

**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

Received by the Regents

January 17, 2008

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Michigan Student Assembly Report

Attached is the January update on the projects and activities of the Michigan Student Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Dar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mohammad Dar
President, Michigan Student Assembly

January, 2008

President Coleman, Regents, and Executive Officers,

As always, thank you for your support and for this opportunity for us to share our work with you. Below are some of the larger issues we are looking at as we move into the Winter Semester.

Student Funding and MSA Online – MSA recently hired two new webmasters and we are working with them to improve the submission process for our student group funding applications. Since MSA allocates over \$300,000 of its budget to funding student groups all over campus, we are trying to set up an online submission system for our funding applications so that students will have an easier time submitting them. We are also working with the web team to improve many more of the resources on our website including Advice Online (a tool students use to see past peer evaluations of academic courses).

Academic Calendar – MSA's Academic Affairs Commission has taken on the task of looking student sentiment as per the current length of our Winter Break. A petition calling for the extension of that break by one week was recently distributed largely by word of mouth and was electronically signed by over 4,000 current students.

However, we do realize that all of the data gathered so far is only the start of a conversation that needs to be considered from many different angles due to its large ramifications and is one that should involve many more parties from all across campus. MSA will do more in the coming weeks to reach out to the pertinent offices and groups.

City Council – As stated earlier, City Council will be voting on revisions to the Later Leasing Ordinance on January 22nd and MSA will work with the City to find sources of funding for under-lit student neighborhoods.

In addition, some officials in council have expressed concern of student outgrowth into what have been traditionally family neighborhoods, particularly in the Burns' Park Area. We are currently reaching out to Council to discuss what can be done to alleviate concerns.

A New Semester – MSA will be having its first winter meeting shortly after the submission deadline of this report. In the coming weeks, our new members and committee and commission chairs will be formulating and facilitating many exciting and new projects that I hope to share with you in the future.