

December 2011 Regents' Report

Received by the Regents
December 15, 2011

Michigan Student Assembly



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DeAndree R. M. Watson
President

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 Michigan Student Assembly.

Redefining Student Government

For over a century the student government at the University of Michigan has worked diligently, advocating for the interests of students and working to maintain the quality of excellence that defines our institution. Today, we continue that work by providing funding for student organizations, transportation services for students traveling over breaks, voter registration and education for incoming freshmen, encouragement for more sustainable practices, challenges to uphold our commitment to social justice and equality, innovative ideas to enrich our educational experiences, resources to keep students safe on and off campus, and tools to help students establish healthy lifestyles. Throughout our history we have honored our commitment to serving students with an enduring passion for Michigan.

Constantly being shaped by generations of students seeking to find the perfect fit for their time, the organization has always been in a constant state of construction. But despite its ever-changing nature, its purpose has always been consistent: belonging to the students, as their forum for change and stage for action.

This is why we are excited to turn the page on the history of student government once more to answer the call of the students. By voting to ratify a new constitution, students made a call for change in student government, demanding more clarity, transparency, democratic principles, opportunities for involvement, and accountability.

The new Central Student Government will provide more opportunities for campus-wide collaboration through the University Council: a body composed of delegates from all of the school and college governments of the University, a forum for justice through the Central Student Judiciary: a diverse bench of nine justices and a team of seasoned legal advocates, and a stage for action through the Student Assembly: a body of students from every corner of campus elected to serve the institution.

Empowered by these changes, the Central Student Government will enhance its work for students by providing more access to funds for student organizations, increasing its support for

student activism, and strengthening its ability to advocate for students at all levels of government. With a redefined funding system it will provide the resources student organizations need exactly when they need them, and the tools for every student to challenge the present and enrich the future with a comprehensive online activism system. And standing on a tradition rooted in over one hundred years of service, the Central Student Government will continue its simple but sacred responsibility of representing the distinguished Michigan men and women of this great institution.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeAndree R. M. Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

DeAndree R. M. Watson

President