

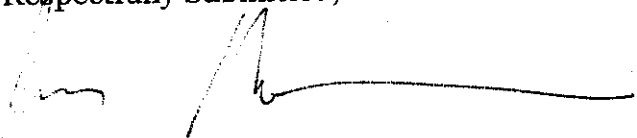
**The University of Michigan
Regents' Communication**

EXH	MOTION
	SECOND
	ACTION APPROVED BY THE REGENTS
NOTE:	MAR 17 2005
<u>ITEM FOR INFORMATION</u>	

Subject: Michigan Student Assembly Report

Attached is a report with an update of projects the Michigan Student Assembly has completed or is currently working on.

Respectfully Submitted,



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President, Michigan Student Assembly

March, 2005

Michigan Student Assembly Update

Public Interest Research (PIRGIM) – The Assembly has been considering funding a PIRGIM chapter at the University of the Michigan campus. Essentially, a group of students would like to retain an organizer who would perform advocacy work on behalf of students. While the Michigan Daily has continuously supported the idea, the proposal is currently being debated within the Central Student Judiciary, which will issue a full response before the Regents' meeting. Currently, the Chair has determined that it is a violation of the Michigan Student Assembly's delicate 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and is a violation of student fee usage.

Funding Reorganization – With the funding structure of the Assembly receiving heavy scrutiny, the General Counsel's office has discovered gaping holes in the Michigan Student Assembly funding structure, which require closing before any serious student organizations can be funded. With Southworth vs. the University of Wisconsin, several non-governmental organizations have examined the peril's of student group funding. While the Michigan Student Assembly code has been updated since then, it is not compliant with the findings and rulings of this landmark court case.

Coke Resolution – Students Organized for Labor Equality (SOLE) came to the Michigan Student Assembly and requested support in the 'Killer Coke' campaign alleging serious labor and human rights violations in Columbia and India. Accusations include the targeted killings of Union Leaders and depletion of India's water supply. Several Coke representatives arrived from Atlanta to refute the claims, and the Assembly worked hard to get informed on the issues. Luckily, Purchasing does have a structure in place, with the help of Vice-President Krislov, Slottow and others. The Dispute Review Board was designed to handle just these types of issues, and the Assembly amended the resolution to support that process.

Divest from Israel Campaign – Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE) has come to the Assembly to request that the Regents' create a board to look into investments in the state of Israel. This will create both heated debate and introspection among students, and will attract local and national attention.

Vietnam / Iraq War Issues – A local resident of Ann Arbor is quite upset about the conditions for arriving service men and women on campus. The Michigan Student Assembly will be holding several informational meetings to help quell the unrest and address some of the parallels between the Vietnam War and the Iraq war.

Student Organization Recognition – The Michigan Student Assembly is attempting to aid Donica Varner and Susan Wilson in the creation and utilization of a new student org recognition process. It should allow for more opportunities for students to enjoy the benefits of this large institution.