



The Student Association of Michigan

Office of the President · 101 S. Washington Square, Suite 600 · Lansing MI 48933

Student Association of Michigan Ferris State University Conference

2011-2012

Sept 24th and 25th

- Welcome Letter and Pre-conference Assignments
- Itinerary/ Agenda
 - Itinerary
 - Minutes from the previous meeting
 - Agenda
- Proposals for Upcoming Campaigns/ Resolutions
 - Campaign Selection Criteria
 - Student Action committee Proposal
 - **RESOLUTION** Non-Conference Voting
 - **RESOLUTION** Restructuring of the Legislative Research Committee
 - Shared Governance Proposal
- Public Relations/Correspondence
 - Newsletter (*separate attachment*)
 - Correspondence with the USSA
- By-Laws of SAM



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To all incoming delegates,

We wanted to quickly take this moment to say thank you for taking the time to get involved with the Student Association of Michigan and to sincerely say I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

As your Executive Board, we couldn't be more proud of the things that we have already accomplished, and we eagerly look forward to getting back to work with you at our first conference hosted by **Ferris State University, Sept 23rd-24th**.

It has been our pleasure to work together on your behalf, and let us tell you, we have been hard at work. Over the past 3 months we have been preparing many great proposals we believe will benefit all students state wide.

As you will see by the agenda following this letter we have much to discuss at the conference, so to help ensure a good discussion please come prepared with:

- Your Universities calendar, and a decision on whether or not your University would like to host a conference
- A working knowledge of the By-Laws of the Student Association of Michigan (*attached*)
- Nominations if any for Vice-President, UAC chair/members, and LRC members
- Your Student Governments opinion on the proposed initiatives and resolutions.

As we said before, we look forward to working with you and hearing your concerns as we move forward to make this a great year for Michigan students!

Thank You,

Jay Gage
President

Dani Thoun
Secretary

Alex Khobier
Treasurer

Tyler Helsel
Director of PR



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FSU Conference Itinerary

September 23rd -25th

Friday, September 23rd

Meeting with the Ferris State University Student Government

Dinner at **Bennigans**
connected to hotel

(6:00 p.m.)

Saturday September 24th

Morning Session of the Conference (9:00 – 12:00)

Break for Lunch, **On Campus**

Afternoon Session of the Conference (12:00 - 5:00)

Adjournment

Dinner at **The Gate**
706 Perry Ave, Big Rapids MI

(6:30 – 8:00)

Sunday September 25th

Final Session of the Conference (9:00 – 12:00)

Adjournment

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Holiday Inn

1005 Perry Ave. Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: (231) 796-4400

Rooms are \$89.00 a night

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY 9/2/11

QUESTIONS CALL DANI THOUNE (906) 869-7874



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Minutes

Student Association of Michigan
Michigan State University
Saturday, April 16, 2011

- I. Call to order at 9:45am.
- II. Roll Call: Present and Voting
 - a. CMU – Not Attending
 - b. EMU – Not Attending
 - c. FSU – Present and Voting
 - d. GVSU – Present and Voting
 - e. LSSU- Present and Voting
 - f. MSU- Present and Voting
 - g. MTU- Present and Voting
 - h. NMU- Present and Voting
 - i. OU – Present and Voting
 - j. SVSU – Present and Voting
 - k. UMA – Present and Voting
 - l. UMD – Not Attending
 - m. UMF – Present and Voting
 - n. WSU – Present and Voting
 - o. WMU – Present and Voting
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 19 & 20, 2011
 - a. Moved by UMF
 - b. Seconded by NMU.
 - c. Passes Unanimously.
- IV. Executive Board Reports
 - a. President – Mr. Cardi DeMonaco Jr
 - i. USSA named us the State Wide Association of the year. It will be hanging up in the President's Council Office in Lansing.
 - ii. There's two amendments coming up this weekend
 1. Honorary members
 2. Attendance
 - iii. I talked to Jeff Irwin , and I asked him to write a letter of support for us. I'm going to throw it into the rally document.
 - iv. Our rally went over fairly well. We had such a great media showing. SVSU brought 91 people to the rally.
 - v. I sent a letter to Senator Kahn's office about corrections.
 - b. Vice President – Ms. Kristin Dayag
 - i. Transition binder for the upcoming Vice-President.
 - ii. Coalitions, to actually solidify that through our resolution.



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c. Secretary – Mr. Justin Brugman

- i. Attendance sheets
- ii. Nominations:
 1. President, Nominations; Jay Gage from LSSU.
 2. Vice President; Derek (GVSU), Jennora (SVSU), Jen (MTU), Dani Thoun (NMU)
 3. Treasurer: none
 4. Secretary: none
 5. Director of PR: none
 6. LRC Chair: Jasmine Charlton
 7. UAC Chair: none

d. Treasurer – Mr. Jason Davis

- i. We haven't fully completed the 503(c) Status. It's in the process now, we need to have a dissolution clause.
- ii. Next Treasurer will not have to worry about the 503(c) status, Jason will continue to work on it.
- iii. A document on spending guidelines.
- iv. Budget;
 1. We spent 77.26 on Office Supplies/USSA Frame.
 2. USSA dues 70.00
 3. Student Empowerment Training, \$700.00
 4. Leg-Con for OU/EMU, \$200.00
 5. Rally, \$217.00
 6. Total: 1264.26
 7. Remaining Balance: 400 something.

e. Public Relations Director – Mr. Kyle Korth

- i. I've been busy after the rally.

V. Committee Reports

a. Legislative Research Committee – Ms. Jennora Walker

- i. Overall Goals
 1. Short Term:
 - a. Pin point person from each school, accomplished.
 - b. Medical Amnesty Campaign, we weren't able to do this this year, but we did do a resolution.
 - c. Make Higher Education a Priority, we really want to make it clear that we really care about higher education.
 - d. LRC Comprehensive Report;
 - e. Follow up with legislators; we want to do this year.
 2. Midterm;



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- a. Work with newly-elected officials to make higher education and students a priority.
 - b. Research other higher education funding sources for students
 - c. Adopt a legislator
 - d. Lansing blitz
 - i. 2011- 750 students (300 students)
 - ii. 2012- 900 students (750?)
 - iii. 2013- 1000 students (900?)
3. Long Term Goals:
- a. Establish unified political and advocacy strategies across all schools.
 - b. Establish a five year plan to guide the committee
 - c. Present at least one policy to SAM at each conference (accomplished and continue)
 - i. HB 4876- Medical Amnesty Bill
 - ii. Community College Baccalaureates
 - iii. Absentee voting
 - iv. Parking Bill
4. How would we like to improve?
- a. LRC
 - i. Continue keeping SAM updated with legislation
 - ii. Keep accomplish goals- new and old
 - iii. More research on legislation
 - iv. Newsletter with legislation reached
 - v. Strict concentration for LRC
 - vi. Communication with the board
 - b. Universities
 - i. Get more people involved
 - ii. Pin point people involved
 - iii. Accountability/dedication
- b. University Affairs Committee - Ms. Alysa Diebolt
- i. University Road Map
 1. 28 Sections
 2. 22 Completed
 3. 3 still need authors
 - a. Scheduling Efficiently
 - b. Grade Appeals
 - c. Diversity Committees
 4. Fall: Editing needs to be done.
 5. End of Fall/Winter: Voted on.



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6. Winter: Distribute to University Presidents!

ii. SG Initiated Programs

1. Got them from; FSU, GVSU, LSSU, NMU, OU, SVSU, UMF, WSU, WMU.
2. MSU and MTU talked to me, but hasn't sent me anything yet.
3. CMU doesn't have a pin point person.
4. EMU, UMAA, UMD don't have anything to me yet.
5. Once compiled, will be sent to each President/VP of each SG.
6. Use as a resource!

iii. Contact Sheet

1. I need the contact information for your Student Government President and Vice-President.

VI. Guest Speakers

- a. Mike Boulus, Executive Director of President's Council
 - i. I spend most of my time in the political arena as a lobbyist.
 - ii. Our new Governor cut us by 15% in his first year, granted we have a major budget problem.
 - iii. They have an appetite to cut taxes rather than raise them.
 - iv. If you don't keep your tuition under 7.1%, then they'll increase your cut to 20%.
 - v. 900 million dollars from K-12 is going to Higher Education. We didn't ask for it, but we're not going to turn it down either.
 - vi. I'm feeling relatively good that our cut is going to be 15%.
 - vii. We had a website where students could easily contact your legislators. It's called Capwiz.
 - viii. Capwiz, is a call-to-action service that allows its clients to create a message and send the message out to their supporters, who then contact their legislators through emailed letters or phone calls.
 - ix. You go on the website, and click on "take action." There will be a basic message on the website, you can use that or chose your own message, or whatnot.
 - x. Use your school, home, or both zip codes to find out your legislators.
 - xi. On financial aid, I am pretty unhappy. PCSUM recommended a year ago, a new needs biased financial aid. If we could have had the money the



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merit scholarship provided, we could have benefited all those in financial need.

