

**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

Received by the Regents
November 20, 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 written in a cursive style with large, flowing letters.

Sabrina Shingwani
President, Michigan Student Assembly

November, 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:

Get Out the Vote Recap – Volunteers from MSA's nonpartisan Voice Your Vote Commission manned all the polling sites to create a "Party at the Polls" and instill voter protection on Election Day. We handed out newspapers, magazines, candy, and snacks and had some simple games to play with people on long lines to help occupy them until they voted. We also helped direct people and provided information to voters about their rights at the polls. Finally, we had a strong presence in the Diag with a small carnival type set up where we gave free cotton candy, popcorn, stickers, and temporary tattoos to students to promote getting to the polls.

The Greatest Rivalry Week – MSA is collaborating with Union Arts and Programs and the Student Athlete Advisory Council to work on The Greatest Rivalry Week in anticipation of Michigan Football v. Ohio State. MSA is working on planning the Thursday night pep rally in the Diag which includes student organization performances, like the Men's Glee Club and Groove, as well as a showcase of different athletic teams and spirit groups. We will also have free t-shirts and prizes. Last year this event had attendance of over 3,000 students. We hope to get as much as campus involved this year and we have over 30 student groups participating in some way throughout the Week this year.

Big Ten Sportsmanship Council – Earlier this year, MSA joined the Big Ten Sportsmanship Council designed to address sportsmanship issues at athletic events and on campus as a whole and to create a sense of Big Ten Pride. As part of these efforts, a few members of MSA will be traveling to Ohio State as part of the Big Ten Visitor's Program to meet with student representatives, experience the Michigan v. Ohio State rivalry at our football game, and work on distributing materials before the game, welcoming fans into the stadium, and brainstorming ways we can keep our ongoing rivalry safe for all students.

Airbus – Airbus is MSA's student founded and run \$7 ride to and from the airport during major academic breaks. Our Fall Break trips went very well and we are now beginning ticket sales for our Thanksgiving Break trips. We've been working on expanding our marketing strategy this year by creating partnerships with the Residence Halls Association and the Office of New Student Programs.

Street Lighting Initiative – In our efforts to add street lighting to certain off-campus areas that have been prone to crime, MSA has mobilized the Inter-Fraternity Council, the Pan-Hellenic Council, Rackham Student Government, the Business School Student Government, and LSA Student Government about fundraising for installation fees. We have also garnered the support of Councilman Leigh Greden and have met with Jim Kosteva from Government Relations, who have helped us set up a Campus Neighbors meeting to present the initiative to local landlords.

Collaboration and Outreach– We have scheduled a meeting for the executive boards of every student government on campus (MSA, SAAC, LSA-SG, Rackham SG, RHA, UMEC, etc.) to meet and discuss ways to facilitate communicate with one other about our initiatives and support on other on campus wide issues. Also, our “What to Fix?” Campaign efforts were successful this semester as we tabled in key areas around campus and got roughly 500 submissions of what our constituents want fixed on campus. We are now beginning to reach out to students about their issues and work on fixing them.

Student Parents – MSA has a history of being supportive to student parents on campus, especially with our childcare subsidy. This year we have been working on a “Got Kids?” pamphlet for student parents to have a comprehensive guide to resources available on campus. We have finished the design and are now getting final feedback before we print it in bulk. We have had the support of the Dean of Students’ Office and Rackham Student Government and will work with them in the distribution of the pamphlets.

MSA Elections – It’s election month at MSA. Students from two different parties (the Michigan Action Party and the Defend Affirmative Action Party) as well as several independents are vying for about 30 open representative seats on the Assembly. Elections will be held on November 19th and 20th and the new representatives will be seated during the first week of December.

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