

Received by the Regents
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**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Michigan Student Assembly Report

Attached is a report with an update of the projects and initiatives of the Michigan Student Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,



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President, Michigan Student Assembly

December 2010

MICHIGAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY
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President Coleman, Regents, and Executive Officers,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. Here are a few items that the Michigan Student Assembly has been working on in the past month.

Airbus The Michigan Student Assembly every break provides affordable and easy transportation to the Detroit Metro Airport through its service it provides called Airbus. Through the service, students can reserve a \$7 ticket to ride bus to the airport. This past Thanksgiving, students en masse utilized this service to get to the Detroit Airport. Over 2000 students utilized the service on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and just as many used the service on the way back from break. This is one of the largest services that MSA provides to students, and one that remains to be strongly utilized.

Transportation for Student Organizations Recently, the Ginsberg Center stopped its service to provide cars for student organizations that need transportation for service projects. Many of these student organizations have had to make due with carpooling or renting, which can be costly and inefficient for those groups that organize large service projects or service days. The Michigan Student Assembly is proud to announce that it will be re-establishing this service to student organizations, through collaboration with Parking and Transportation Services, so that service organization can reserve cars for their projects. This service will be run through the MSA Front Office, and any community service student organization will be able to use it.

Society of Business Engineers The Michigan Student Assembly passed a resolution last week to support the efforts of the Society of Business Engineers. Currently at the University there are many students who are pursuing degrees in both Business and Engineering, despite the steep requirements of carrying both those degrees. There are many more students who would be interested, but because of the strict requirements of both the College of Engineering and the Business School students who want to are forced to take classes that overlap or even repeat themselves to satisfy both majors. Investing in students who want a degree in both Engineering and Business create students with a mind for entrepreneurship in many more fields, including the environment and technology. There should be tracks at the University that allow for students to enroll in both colleges, and achieve a dual-degree that can promote students with a mind for entrepreneurship after they graduate.

Open Housing Report The Open Housing Initiative, a student collective made up of representatives from the Michigan Student Assembly, Residence Halls Association, the College Democrats, ACLU – U of M Chapter, and others, has completed its proposal for an Open Housing proposal at the University. The Initiative has been working closely with Vice President Harper, Dean of Student Laura Blake Jones, and Housing to figure out an effective way to implement the proposal and satisfy the demand of students for a policy change. Students will be having a meeting with relevant administrators to discuss this process within the next month.

MSA Elections The Fall MSA Elections took place November 18th and 19th. While the November elections don't usually yield a high student voter turnout, these elections had higher voter turnout than years past. Total turnout was 10 percent, with over 20 percent in the MSA-LSA elections.

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With the newly adopted All-Campus Constitution and Compiled-Code, the Fall Elections will be eliminated, leaving only the Winter elections for students to vote for their MSA Representatives. This will be a move that will improve voter turnout in student government elections, and engage more students in why their student government is important.

Survival Flight Resolution The Michigan Student Assembly last week passed a resolution supporting the efforts of students petitioning the School of Nursing to stop the usage of live animals in their survival flight tests. Many Universities make available simulators that don't use cats or pigs in their practices. Development in new technologies allow for educationally superior medical simulators that are approved by medical professional organizations. Because of this, it is no longer necessary to continue the use of animals in these training exercises. I would encourage you to consider the alternatives to the use of animals in these trainings and work with the students who are petitioning the School of Nursing.

MSA Restructure The Michigan Student Assembly just recently underwent a large shift in its structure. This past March, the students voted to approve a new All-Campus Constitution, which detailed drastic changes for the structure of the Michigan Student Assembly. Now, the Assembly, which is comprised of elected Representatives from every school and college at the University, will be lead by a Speaker, which means that the Student Body President no longer Chairs the meeting. The responsibilities of the Student Body President are now more focused on the projects and initiatives that lie in the commissions of the Assembly. This change is one that will allow greater political discourse on campus, and promote more discussion on major issues on campus. This is a positive change for the Michigan Student Assembly, and I look forward to detailing how it changes campus debates.

Course Guide Improvement The Michigan Student Assembly's Academic Affairs Commission and SACUA's Academic Affairs Advisory Committee are drafting a report to suggest and implement improvements to the University's school and college course guides. Included in the report will be those pieces of information not currently listed on the course guides but would be helpful to students in their course selection. Examples of this include the cost of required textbooks, which semesters a course is typically offered, and courses for which a particular course might serve as a prerequisite. I look forward to detailing the results of this report in the future.