- xii. The Governor took the competitive scholarship grant, need and merit-based, and the tuition grant which is exclusive to private schools, and made them into one. We supported this, but the legislators didn't, so it remains separate.
- xiii. UMA: Quick question about the capwiz website, could we put it on our website?
- xiv. Mike: Yes, there's a contact Rose at rtantraphol@mwadvocacy.com or 517-485-6600.
- xv. We're dead bottom on investment of higher education, and top of the nation with tuition cost.
- xvi. FSU: Our mayor from Big Rapids went to the rally with us, until public employees take cuts from their pay checks and benefits, they won't increase higher education funding.

b. David Dobbie (ddobbie@aftmichigan.org), American Federation of Teachers Michigan

- i. We work a lot with President's Council.
- ii. The big problem that Higher Education is in is that there isn't a big enough constituency for Higher Education like there is for K-12. I think if PCSUM, SAM, Unions, etc build together they can create this constituency.
- iii. Universities are trying to figure out how to deal with budget cuts, so they either raise tuition or by cutting positions.
- iv. There's another 75-25% switch between tenured/full-time professors and adjuncts/part-time/etc teachers.
- v. "It may not have been the biggest rally in Lansing, but it was the loudest."
- vi. Creating on-going mechanisms to make SAM involved with being part of the discussions on Higher Education.
- vii. Deepen your relationship with your Board of Trustee's members. It will be very helpful.
- viii. We need to create solid point people with Boards, the Government and other groups.
- ix. Turnover is a challenge. Make sure the transitions are efficient. Watch out for those graduating.

VII. Presentations

a. Alternative SSA Structures



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- i. Nino Monea from Eastern put together this powerpoint on different structures of SSAs. Presented by Gabby from USSA.
 - ii. University of California Student Association (UCSA)
 1. Membership dues are \$1.30/student for voting rights, recommended \$1.50/student.
 2. Some schools used referenda to create a permanent funding stream for UCSA.
 3. Board of directors: 1 voting members/association (external vice-president), 2 non-voting members also attend.
 4. 10 schools currently
 5. Conferences: Student lobby conference, student of color conference, UCSA Congress.
 - iii. Staff Roles
 1. Manage day-to-day operation, communication with students, legs, coalition partners, allies.
 2. Provides support with creating strategic campaigns
 3. Trainings
 4. Monitoring of campus and system policy, state policy.
 5. Fundraising
 - iv. (GET POWERPOINT!!!!!!)
 - v. Oregon Student Association (OSA)
 1. Has three governing bodies
 - a. Board of Directions (18 Members), runs the organization, sets policy, and directs advocacy efforts.
 - b. Affiliate boards
 - i. Oregon Students of Color-Coalition
 - ii. Oregon Student Equal Rights Alliance
- VIII. First Reading
- a. Honorary Members
 - i. Honorary Members will be;
 1. Cardi DeMonaco Jr.
 2. Kristin Dayag
 3. Sara Armstrong
 4. Jason Davis
 5. Brandon Gustafson
 6. Kate Beson
 7. Alysa Diebolt
 8. Lindsay Koskenoja
 9. Keshon Moorehead



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10. Jason Morgan
 11. Amy Ring
 12. Morgan Toms
- ii. Motion by LSSU to approve the amendment.
Seconded by FSU/UMF.
1. NMU: Why are certain people on the list? I feel like some of them haven't stepped up to the plate this year.
 2. Cardi: I'll say why them I chose them;
 - a. Cardi: I've been the Vice-President and President.
 - b. Kristin: She's been part of SAM for a while, and she's the current Vice-President.
 - c. Sara: She was very beneficial as Secretary,
 - d. Jason: He has been around SAM since the beginning. 50c3/4 status is going to get done with him.
 - e. Brandon: He stepped up last year when our treasurer was removed.
 - f. Kate: She has been beneficial to SAM. She loves SAM.
 - g. Alysa: Chair of the UAC committee. Roadmap.
 - h. Lindsay: Amazing job on the rally.
 - i. Keshon: He has kept Tech involved.
 - j. Jason Morgan: Great asset to SAM, he was informing eboard of the legislation.
 - k. Amy Ring: She's been keeping Oakland involved. Helped out with accountability stuff.
 - l. Morgan Toms: Ferris is here for the first time this year. She's been very beneficial in making sure FSU stays involved with SAM.
 3. Vote: 11-0 passes unanimously.
- b. Transparent Attendance
- i. Bring more accountability to the executive board and the committees.
- c. Dissolution Clause
- i. The USSA Lawyers were working with Jason Davis about this.



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- ii. OU: Before this is submitted want to make sure it's ironed out, it might not be able to go back to the schools "donors."

IX. Motion to adjourn for lunch. Seconded. Passes unanimously.

X. Call to order at 1:20pm.

XI. Discussions

a. Lansing Blitz

- i. NMU: I want SVSU to tell us how to get us 90some people.
- ii. SVSU: We did a 24 hour awareness plan, we had WTF on the rock, we charged 5 dollars for them to get on the bus. They also brought a friend with them. We got a lot of student orgs involved, and support from faculty. We had a faculty member go with us. Professors offered to give students an excused absence.
- iii. FSU: one of our biggest concerns happened inside the capitol. Next year we need to put stuff in place to stop things like that happening.
- iv. WMU: I don't think we can take preventative measures to stop thing.
- v. NMU: "Student Association Lansing Blitz" YouTube Video.
- vi. FSU: They have security things that they have in place. I don't think there's any reason for us to go into the capitol.
- vii. MTU: For future rallies, we need to take the concept of reaching out to the "future."
- viii. NMU: Oakland how did you make a 100 person lobby day work?
- ix. OU: They matched the students with their Legislator from their hometown - not the OU Rep. We covered about 12 Rep/Sen Districts
- x. Gaby: USSA's is a combination of OU's Day at the Capitol and the SAM Rally. You can bet loud and chant outside, but when you go in you should be quieter and more formal.
- xi. GVSU: We should try to integrate our university lobbyist in the lobbying meetings too.
- xii. Motion to end discussion by OU. Seconded by LSSU. Passes unanimously.

b. Union Rally on April 13th

- i. LSSU: It was scary. They were angry and a lot of them.

c. President's Summit



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- i. Does the issue effect all students state wide?
 - ii. Is the issue a hot topic?
 - iii. I think it would be great to have all the President's meeting in one room, and be able to put the tangible stuff into their hands.
 - iv. SAM Action Committees on campuses.
 - v. Kyle: I don't think restricting it to just President's.
 - vi. UMA: To have a discussion of President's at a summit tells us that we have a structural issue.
 - vii. Cardi: I think it should be Presidents/Vice-Presidents. So I have their backing, we don't need to talk about wither or not the students are into SAM. At most it should be 15/17 people.
 - viii. WMU: If they don't want to send anyone, then we don't need them. They're President's should be here.
 - ix. FSU: It's a huge deal that Ferris is here anyways. We're not a lobbying student government.
 - x. SVSU: I think we should try it.
 - xi. UMF Moves to end discussion. Seconded. Passes Unanimously.
- d. Medical Amnesty Bill - HB4393
- i. Medical Amnesty was introduced to the House in March.
 - ii. We're trying to get testimony for the hearings.
 - iii. I think we're going to get it done this year.
 - iv. UMF: Does the bill only address other drugs or just alcohol?
 - v. MSU: given the conservative climate, we just want to keep it with alcohol.
- e. Virtual Conference and Teleconference
- i. I contacted several universities and asked about their cost.
 - ii. Schools have spent a lot of money to send us down here.
 - iii. Each school should have teleconferencing/video-conferencing abilities
 - iv. SAM is unique in that we meet six times in an academic year.
 - v. We're asking both the legislation and our universities to spend money more responsibly.
 1. We need to practice what we preach.
 - vi. OU: It was beneficial to see everyone face to face. We need to show students more measurable results.
 - vii. Cardi: The total of the eight scores was 12,466. We probably spent 24,000.



