

**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**


**Received by the Regents
April 19, 2012**

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Central Student Government Report

Attached is the March update on the projects and activities of the Central Student Government.

Respectfully Submitted,



DeAndree R. M. Watson
President, Central Student Government

April, 2012

President Coleman, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, it is my privilege and honor to submit the following report to you on behalf of the Central Student Government. Below is a brief update of our activities and operations, as we continue to serve the students of this University.

Earth Fest

On Monday March 26th, the Environmental Issues Commission of the Central Student Government hosted Earth Fest on the Diag to educate the University community about sustainability and showcase student organizations and local business that promote sustainability and environmental education. The event included a water challenge test in which students were given a blind sample of bottled water and tap water, and then asked to choose the best option based on taste to break down stereotypes about the inferiority of tap water and discourage the future use of bottled water on campus. Students were also educated about the importance of recycling and composting, and were challenged to do so as they made their way to class.

Encouraging Sustainability

In effort to support a student movement to transform the Michigan Stadium into a zero-waste facility and underscore the University's fierce commitment to sustainability, the Student Assembly recently passed a resolution authorizing a \$10,000 grant to be awarded to the Athletics Department for the purpose of conducting an in-depth study on the feasibility of a zero-waste Michigan Stadium. Before receiving the grant, the Athletics Department must meet a minimum of five conditions, which include a written agreement to seriously consider converting the Michigan Stadium into a zero-waste facility for the 2013 football season. Sustainability is an issue that is extremely important, both to the University administration and to the students, and we believe that successfully converting the Michigan Stadium into a zero-waste facility is an essential step in the University's journey toward institutional sustainability. We hope that we can work together in the near future to make this a priority for the institution, and another example of the University's commitment to sustainability for the world, in the near future.

In addition, the Central Student Government is working closely with the Office of Campus Sustainability to create the infrastructure needed to seriously promote sustainable practices within the student community. To accomplish this goal CSG has pledged a total of \$6,000, to be

combined with other University funds, in an effort to provide all incoming students with a reusable water bottle. CSG has also committed another \$15,000 for the purpose of installing 18 water bottle refill stations across campus. We are currently working with the Office of Campus Sustainability and the various facilities offices of different campus buildings to confirm installation costs and set timelines for completion. We firmly believe that the University of Michigan should stand as a true leader of sustainability for colleges and universities across the nation, and we are committed to working with the institution to make this a reality.

CSG Graduation Celebration

In an effort to honor the graduating seniors who have dedicated a portion of their college experience to serving the students of this University, the Central Student Government is hosting a Graduation Celebration on Thursday April 26th from 6-8 pm in the Pendleton Room of the Michigan Union. Serving in student government is a true sacrifice and demonstration of a student's commitment to Michigan, and we invite all of you to join us as we pay tribute to the seniors who have made this sacrifice with honor and distinction.

St. Patrick's Day Bash

On Saturday March 17th the Central Student Government hosted a St. Patrick's Day Bash on the Diag to provide a healthy alternative for the other festivities taking place that day. We are proud to report that the event was extremely successful, with approximately 4,000 students joining us on the Diag and consuming massive amounts of food and Powerade. We thank the University Health Service, the Dean of Students Office, and the entire Division of Student Affairs for their tremendous support with this project, and we look forward to working with them again next year to execute another similar program on a wider scale.

Grassroots Student Activism

The University of Michigan has a rich history of student activism that has underscored its mission for students to challenge the present and enrich the future for decades. Recently, however, some have argued that the spirit of student activism that defined the institution's recent history and produced units such as the Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives and the Trotter Multicultural Center has dissipated due to changing demographics within the student community and other socio-economic forces. However, I believe that the past few months alone not only illustrate the fallacy of such an assertion, but signify a return to the student activism roots that define the character of this institution.

Several coalitions of students, including Practice What You Preach, the Coalition for Tuition Equality, eRacism, Wolverines for Diversity, Integrate Greek Life, Building a Better Michigan, and Occupy U-M have emerged this year to push the University of Michigan to adopt socially responsible investment practices, to extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented students residing in the State of Michigan, to combat racism on campus and promote an inclusive and respectful campus climate, to advocate for true diversity throughout the entire institution, to combat racially segregated Greek Life, to advocate for improvements in student life facilities that match the integrity of this institution, and to expose the economic and social injustices created by the rising costs of higher education.

Each of these groups emerged, not as individual student organizations, but as coalitions of students and existing student organizations to highlight the cross cultural representation and widespread appeal with which each of these causes is supported. I am extremely proud to have had the opportunity to witness the beginning stages of a communal shift toward grassroots activism within the student community, and I look forward to its continued development over the next academic year.

The issues that each of these student coalitions bring to your attention are extremely important for many students throughout this University and I hope that together, as students, faculty, and administrators, that we can work to find solutions that will improve the quality of life for the entire University community and enhance the Michigan Experience for future generations of Wolverines.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



DeAndree R. M. Watson
President