taskforce information to the student body.

LGBT Affairs – Though it was a challenge to have our National Coming Out Rally in the Diag with the same anti-LGBT preacher heckling students in the Diag as last year's National Coming Out Week, we had a great turnout at our rally. The other largest event of the week is our Hate Crimes Vigil where stories will be read on a select group of hate crimes and 500 flags will be placed on the Diag to represent hate crimes deaths in the past year.

Peace & Justice – In collaboration with several student organizations on campus, MSA is planning a Humanitarian Festifall on October 17th for student organizations that are working to progress toward any of the Millennium Development Goals to which the leaders of 192 countries in the United Nations have pledged to commit themselves. Following it, we will hold a Stand Up Against Poverty Rally. Last year, this international initiative prompted 43 million people to stand in solidarity. This year, with significant planning and outreach, we've broadened the awareness about this rally and look forward to having even more students, faculty and staff on the Diag to celebrate our commitment.

MSA Outreach – In an effort to reach out to student populations that have not traditionally had representation on MSA, we've created a procedure to allow student organizations on campus with a minimum of 400 students to appoint an ex-officio representative to MSA. Ex-officio representatives have full parliamentary rights to allow the voices of their populations to be heard, but voting still limited to representatives that have been elected or appointed by their respective schools and colleges. The Student Athlete Advisory Council has already appointed a representation, and we are also reaching out to Greek Life, the Residence Halls Association, and the Inter-Cooperative Council.

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