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- viii. OU: We should share rooms. We'd be happy to share space with the UP schools if need be.
- ix. NMU: I'd love to see us on the months that we don't really have anything on the agenda, why don't we have a simple teleconference? Why aren't we staying at the dorms?
- x. OU: its legal issues. It would be a liability issue.
- f. SG Elections Reform
 - i. NMU: I want to collect everyone's elections packet, election rules, etc.
 - ii. OU: we did have some issues.
 - iii. MTU: We had a couple DQ's. Two DQ's in general that all involved facebook. The event was still posted. The other person had a group created by someone else, and it was a group and those stays up. 8:00am by the first day of the election process.
 - iv. MSU: We were cited for violating our elections packet. We have to have two separate elections.
 - v. NMU: One of our presidential candidates violated eight rules, appealed it and ASJ upheld 5 of them, and in elections packet says three and you're done.
 - vi. WSU: We had no problems.
 - vii. SVSU: We didn't have any disqualifications. We have an independent elections director and an elections committee that consist of three people.
 - viii. UMF: We had elections this week, they released a vote count but wasn't official. The commission seemed to be formed too late. Many students couldn't vote. We had electronic problems.
 - ix. LSSU: Technically we violated our election protocols. It came out with an effective election with clear winners. We appointed someone that didn't know what they were doing on elections committee. Its hard to find someone impartial.
 - x. FSU: We didn't have any candidates. It was all write-ins. The big key is tightening our constitution and bylaws. Homecoming elections, has a "three strikes our out."
 - xi. UMA: I was detached from the elections process. We didn't have any issues.
 - xii. OU: Ours were really competitive. A lot of the tickets teamed up against us. If we had the "three-strikes our out," we would have been out because they were all minor. Ours have nothing to do with online campaigning. During elections it is a stress test on



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- your constitution and bylaws. Our elections commission knows the bylaws, if they're not an infringement they'll be tossed out and they're on a scale of 1-5, if its 1 point it shows that you're being fair. A vote deduction scale would work better.
- xiii. GVSU: Our elections went pretty smooth this year, and everything was done online.
 - xiv. UMD: Our elections went well this year.
 - xv. WMU: We didn't have any major issues. We have "three strikes our out" policy too. Complaints are brought against the elections board. Tightening up the election guidelines. We do have a tight student elections code.
 - xvi. NMU: Of the schools here, seven of them were in violations. Send me your election stuff. I can compile it all together and send it out.
 - xvii. MTU: What was everyone's voting percentage? 8-10%.
 - 1. NMU: 9%
 - 2. WSU: 4%
 - 3. SVSU: 8.5%
 - 4. UMF: 11.5%
 - 5. MSU: 4%
 - 6. LSSU: 11.5%
 - 7. FSU: low turn out
 - 8. UMA: Doesn't know
 - 9. WMU: 7-8%
 - 10. OU: 7.8%
 - 11. GVSU: 8.5%
 - 12. UMD: 9%
- g. Student Activity Fee
- i. OU: WHAT THE FUCK IS THEIR QUESTIONS?!
 - ii. GVSU: We're just allocated from the student fund. For us if we want to increase it we just go to the Board of Trustee's.
 - iii. MTU: Ours is collected in the overall tuition
 - iv. NMU: ours goes to all the university funded organizations
 - v. WSU: Omnibus fee, it's a catch all pot. Takes care of all these random stuff, and student
 - vi. SVSU: General Service fee. For every credit hour, 60 cents is generated towards. The SA has no part in the amount of the fee, it's decided by the administration.
 - vii. UMF: 30\$ SAF. If proposal is approved then it goes to the chancellor. Student government has no say.



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- viii. MSU: We have full control of our shit.
 - ix. LSSU: Dedicated activities fee that we set but the board has not approved. Split to support student organizations.
 - x. FSU: We get 12,000 for our budget. We have a student government fee of one dollar but it's refundable. We use it to put on our programs, sam, etc. We have no say in the fees, we have student representative on the fees committee, but have no actual vote.
 - xi. WMU: EMAIL FOR THEIR ANSWER!
 - xii. UMA: Doesn't know.
 - xiii. UMD: Doesn't know how ours work. I'm pretty sure I heard 32\$ a semester for a Student Activities Fee. You'd have to convince the Student Activities Fee office.
- XII. Elections Committee Member
- a. Alysa Diebolt nominated. Seconded. Accepted.
 - b. Motions for Unanimous Consent by NMU. Seconded by MTU. Passes.
- XIII. SAM Leadership Nominations
- a. President
 - i. Jay Gage (LSSU), nominated by GVSU
 - ii. Kyle Korth (UMF), nominated by UMF
 - iii. Nessma Bashi (UMAA), nominated by OU
 - b. Vice-President
 - i. Derek Morteiz (GVSU), nominated by NMU
 - ii. Jennora Walker (SVSU), nominated by SVSU
 - iii. Jen Zarzecki (MTU), nominated by NMU
 - iv. Elisa Malile (OU), nominated by OU
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Dani Thoun (NMU), nominated by NMU
 - ii. Chole Kas-mikha (UMF), nominated by UMF
 - d. Treasurer
 - i. Alexander Khobeir (UMF), nominated by UMF
 - e. Director for PR
 - i. Tyler Helsel (LSSU), nominated by LSSU
 - f. LRC Chair
 - i. Jasmine Charlton (SVSU), nominated by SVSU
 - g. UAC Chair
 - i. Dan Chapman (SVSU), nominated by SVSU
- XIV. Announcements
- a. UMD: I would like to let everyone to know that Jason Davis and I are the commencement speakers for UM-D.
 - b. MSU: 7:30 at the Harrison Roadhouse.



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- XV. **Adjournment**
- a. Motion to adjournment. Seconded. Passed.
 - b. Adjournment at 4:50pm.



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Minutes

Student Association of Michigan

Michigan State University

Sunday, April 17, 2011

- I. Call to order at 9:38am.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. CMU – Not attending
 - b. EMU – Not attending
 - c. FSU – Present and voting
 - d. GVSU – Present and voting
 - e. LSSU – Present and voting
 - f. MSU – Present and voting
 - g. MTU – Present and voting
 - h. NMU – Present and voting
 - i. OU – Present and voting
 - j. SVSU – Present and voting
 - k. UMA – Present and voting
 - l. UMD – Present and voting
 - m. UMF – Present and voting
 - n. WSU – Present and voting
 - o. WMU – Present and voting
- III. Second Reading
 - a. Transparent Attendance
 - i. Motion to approve the Transparent Attendance by MTU. Seconded by OU.
 - ii. Passes Unanimously.
 - b. Dissolution
 - i. Motion by to pass the Dissolution amendment. Seconded by WMU.
 - ii. Passes Unanimously.
- IV. Awards
 - a. I made everyone a certificate that was made an honorary member yesterday.
- V. Goals Recap
 - a. We just want to run through our goals list again.
 - b. GET THEM TO INCORPORATE THEM!
- VI. Elections Commission
 - a. NMU nominates Felipe from UMF. Seconded by MTU.
 - b. Unanimously Passes.
- VII. SAM Leadership Elections
 - a. President
 - i. Nominated: Jay Gage, Kyle Korth, Nessma Bashi
 - ii. Winner: Jay Gage.
 - b. Vice-President



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- i. Nominated: Jennora Walker, Jen Zarzecki
 - ii. Winner: Jennora Walker
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Nominated: Dani Thoune
 - ii. Winner: Dani Thoune.
 - d. Treasurer
 - i. Nominated: Alexander Khobeir
 - ii. Winner: Alexander Khobeir
 - e. Director of PR
 - i. Nominated: Tyler Helsel
 - ii. Winner: Tyler Helsel
 - f. LRC Chair
 - i. Nominated: Derek MorteZ,
 - ii. Winner: Derek MorteZ
 - g. UAC Chair
 - i. Nominated: Dan Chapman
 - ii. Winner: Position remains vacant.
- VIII. Swearing in of the new SAM Leadership.
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment



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FSU Conference Agenda

DAY ONE

September 24th

- Roll Call
- Approval of agenda
- Brief overview of the SAM, and recap of the Presidential Summit
 - Introduction of Campaign Selection Criteria, and Campaign Proposal form
- Guest Speaker (to be announced)
- Officer Reports
 - President Gage –
 - Secretary Thoun –
 - Treasurer Khobier – Proposal for SAM 2011-2012 Budget
 - Director Helsel – Introduction of Newsletter
- Committee Reports
 - LRC Chair Moretz –
 - UAC -

- Introduction of Proposals
 - Student Action Committees
 - Non-Conference Voting
 - LRC Restructuring
 - Shared Governance

- **Break for Lunch**

- Breakout sessions to finalize, discuss and amend proposals
- Nominations for Vice-President, UAC Chair, UAC members, LRC members

- Adjournment



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FSU Conference Agenda

DAY TWO

September 25th

- Roll Call

- Final Discussion and voting on Proposals
 - Student Action Committees
 - Non-Conference Voting
 - LRC Restructuring
 - Shared Governance

- Election of UAC Chair, UAC members, LRC members
- University Open Forum
- Setting of Conference dates and host Universities
- Setting goals, assigning homework
- Closing remarks – Initiative Implementation

- Adjournment



The Student Association of Michigan

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Campaign Selection Criteria for Students Association of Michigan

Background: The Students Association of Michigan is a statewide student organization representing the students of all 15 of Michigan's public institutions. SAM's mission is *"To advance higher education by empowering current and future students to advocate on their own behalf for the accessibility, affordability and quality of the public institutions of higher education in the state of Michigan."* Furthermore SAM seeks to *"Provide a forum for idea-sharing and collaboration to connect Michigan's institutions of higher education and to provide a platform for common-ground advocacy on behalf of students, dealing with issues that affect all of us."*

Why run a campaign? The problems facing students in Michigan are increasingly severe and profound. From skyrocketing tuition and debt, to budget cuts that undermine the quality of our institutions, higher education seems to be on a downward trajectory for many students.

