

October 2011 Regents' Report

Michigan Student Assembly

Received by the Regents
October 13, 2011



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "DeAndree Watson", written over a horizontal line.

DeAndree R. M. Watson
President

President Coleman, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, it is with honor that I report to you on behalf of the students of this University and the Michigan Student Assembly. Below is a brief update of the activities and vision of the Michigan Student Assembly.

EarthFest:

During the late summer and early fall, the Michigan Student Assembly worked with Planet Blue and other university administrative units to plan the second annual EarthFest. This event took place on the Diag on Tuesday September 27, 2011 and gave students an opportunity to learn about the sustainability efforts of the university. The event also featured cooking demonstrations, a bicycle repair workshop, and gave students the opportunity for hands-on participation with a trash sort. In an effort to participate in the ongoing campus wide conversation about sustainability, MSA plans to continue working with the University to educate students about the importance of environmental sustainability and the effects of everyday choices.

Commission Discretionary:

The Michigan Student Assembly recently made changes to its governing documents to reflect a new way of operating financially. In an effort to reduce waste and increase the impact of the funds used by the commissions of MSA, we have created a new Commission Discretionary account that will be used to distribute funds to the various commissions throughout the year. In the past, each commission was required to set a semester budget at the beginning of the fall and winter semesters. However, due to the nature of the reimbursement process funds that were unused by the commissions simply carried over into the next semester or academic year. Under this new system, we will be able to identify funds that are no longer needed within each commission budget and redistribute them immediately to ensure maximum impact on the student body and to reduce waste. We hope that this new process will allow us to increase our ability to serve students on campus, while maintaining current levels of financial resources.

University Council:

Two years ago, in March of 2010, the University of Michigan student body voted to ratify a new Constitution that significantly restructured the Michigan Student Assembly. Among several changes was the creation of a new legislative body called the University Council. According to the Constitution, "the University Council shall be composed of representatives chosen by the several degree-granting unit governments every year." The Constitution also provides for one

representative to be elected by the membership of each school or college student government to have one vote in the Council. This body meets twice monthly and is designed to establish a system of student governance on campus that encourages collaboration between the several governing organizations. Serving as a forum through which student government leaders from every corner of the University come together to discuss their initiatives and to solicit support and feedback, I believe that this body will significantly strengthen the efforts of students on campus in a unified and organized fashion. The University Council is the second legislative body of MSA, and all resolutions passed by the Council must then be considered by the Assembly. Currently, the Council is in the process of drafting its internal Operating Procedures.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeAndree Watson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DeAndree R. M. Watson
President