

The University of Michigan Regents' Communication

Received by the Regents
May 20, 2010

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

May 2010

MICHIGAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY
3909 Michigan Union – 530 S. State Street
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President Coleman, Regents, and Executive Officers,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. With the year coming to a close, the Michigan Student Assembly and the affairs of the student body are continuing into the summer. Here are a few items that we have worked on as the year comes to an end, as well as a few initiatives to look forward to in the fall.

Fall Voter Registration. The Michigan Student Assembly's Voice Your Vote Commission (VYV) is currently gearing up for the 2010 Elections in the fall. Currently, we are working to have voter-registration drop boxes around campus for students fill out their forms to register to vote. Also, the Dean of Students office has kindly provided us with funding to construct a voter registration website for students to register to vote online in the fall. With these efforts MSA hopes to exceed the number of students that were registered to vote in 2008.

Hilltopia. In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, the Michigan Student Assembly's Peace & Justice Commission will be hosting an event on Palmer Field on September 6th to promote community service and social justice on campus. Community service student organizations will assemble on the lawn to promote their causes and construct a mural to highlight the LSA theme semester "What makes life worth living?" The event will be cosponsored by the Ginsberg Center, Center for Ethics in Public Life, and Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs.

Teach for America Funding. As you all may know, the University of Michigan is consistently the largest contributor of students to Teach for America every year. The purpose of Teach for America is to close the educational achievement gap by hiring recent college graduates to teach in underperforming school districts. Unfortunately, in a proposal before Congress right now federal funding for Teach for America for 2010-2011 would be eliminated, which would significantly decrease the capacity for students of U of M to participate in the program in cities like Detroit. Students are currently urging their Senators to reestablish Teach for America's funding by texting "TFA" to 30644.

Get Involved Campaign. This upcoming fall, MSA will embark on a new initiative meant to promote student involvement and participation on campus called the Get Involved Campaign. This campaign will emphasize the importance and significance of getting involved for students and their experience at the University of Michigan. The campaign will have members of the Michigan Student Assembly highlighting the opportunities that students have to become active on campus, as well as stress the importance of engaging with student organizations for enhancement of your education. It is meant to emphasize the diversity, breadth, and commitment that students on this campus commit to their organizations, as well as the capacity for leadership that the University of Michigan fosters.

Supporting Greek Housing. In April, MSA passed a resolution supporting the 2009 Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act. The purpose of this Act is to allow alumni and donors of Fraternities and Sororities to make tax-deductible monetary contributions to the houses that host them by altering the federal tax structure. This change will benefit the houses in making necessary repairs to their facilities, including fixing the fire safety devices or repairing old pipes, which will help lower the cost of living for the students living in these houses.

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