As the community most affected by these problems students have not traditionally had much power in Lansing to change or adopt policies they would like to see. Its unlikely that action from any one campus, or one event on its own will change that political reality.

A campaign is a coordinated, long-term effort following a specific strategy to achieve a tangible goal (e.g. the passage of legislation, a favorable budget appropriation, a specific % of students registered and voting).

By running a campaign an organization like SAM can achieve specific and tangible policy victories. And by coordinating across campuses, involving large numbers of students, working with other groups in the state, and building relationships with legislators, SAM can use a campaign as a vehicle to build power for students to win more victories.

Why use criteria? There are a lot of issues facing students this year. As with all organizations SAM has limited resources and can only make a meaningful difference on so many of them. Obviously different students and different campuses are going to have different priorities that meet SAM's mission to varying degrees.

Criteria are a useful tool to help evaluate proposals and determine which ones SAM should prioritize. They ensure that everyone is on the same page about what SAM hopes to accomplish through a campaign, and provide a common language for people to evaluate and discuss proposals.

Not all campaigns are going to meet every criteria. While they should guide the conversation they should be thought of as guiding principles instead of binding rules. Furthermore criteria help craft a balanced mix of campaigns by giving a framework to analyze their strengths and weaknesses.

Sample Criteria:

- 1. Is it within SAM's mission?** Does the proposal either involve the "accessibility, affordability and quality of public institutions of higher education in Michigan," or represent an issue that affects students across Michigan? Is it a non-partisan issue?
- 2. Is it of statewide or profound importance?** Does the issue affect students on multiple campuses across the state or does it just impact students on one campus or region? If it is confined to a small number of campuses, is the issue of profound importance? Could it have implications on more students?



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3. **Can SAM make a difference on this issue?** Is this an issue that SAM has the resources or support to make a tangible difference on? Is there a decision being made? For example, if the decision is going to be made in the courts, we don't have much capacity to influence that decision. If there are already 10 organizations doing a ton on the issue, what would we add that's not already there?
4. **Will we be able to recruit a lot of students to work on this issue?** Bottom line—if you want to build a movement, you've got to get a lot of people in the door! Will there be lots of students on campuses across the state that will want to be involved in this campaign?
5. **Does it build support for SAM on campus?** Will this campaign build support for SAM on campus? Can we use it to raise SAM's profile on campus? Are there opportunities to work with other student orgs, faculty, administrators?
6. **Does it position SAM to be able to take on more -does it build access and influence with power-players, State Legislators, VIPs?** If we're going to tackle the issues students face we need to not only win next year's campaign, but be setting up SAM to do more. How will this campaign build support with all the power-players, legislators and VIPs SAM will need to win year after year? Working on an issue that everyone in power would consider to be a fringe thing may hurt our ability to be taken seriously by those folks on future campaigns.



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PROPOSED INITIATIVE

Student Action Committees for Students Association of Michigan

Background: The Students Association of Michigan is a statewide student organization representing the students of all 15 of Michigan's public institutions. SAM's mission is *"To advance higher education by empowering current and future students to advocate on their own behalf for the accessibility, affordability and quality of the public institutions of higher education in the state of Michigan."* Furthermore SAM seeks to *"Provide a forum for idea-sharing and collaboration to connect Michigan's institutions of higher education and to provide a platform for common-ground advocacy on behalf of students, dealing with issues that affect all of us."*

Why have a Student Action Committee on our campus? As mentioned in the mission statement the Student Association of Michigan stands to empower students to advocate on their own behalf. These committees will serve to give every student an opportunity to become involved in shaping their own future by taking part in the statewide dialogue, as well as the educational betterment of future students. By working closely with their own student governments these committees will be able to handle the grass roots work of initiatives from SAM and their specific campus

Why is it important to have committees on each campus?

Through having these committees on each campus, SAM can achieve tangible results by coordinating large numbers of students to work with other groups in the state, build relationships with legislators and through that work SAM can use that momentum to build power for students.

Who would be involved with these committees? Being open to the general student population these committees will be able to help bring new ideas and goals for students across the state, while also working to support initiatives from outside their own campus.

Basic Structure: Bylaws would be created outlining the duties and extent of powers given to the committee.

-Recommended provisions for By Laws:

1. **Membership and Leadership** These committees will be chaired by an elected member of the Student Government or the Student Body, and will be open to all students on campus.
 - a. The right to hold an election or to appoint a chair person is reserved by the respective Student Government.
2. **Responsibilities** To support the implementation and help in the creation of statewide, regional, or specific campus issues; to act as a statewide inter-university student support network, and to allow each and every student in Michigan access to become involved in the Student Association of Michigan.
 - a. The Chair will hold at least one meeting Bi-weekly to carry out the tasks of the committee and to discuss new initiatives. The Chair will then submit a report to the Student Government.
 - b. The creation of committees and subcommittees can be done at the request and subsequent approval of the Student Government.
 - c. Conference calls will be held between the various Chairs of each Student Action Committee and a delegated member of the SAM Executive Board



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to share ideas and concerns, on a monthly basis, or at the discretion of the majority of the chairs.

3. **Oversight** The committee may submit proposals for new initiatives to both the Student Government and the Student Association of Michigan but will not formally act on any issue that is unapproved by the Student Government.
 - a. The committee must be in full compliance with the constitution, bylaws, or any governing document by another name at their respective University.



STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

2011-2012 Academic Year

A resolution to amend the Student Association of Michigan (SAM) bylaws to allow member student governments to vote (as a whole) on SAM resolutions in between SAM assemblies in cases where immediate action is required.

Presented on Sept 24th, 2011

Adopted on [] [], []

Sponsor: Grand Valley State University

Co-sponsors: [], [], []

Whereas, the Student Association of Michigan (SAM) has conferences once every 2 months. It is only at these conferences that resolutions can be voted on.

Whereas, the policymaking process in both the Michigan Legislature and the United States Congress continues between SAM conferences, with legislation that could deeply affect the student welfare being deliberated and voted on between conferences.

Whereas, it is critical that the Association be able to take educated positions on important legislation and policies in an expedient manner and must have the authority granted by the member institutions to expend the resources necessary to achieve its legislative goals of improving the welfare of the students of the public institutions of higher learning in the state of Michigan via government policies.

Now, therefore be it enacted by the member institutions of the Student Association of Michigan, for the betterment of the students it serves,

That in between SAM conferences votes on resolutions can be made by each member student government if requested by the Executive Board by a unanimous vote in cases where authorization of SAM action is immediately needed to further the interests of the students of Michigan. These votes shall be dictated by the requirements of the following, and the text below shall be added to the bylaws of the Student Association of Michigan as Section 3 (titled "Emergency Non-Conference Voting") of Article VII with the requirements in 1 described in Subsection 1 of Section 3 ,2 in Subsection 2, and so forth.

A resolution may be voted on by the student governments of member institutions according to the following criteria:

1. For a proposed resolution to be considered by the student governments of SAM member Universities, a resolution must meet the following criteria:

- a. The resolution must be submitted to the entire Executive Board of the SAM in writing.

- b. The executive board must vote unanimously that the resolution pertains to an issue that needs the immediate attention of the member schools.
 - c. The resolution must be circulated by the Executive Board to member schools in writing.
 - d. The Executive Board of SAM may not remove a resolution from consideration unless the majority of member schools vote to not consider the resolution.
2. Voting on the resolution at the individual student governments will commence as follows:
 - a. Each student government shall deliberate and vote on a proposed resolution of SAM in accordance with their voting procedures.
 - b. Each Student Government must vote on the resolution in either their first or second assembly after the resolution has been circulated to them by the Executive Board for their vote to be counted.
 - c. Each student government may choose to vote to support or reject a resolution, or may vote to abstain.
3. Each member student government shall notify the President or Vice President of SAM of their vote no later than 3 days after the vote has been completed for the vote to be counted.
4. For a resolution to be passed in this method, it must meet the following requirements:
 - a. A simple majority of member institutions must have voted on the resolution for the vote to be effective.
 - b. The resolution must have garnered the support of the majority of participating member student governments.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION BACKGROUND *(Submitted by Chairman Derek Moretz)*Legislative Research Committee Restructuring

- I. Increase the number of committee members from 5 to 6- non-voting chair, and 5 members.
 - a. **Why?** An increase to 6 members would create an even number of committee members that can cover each house of the Michigan legislature (3 for each chamber). We are also balancing the desire to involve more student perspectives in SAM's legislative research while also recognizing that too many members can be damaging to producing intimate working relationships among all members. In some sociological studies, a group number of 6 has been regarded as a number that allows these connections between members to prosper with no splintering occurring into smaller subgroups. It seems to be a nice, even, and safe number to support a cohesive committee.

- II. The creation of a Vice-chair position
 - a. **Why?** Having a solid hierarchy can be useful in any organization. If I (the chair) am unavailable to hold a conference call, the VC can hold it. This also reduces possible conflict within the group. Say there is no VC, and I pick student C to run the conference call. This may bring adverse feelings of favoritism (on my part) into the group, as well as resentment toward student C. This will disrupt the workings of the organization, which reduces our effectiveness. Also, if the chair of the committee were to become unable to continue acting as chair (permanently), the VC could take over the position until a vote can occur in the Association.

- III. Each member has assigned committees to research. Along with these committees, they will also research issues relating to their committee's jurisdiction (if possible), or a different issue that effects students. Members will complete their legislative analysis and their student issues research project in a timely manner. After the research has been edited and perfected, it may be made a publication and a part of the annual committee report. Each member will be assigned a primary committee that they will focus their efforts on that normally

greatly affect students (for example, an education committee) and secondary committees that normally don't greatly affect students but should be monitored in case of relevant legislation (such as a finance committee).

- a. **Why?** Having assigned subject areas and committees to research can spur specialization in understanding the various special dynamics involved in each committee and within their specific issues. For example; someone who studies the Education committees of the state House of Representatives and the federal House of Representatives can dedicate themselves to understanding the internal politics of these committees. Members will analyze not only legislation, but social issues that students face that are related to their committee's jurisdiction. Within their research issues, they may also highlight potential legislative maneuvers to assist students overcome these problems. With this additional knowledge members will develop a mature understanding of student issues. We will be promoting a committee that is both reactive and proactive. With the assigning of primary and secondary committees to members, all legislation will be scanned to ensure no legislation that could affect students will be overlooked. With the assigning of primary committees, members will understand the committee where most of their energies should be focused on (the committees that most regularly effect the students of Michigan).

IV. The Chair will have the duty to assign legislative issues and legislative research that may not perfectly fit into a member's assigned committees and will approve research projects.

V. **Member Duties Breakdown**

Chair-

Organize meetings, conference calls, provide agenda, goals, and other chair duties

Research assigned legislature, congressional committees

Research, create report on issue under assigned subject area

Vice Chair-

In absence of chair will take over duties of the chair and organize meetings, agendas, etc.

Research assigned legislature, congressional committees

Research, create report on issue under assigned subject area

Remaining committee members

Research assigned legislature, congressional committees

Research, create report on issue under assigned subject area

VI. **Committees to be assigned** *(example)*

Member 1-

- a. Michigan House of Representatives- Appropriations Committee (Primary), (6 secondary committees or so)
- b. US House of Representatives- Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
- c. US House of Representatives- Budget Committee

Member 2-

- a. Michigan House of Representatives- Education Committee (6 secondary committees or so)
- b. US House of Representatives- Education and the Workforce Committee

Member 3-

- a. Michigan House of Representatives- Redistricting and Elections Committee, General committee overview (6 secondary committees or so)
- b. US House of Representatives- General policy overview

Member 4-

- a. Michigan State Senate- Appropriations Committee (6 secondary committees or so)
- b. US Senate- Appropriations Committee, Budget Committee

Member 5-

- a. Michigan State Senate- Education Committee (6 secondary committees or so)
- b. US Senate- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee,

Member 6-

- a. Michigan State Senate- Local Government and Elections Committee (6 secondary committees or so)
- b. US Senate- General policy overview



STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

[2011]-[2012] Academic Year

A Resolution to increase the membership of the Legislative Research Committee from 5 members to 6 and to establish the Vice-Chair position within it.

Presented on September 24th, 2011

Adopted on [] [], []

Sponsor: Grand Valley State University

Co-sponsors: [], [], []

Whereas, Multiple perspectives add important viewpoints on legislation and issues that enhance an organization's understanding of these issues and the potential effects legislation may have on groups. Having as many individuals involved with legislative research will help us in reaching SAM's legislative goals.

Whereas, In the fast-paced world of politics it is important that committees like the Legislative Research Committee are able to keep up with its duties of legislative analysis even when adverse situations may inhibit its leaders from fulfilling their duties. A hierarchy should be in place to easily deal with these events.

Now, therefore be it enacted by the member institutions of the Student Association of Michigan, for the betterment of the students it serves,

To increase the membership of the Legislative Research Committee (LRC) by one member, setting the number of members at 6 (with a non-voting Chair) and creating the position of Vice-Chair. This shall be done by amending Article V, Section 1, Subsection a of the Student Association of Michigan Bylaws to read as follows:

- 1.** Subsection a - Structure of the Committee
 - i. The LRC will consist of four voting members, a non-voting chair, and a voting vice-chair. The non-voting chair and voting vice-chair of the committee will be nominated by any SAM delegate or executive board member, and then elected separately by a vote of the SAM member schools. Following the election of a chair and vice-chair, the four voting members will be nominated by any SAM delegate or executive board member and then elected by a vote of the SAM member schools. The vice chair will take over the duties of the chair if the chair is unable to attend to those duties for however long the chair is unable to do so. If the chair resigns (formally or de-facto) or is removed from the position the vice chair will become chair until the membership elects a new chair for the remainder of the previous chair's term, or until the previous chair's term ends and new elections are called. While the vice-chair acts as chair he or she shall not vote on issues within the committee.



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PROPOSED INITIATIVE

Shared Governance (*Background research provided by MSU*)

1. Ultimate goal for SAM (ex. introduce legislation, advocate for a bill or initiative, oppose legislation etc.)

Goal: To advocate for a shared governance policy not only for all public universities in the state of Michigan through legislation.

2. Specific Research Focus (ex. Other States with Similar Legislation)

When researching this topic, we will be focusing on Wisconsin, a state that has a strong shared governance policy currently implemented. Specifically, we will be focusing Wisconsin's state statute as well its impact at Wisconsin's universities. We also will look at other states with similar legislation and the current mandates of higher education governance in the state of Michigan.

3. Synopsis of Each Piece of Research Found that's Utilized/Found/or Important

Status Quo in Michigan

- Currently, there is nothing included in the State Constitution of Michigan that mandates student participation in higher education governance.
- Article VIII: Education outlines the following in section 5 for the governing of public universities, including Michigan State:

Sec. 5. The regents of the University of Michigan and their successors in office shall constitute a body corporate known as the Regents of the University of Michigan; the trustees of Michigan State University and their successors in office shall constitute a body corporate known as the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University; the governors of Wayne State University and their successors in office shall constitute a body corporate known as the Board of Governors of Wayne State University. Each board shall have general supervision of its institution and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds. Each board shall, as often as necessary, elect a president of the institution under its supervision. He shall be the principal executive officer of the institution, be ex-officio a member of the board without the right to vote and preside at meetings of the board. The board of each institution shall consist of eight members who shall hold office for terms of eight years and who shall be elected as provided by law. The governor shall fill board vacancies by appointment. Each appointee shall hold office until a successor has been nominated and elected as provided by law.

History: Const. 1963, Art. VIII, § 5, Eff. Jan. 1, 1964.

Former constitution: See Const. 1908, Art. XI, §§ 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 16.

Wisconsin's State Statue

- Wisconsin's state statue is stronger than most states and allows the students at Universities, such as Wisconsin-Madison to have more control over their school.



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- **Statute 36.09(5)** allows students the ability to participate in the administration of the University. One of the most important ways students at Madison can accomplish this is to hold a position on one of over thirty student-faculty committees. These committees are key to running the University, and the positions give students a chance to mold this University to the needs of Students.
- Adopted in 1974, the Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5) states: *"The students of each institution or campus subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, the chancellor, and the faculty shall be active participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for such institutions. As such, students shall have the primary responsibility for the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests. Students in consultation with the chancellor and subject to the final confirmation of the board shall have the responsibility for the disposition of those student fees which constitute substantial support for campus student activities. The students of each institution or campus shall have the right to organize themselves in a manner they determine and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance."*
- The regulations of Statute 36.09(5) are included in University of Wisconsin's Regent Policy Documents in Section 30-3 Guidelines for Student Governance.
 - This document "insure[s] that students are viable participants in university affairs, subject to the responsibilities of the board, the president, the chancellor and the faculty."
 - Additionally, "students have primary responsibility in the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services and interests, as defined by each institution."
 - Section 30-3 also includes that the students have the right to select their representatives that will participate in institutional governance.
 - <http://www.wisconsin.edu/bor/policies/rpd/rpd30-3.htm>

Implementing Shared Governance at Different Institutions

- At the University of Wisconsin System, "after the Interim Guidelines were passed, each institution conducted a study of the students' role in shared governance and devised a plan to implement the statute. These plans were submitted to System Administration in December, 1975 and were updated in 1978. The plans may be amended and improved by each institution through the



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governance process at any time without review by System Administration or the Board of Regents.” <http://www.wisconsin.edu/bor/policies/rpd/rpd30-3.htm>

- The implementation plans vary considerably from institution to institution. They vary because there are differences in the student bodies, in the interests of the student governments and organizations, in the academic and extracurricular programs, and in the governance structures of the institutions.
- In short, it would be difficult for the Board of Regents to devise a specific structure or to mandate involvement at certain levels in certain issues that would be acceptable to students at each institution. The details of institutional governance are best left to the parties involved. Nevertheless, it is appropriate for the board to set forth some specific directions and general principles to guide the institutions in the proper implementation of the statute. The guidelines in this document, which primarily represent an update of the 1974 Interim Guidelines, seek to fulfill that purpose.
- **The fundamental thrust of § 36.09(5) is to insure that students are viable participants in university affairs.** When the implementation plans were last review in 1978, the reports indicated that each unit had implemented § 36.09(5) in accordance with the Regents guidelines and judicial interpretations of the language. Plans at each institution operate in the ways envisioned in the Regents' Guidelines.

Other States with Shared Governance

- **California**
 - California's Constitution, Article 9, Section E reads:

In the selection of the Regents, the Governor shall consult an advisory committee composed as follows: The Speaker of the Assembly and two public members appointed by the Speaker, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two public members appointed by the Rules Committee of the Senate, two public members appointed by the Governor, the chairman of the regents of the university, an alumnus of the university chosen by the alumni association of the university, **a student of the university chosen by the Council of Student Body Presidents**, and a member of the faculty of the university chosen by the academic senate of the university. Public members shall serve for four years, except that one each of the initially appointed members selected by the Speaker of the Assembly, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Governor shall be appointed to serve for two years; student, alumni, and faculty members shall serve for one year and may not be regents of the university at the time of their service on the advisory committee.



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- The board at University of California appoints the president and its principal officers - the [general counsel](#), [treasurer](#), [chief compliance and audit officer](#) and [secretary](#). Eighteen of the regents are appointed by the governor and serve 12-year terms. Seven serve as ex officio members, including the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the assembly and state superintendent of public instruction as well as the UC [alumni associations'](#) president and vice president, who serve one-year terms. **The board also appoints a student regent to a one-year term.** In addition, two [staff advisors](#) serve two-year terms as non-voting advisors to three Regents' Committees.
- According to the University of California's website, "for more than a century, shared governance between the Board of Regents, the systemwide president and the faculty has ensured the highest standards of excellence in fulfilling the University of California's mission of teaching, research and public service."
- **Kentucky**
 - In 1968, an Amendment to KRS 164.131 adds nonvoting student member to UK Board of Trustees
 - 1972- Amendment to KRS 164.131 makes UK Faculty Trustees and Student Trustee gain voting member status on Board of Trustees
 - KRS 164.131 states:
 - The board shall consist of sixteen (16) members appointed by the Governor, two (2) members of the faculty of the University of Kentucky, one (1) member of the University of Kentucky nonteaching personnel, and one (1) member of the student body of the University of Kentucky. The voting members of the board shall select a chairperson annually.
 - The student member shall be the president of the student body of the university during the appropriate academic year and may be an out-of-state resident if applicable. If the student member does not maintain his position as student body president or his status as a full-time student at any time during that academic year, a special election shall be held to select a full-time student. The student member shall serve for a term of one (1) year beginning with the first meeting of the fiscal year which contains that academic year.
 - <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/krs/164-00/131.PDF>
 - The University of Kentucky briefly outlines its policy for shared governance in its Governing Regulations Handbook:

The diverse expertise collectively available to the University in its faculty, administration, staff employees, and students is a valuable resource. The University as a whole will be able to function at maximum effectiveness where there is an environment in which the sharing of this expertise is valued and promoted. If this expertise is shared, it will enable policy-makers at every level of the organization to make better decisions. To achieve this objective in an environment of shared governance, faculty



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bodies and administrators will reciprocally solicit and utilize the expertise of the other as each makes decisions in their respective areas of policy-making authority. Through these empowering processes of shared governance, the administration, faculty members, staff employees and students all share the responsibility of attainment of the University's goals.

Found at: <http://www.uky.edu/Regs/gr.htm>



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4. Conclusion of Overall Research Found, Trends, etc.

Maintaining academic integrity

Standards, quality, academic freedom, shared responsibility

5. Links to research found/additional resources

Michigan Constitution:

- <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28odaspl55ziyboo45jcllik45%29%29/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Constitution-VIII.pdf>

Wisconsin:

- <http://www.asm.wisc.edu/wisconsin-state-statute-36.09-5.html>
- <http://www.wisconsin.edu/bor/policies/rpd/rpd30-3.htm>
- <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/36/09/5>

California:

- <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/aboutuc/governance.html>
- http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/.const/.article_9

Kentucky:

- <http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/files/ChngstoFacTrusTLaw1960-Present.pdf>
- <http://www.uky.edu/Regs/gr.htm>

Additional Sources:

- Statement from the American Association of University Professors on Shared Governance:
<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/governancestatement.htm>
- Article from the Chronicle on Higher Education: *Exactly What Is 'Shared Governance'?*
<http://chronicle.com/article/Exactly-What-Is-Shared/47065/>
- Central Michigan University Article on Shared Governance
<http://www.cm-life.com/2000/07/19/sharedgovernanceprogramcreated/>



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Letter to the USSA for the Summer Congress

To the membership, leadership, delegates,
and staff of the United States Student Association

I wanted to briefly take a moment to introduce myself and thank you for all that you do across this great nation. I am quite sure that I don't have to tell you how difficult it is becoming for average college students from around the country to get a good education, at a good price. In my State, Michigan, we have seen a 15% reduction in real dollars to all 15 of our public universities, leading to canceled academic programs, larger class sizes, and an average tuition raise of 6.5%

Simply put, this must stop.

Though I am not in attendance today, I want to assure you that the Student Association of Michigan not only supports the work of all member schools of the USSA, but also firmly believes that it is only through unification that we will make a difference. The proposal being considered at this conference for permanent representation of SSA's on the USSA board will do just that, and it is my hope that it will be adopted. As students our greatest strengths are our ideas, drive, and numbers; assets that must compete with millions of special interest dollars every days in the halls of our federal and state legislatures. We must begin today by adopting this proposal, to strengthen our resolve, unification, and reaffirm the fact that higher education must be a priority in the United States of America.

Thank you for your time, and please feel free to contact me with any opportunities for collaboration or similar ideas, or check out our website at www.mistudents.org.

-Jay Gage
President
Student Association of Michigan
(906) 440-0524
jgage@mistudents.org



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Student Association of Michigan

Bylaws

Mission

To advance higher education by empowering current and future students to advocate on their own behalf for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the public institutions of higher education in the state of Michigan.

Article I – Membership

Section 1 - As a prerequisite to become a member university, a school must maintain an active student governing body that is elected by the students of said university.

Section 2 - In accordance, the said active student governing body shall grant the official authorization for membership and affiliation with the Student Association of Michigan (hereby referred to as SAM).

Section 3 - Each member university is required to pay annual dues to remain affiliated. Dues shall be decided at the first meeting of an Executive Board's tenure.

Section 4 - Member universities, upon meeting the abovementioned prerequisites, shall be entitled to:

Subsection a - A vote on all matters before the general body and standing committees

Subsection b - The right to address the Legislature as a recognized participant of SAM

Subsection c - Receive all internal reports, documents and proposed revisions.

Subsection d - The right to introduce and sponsor resolutions to SAM pursuant to Article VI.

Section 5 - Honorary membership in SAM assembly may be granted by the Executive Board and by subsequent approval by a majority of the participating member schools to any individual who performs an outstanding service or deed for the benefit of higher education. Honorary members shall be nonvoting members of the assembly.

Section 6 – Though not considered voting members of the Association at this time, SAM shall continue



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to reach out to coordinate and communicate with the community colleges of the State of Michigan.

Article II-Organizational Structure

Section 1 - Member universities have the responsibility to assign delegates and make a good faith effort to send participating delegates to SAM meetings.

Section 2 - As part of each delegation, each member university shall have one vote.

Section 3 - A maximum of two delegates from each member university shall sit in a designated assembly area, to be arranged by host school.

~~**Section 4**— In order to best increase the communication and efficacy of the goals decided by the collective assembly, SAM shall designate into four sub-regions. Designation of regions shall serve no further institutional power within SAM and shall not serve to isolate any school or region or their voice from the entire SAM body. Communication of larger SAM initiatives shall not be limited to a restricted number of regions. The regions shall be designated as follows:~~

~~**Subsection a**— Eastern Region: Eastern Michigan University (EMU), University of Michigan Ann Arbor (UM-AA), University of Michigan Dearborn (UM-D), and Wayne State University (WSU)~~

~~**Subsection b**— Middle Region: Central Michigan University (CMU), Oakland University (OU), Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), and University of Michigan Flint (UM-F)~~

~~**Subsection c**— Western Region: Ferris State University (FSU), Grand Valley State University (GVSU), Michigan State University (MSU), and Western Michigan University (WMU)~~

~~**Subsection d**— Upper Region: Lake Superior State University (LSSU), Michigan Technological University (MTU), and Northern Michigan University (NMU)~~

Section 5 - The Executive Board shall be charged with appointing a Regional Organizer for each region who shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the assembly.

Article III - Positional Restrictions

Section 1 - Members of the executive board must concurrently be considered a current student at a SAM member school throughout the entirety of their term or graduate during their term.



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Section 2 - No individual may be elected to more than one position on the Executive Board.

Section 3 - No position shall consist of more than one person; thereby, each position shall be held by no more than one (1) person.

Section 4 - The term of office for members of the Executive Board shall be one (1) year beginning upon the adjournment of the last meeting of the academic year and ending upon the adjournment of the last meeting of the following academic year; provided, however, that each officer may serve until his or her successor shall have been duly elected.

Article IV - Officers

Section 1 - The permanent SAM Executive Board shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The duties shall include but are not limited to the items prescribed beneath each position below

Subsection a – the President shall

- i. Serve as chief spokesperson
- ii. Appoint special or ad-hoc committees/positions
- iii. Call sessions of Executive Board and General Assembly
- iv. Be the final approver of meeting agendas
- v. Delegate duties as deemed necessary and proper

Subsection b – the Vice President shall

- i. Preside over meetings
- ii. Serve as an impartial chairperson
- iii. Support the President with his or her duties
- iv. Substitute for the President if needed should the office become vacant
- v. Serve as an ex-officio liaison of all SAM committees

Subsection c – the Secretary shall

- i. Coordinate monthly details with host institution for SAM meetings
- ii. Transcribe meeting minutes and official records
- iii. Communicate meeting minutes to members
- iv. Maintain or delegate website maintenance
- v. Maintain records of organization legislation

Subsection d – the Treasurer shall

- i. Maintain financial records
- ii. Work with president to develop annual budget
- iii. Maintain official and financial status of organization
- iv. Collect annual dues from each member school

Subsection e – the Public Relations Director



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- i. Promote the organization's accomplishments and progress to external groups
- ii. Send newsletter updates to coalition members, state legislators, public universities, and supporters on a bi-monthly basis
- iii. Design and distribute promotional items for events that the Student Association of Michigan is hosting
- iv. Assist in gaining support for the Student Association of Michigan through the coalition

Section 2 - The SAM Executive Board, with approval by a majority of participating member schools, may appoint such committees, councils, or persons it deems necessary or beneficial to achieve the Association's purpose and may delegate all or part of its authority.

Subsection a – Office of Past President

Effective immediately upon the election of his or her successor, an outgoing

SAM President shall assume the office of Past President. The Past President

shall:

i. Serve until their resignation or the election of a new President, whose

predecessor shall thus assume the office of Past President.

ii. Be available in a reasonable amount of time to share advice or past

practices when called upon or when compelled by their own initiative to

provide it.

iii. Assist, advise and transition the new Executive Board while respecting

their authority as executives.

iv. Be included in emails to SAM and its partners by SAM leadership

v. Be invited via email to attend SAM meetings as a nonvoting participant

with speaking rights.

vi. Serve as a goodwill ambassador of SAM at the formal request of the

SAM body or Executive Board

vii. Shall, at his or her discretion, remain in contact with SAM upon exiting

the office of Past President and continue service as outlined in sections

ii – vi.

Article V – Committees

Section 1 – Legislative Research Committee (LRC)



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Subsection a – Structure of the Committee

i. The LRC will consist of four voting members and a non-voting chair. The non-voting chair of the committee will be nominated by any SAM delegate or executive board member, and then elected by a vote of the SAM member schools. Following the election of a chair, the four voting members will be nominated by any SAM delegate or executive board member and then elected by a vote of the SAM member schools.

Subsection b – Duties of the Committee

- i. To monitor legislation and political activity at the state and federal levels of government, paying special attention to those items that affect the SAM constituency
- ii. To provide a report to SAM at each meeting on the issues they are monitoring, by highlighting key players and stakeholders involved in the issue, and the major perspectives, arguments, and challenges on all sides of the issue
- iii. To provide at least one update to the president on its activities between SAM meetings
- iv. To research the issues currently facing the SAM constituency and compile data that can be used to educate SAM and its constituents on issues relevant to them
- v. To recommend action by voting within the committee, to the SAM board that the organization can take on a given issue in its reports, allowing for discussion and debate by the SAM board on the committee's recommendations.
- vi. To prepare an annual publication, in concert with the executive board, on the information researched by the committee and the activities it undertook, to be distributed to each member school and each state legislator that serves on a committee whose scope includes higher education.

Subsection c – Membership

i. Members of the LRC can be removed by a 2/3 vote of the SAM board; members can be recommended for removal by the SAM executive board or any SAM delegate.

Section 2 – University Affairs Committee

Subsection a – Structure of the Committee

i. The University Affairs Committee will consist of five voting members and a non-voting chair. The non-voting chair of the committee will be nominated by any SAM delegate or executive board member, and then elected by a vote of the SAM member schools. Following the election of a chair, the five voting members will be nominated by any SAM delegate or



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executive board member, and then elected by a vote of the SAM member schools.

Subsection b – Duties of the Committee

- i. To work on any tasks specifically related to the Universities in Michigan for the betterment of its students.
- ii. To monitor the budgets of the Universities and recommend any actions they think would help the Universities spend more wisely.
- iii. To improve the Academic processes at each school wherever possible.
- iv. To receive and review

Article VI - Elections

Section 1 - Nominations shall be open thirty (30) days prior to the meeting where elections shall take place and shall remain open until elections begin. Nominations may take place via phone, email, or other device and shall be communicated to all member schools.

Section 2 - No campaigning shall take place while a meeting is in session. Furthermore, members of the Executive Board shall not campaign for themselves or others while they are carrying out their official duties.

Section 3 - The election meeting shall be conducted at the end of the academic year prior to summer recess. The election meeting shall consist of two days of business.

Subsection a - A formal introduction of candidates shall take place on day one.

Subsection b - Closing nominations, final speeches, a question-and-answer period, discussion, and voting shall take place on day two.

Section 4 - Each candidate, in order of nomination, shall formally introduce him/herself in a speech of no more than two (2) minutes, unless extended by a vote, on day one of the election meeting. Each candidate, in order of nomination, shall be given an opportunity for a platform speech of no more than five (5) minutes, unless extended by a vote, after nominations have been closed on day two of the election meeting.

Subsection a - After each speech, each candidate shall be given an opportunity to answer questions of no more than five (5) minutes, unless extended by a vote

Subsection b - The general assembly shall have a discussion of no longer than ten (10) minutes at the conclusion of all presentations and questioning, unless extended by a vote, only after all candidates for an office have been given an opportunity for a speech.



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Section 5 - Each member school in attendance shall cast no more than one (1) vote per office by secret ballot. The candidate receiving a majority shall be declared the winner.

Subsection a - In the case that no candidate receives the majority:

- i. A runoff vote shall be conducted between the candidates receiving the two (2) largest pluralities.
- ii. In the case that no candidate receives a majority after the runoff vote:
 1. The general assembly shall have a discussion of no longer than ten (10) minutes, unless extended by a vote.
 2. A second runoff vote shall be conducted. In the case that no candidate receives a majority after the second runoff vote:
 - a. Nominations shall be reopened and this process repeated except in the case that for the second time no candidate receives a majority after the second runoff vote, the presiding officer shall decide which candidate is declared the winner.

Section 6 - Each winner must obtain and submit a brief letter from the administration at his or her school stating that he or she is in good academic and judicial standing within ten (10) days after the election.

Section 7 – Measures to Preserve the Integrity of the Elections Process

1. An Elections Commission shall be formed each year, no later than the SAM meeting immediately prior to the elections meeting. The Commission shall consist of three voting members and a non-voting chair, all of whom shall be nominated by any SAM delegate or executive board member and subsequently elected to their positions by the SAM board. These members will be barred from seeking or holding any additional SAM office during their service as Elections Commission members. The commission will oversee and have sole authority over the entire elections process, though their decisions and actions are subject to the review of the SAM board and can be overturned with a 2/3 vote of the SAM board.
2. The school hosting the elections meeting must be able to guarantee the availability of a single room/venue for the duration of the process prior to being awarded hosting rights for an elections meeting.
3. Voting by proxy in executive board elections is prohibited.
 - a. Schools that cannot be physically present can do the following:

I. Vote via video or cell phone



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II. Forfeit their vote

b. Schools that employ such methods **MUST** do the following:

I. Before casting a vote in any manner, a member school must have, for all candidates on the ballot of any office for which that school casts a vote, have heard their speech. The member school employing these methods must also have reviewed any credentials made available by the candidates within the time allotted for submitting such credentials. Schools employing these methods must do so for the duration of the elections process.

II. The delegate employing these methods must submit a statement to the chair of the elections commission affirming that this requirement was satisfied by the conclusion of the SAM conference at which the election in question was held.

III. Have their student body president or his/her designee formally declare their school's intent to employ one of the above methods electronically to both the SAM secretary and the elections commission chair, who must immediately upon receipt of this message circulate it to the SAM board. The school must make this declaration no later than 10 calendar days prior to the elections meeting.

IV. Follow up their decision with a typed letter, sent by the student body president or his/her designee via registered mail to the elections commission chair confirming their official votes. This letter must be presented to the SAM board at the next official meeting or their votes will be considered invalid.

4. The right of schools to vote "no confidence" must be preserved.

a. Should the list of candidates for a given office appear unfit for the office, member schools can call for a vote of no confidence in the candidates. Should 2/3 of member schools vote in this manner, the election for the given office shall be postponed no later than thirty calendar days, at which time a quorum of member schools **MUST** gather to resolve the election.

b. All candidates subjected to a successful vote of no confidence must submit a professional resume and statement of purpose detailing their qualifications and goals



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for the office they seek to the elections commission chair, who will forward it to the body, within the 10 calendar days of the second election if they wish to be considered again.

c. At least one new candidate must be introduced on the second ballot after a no confidence vote. The election **MUST** be resolved on the second ballot.

5. Runoff elections cannot be unlimited in number, nor can their resolutions be arbitrary.

a. There can be no more than three runoff elections for a given office.

I. Should three runoffs occur, the decision for all offices except that of president shall revert to the members of the elections commission. Their decision will then be subject to a confirmation vote of the SAM Board, and the decision of the commission will stand unless overturned by a vote of 2/3 of the SAM board. In the event of the commission's decision being overturned, the rules of no confidence votes shall apply.

II. For the office of president, after three runoffs the rules for no confidence votes shall automatically apply.

Article VII – Amendments & Resolutions

Section 1 – For a potential amendment to these Bylaws or resolution to be considered at a meeting of SAM, all of the following criteria must be met:

Subsection a – The amendment or resolution must be submitted to the entire Executive Board of the SAM in writing no later than ten (10) business days prior to the meeting.

Subsection b – The amendment or resolution must be circulated by the Executive Board to the member schools in writing no later than five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

Subsection c – If the Executive Board fails to circulate an amendment or resolution, it will automatically be presented for first reads at the following assembly meeting and will go up for subsequent vote at the meeting thereafter.



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Subsection d – A majority of the assembly can approve (supercede Subsections A and B here) of bringing an amendment or resolution directly to the table for discussion and possible vote.

Subsection e – For purposes of Article VI, Section 1, email shall be qualified as written notice.

Subsection f – The Executive Board of SAM may not remove an amendment or resolution from consideration without due deliberation from the assembly.

Section 2 – Upon fulfilling the requirements for consideration, a potential amendment must garner a two-thirds (2/3) vote of participating member schools in favor for the measure to be adopted.

Article VIII – Suspension of the Bylaws

Section 1 – Any member school may motion for and approve by a two-thirds assembly vote the suspension of the Bylaws.

Section 2 – To be accepted by the Chair as valid, the motion must name a specific maximum amount of time for suspension of the Bylaws.

Section 3 – Suspension of the Bylaws shall allow for facilitation of conversation within SAM in an ad-hoc style. This measure does not allow for decisions to be made in a manner that supersedes the measures set forth in these Bylaws.

Article IX – Removal from Office

Section 1 – Elected Officers

Subsection a – May be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of participating member schools in favor of removal.

Subsection b – May be removed on grounds including, but not limited to malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance.

Section 2 – Appointed Officers

Subsection a – May be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of participating member schools in favor of removal.

Subsection b – May also be removed by the office and/or body authorizing their appointment.

Section 3 – The initiation of the removal process shall be proposed by a member school and voted on by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the assembly.



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Article X – Parliamentary Procedures

Section 1 – All meetings of SAM shall be conducted in a formal manner compliant with the Newly Revised Edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, except where noted in these Bylaws or provided for by SAM legislation.

Article XI – Quorum

Section 1 – Business may be legally conducted by SAM only during the time when a simple majority of member schools in good standing are participating.

Article XII – Voting Privileges

Section 1 – Regardless the population of, or the size of the delegation from, any member school shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter considered before SAM.

Article XIII – Proxy Voting

Section 1 – Under extremely extenuating circumstances, member school delegates may authorize another student from a member school to serve as their voting member by notifying the Chairperson.

Section 2 – Under no conditions may a member school be forced to designate another student to serve as its voting member.

Section 3 – Proxy voting by delegates from colleges or universities not qualified as an authorized member school, under Article I, Sections 1-3, is not permitted.

Article XIV – Dissolution

Section 1 – A motion to consider dissolution may be initiated by any member school. To pass, the motion shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote in favor of considering dissolution.

Section 2 – At the first meeting of SAM occurring no earlier than thirty (30) days after the meeting at which the motion to consider dissolution passed, the item of dissolution shall be placed on the agenda for consideration.

Subsection a – To officially dissolve, said item must pass with at least a three-fourths (3/4) vote of member schools in favor of dissolution.

Article XV – Non Profit Organization Statement

Section 1 – At no time shall SAM, nor any of its offices, positions, committees, or any other of its portions be used for monetary gain or profit.



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Section 2 – As provided for in the Articles of Incorporation, all of SAM’s assets are to be used for purely philanthropic and educational purposes.

Section 3 – SAM shall be designated in the State of Michigan as a 501(c) 3 entity

Article XVI – Ratification of the Bylaws

Section 1 – These Bylaws shall be ratified in their entirety upon the garnering of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of member schools in favor.

Section 2 – Upon receiving such a vote, these Bylaws shall go into effect immediately.

Article XVII – Definitions

Section 1 – Member schools

Subsection a – In these Bylaws, wherever the phrase “member school,” or any similar derivation thereof, is used, it means all member schools qualifying under Article I, Sections 1-3 regardless of whether or not said school decides to affiliate.

Subsection b – In these Bylaws, wherever the phrase “SAM” or any similar derivation thereof, is used, it stands for The Student Association of Michigan.

Subsection c – In these Bylaws, wherever the phrases “assembly” or “general assembly”, or any similar derivations thereof, are used, it means the collective of member schools that are engaged and affiliated with a specific meeting.

Subsection d – In these Bylaws, wherever the phrase “participating member school,” or any similar derivation thereof, is used, it means any member schools that are engaged and affiliated with a specific meeting

Subsection e- In these Bylaws, wherever the phrase “last meeting of the academic year” or any similar derivation thereof, is used, it means the final meeting of SAM within what is considered for most Universities, the second semester (often referred to as Winter or Spring) of their school year.

Appendix A – Honorary Members

SAM’s Third Administration (2009-2010)

- Jordan Twardy, President (2009-2010), Vice President (2008-2009), Oakland University, University of Michigan

SAM’s Second Administration (2008-2009)

- Jeremy Jones, Secretary (2008-2009), Saginaw Valley State University



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- Mark Medaugh, Treasurer (2008-2009), Oakland University

SAM Founding Administration (2007-2008)

- Mohammed Dar, University of Michigan, President (2007-2008), University of Michigan
- Michael Haynes, Treasurer (2007-2008), Eastern Michigan University
- Jameelah Muhammad, Secretary (2007-2008), Oakland University
- Christopher Praedel, Vice President (2007-2008), Western Michigan University

Appendix B - Coalition

- Education
 - o Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan (www.pcsun.org)
- Media
 - o MiVote (www.mivote.org)
- Students
 - o United States Student Association (www.usstudents.org)

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