



The Student Association of Michigan

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

Student Association of Michigan Northern Michigan University Conference

2011-2012

Oct 22nd and 23rd

- Letter from President Gage
- Itinerary/ Agenda
- Minutes from the Sept Conference
- Proposals for Upcoming Campaigns/ Resolutions
 - **PROPOSAL** H.B. 4980 Strategic Plan
 - **PROPOSAL** Voter Registration Strategic Plan
- SAM University Roadmap (*incomplete*)
- Public Relations/Correspondence
 - Newsletter (*separate attachment*)
 - SAM Press Plan

- By-Laws of SAM



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To all attending delegates,

I wanted to quickly say thank you for your commitment to attending this conference, even though for the majority of you it is a very far drive. I think it goes a long way to show not only your level of commitment to the association, but to your fellow classmates in the Upper Peninsula.

As you know, last month we held our first conference of the academic year. I personally believe that it went well, and from the conversations I have had with many of you it seems like we are off to a great year!

However, I want to take this moment to ask you to find and take a more significant role in the Student Association Michigan. As I have stressed with the members of our Executive Board, we simply cannot begin to get done the huge amount of work necessary to provide tangible results on each of the 15 campuses as a 5 member Executive Board alone.

What I am asking you to do is to consider the changes you would like to see in the association, your campus, and across the state, and then help the Executive Board, and your fellow students make that change.

Similarly, we need you to fully explain the importance and necessity of SAM at your own campus. There is a lot of confusion about what we as an association do and we need your help to inform your classmates about the great things SAM has planned for this year.

At this conference I hope to be able to meet one on one with each delegation and the Executive Board to see how we can help support your campus even more!

I am confident that with your help we can make this a great year for the Students we represent, and the classmates we stand united with!

-Thank You

Jay Gage
President

Kevin Tatulyan
Vice President

Dani Thoun
Secretary

Alex Khobier
Treasurer

Tyler Helsel
Director of P.R.



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NMU Conference Itinerary

October 21st -23rd

Friday, September 23rd

Meeting with the Northern Michigan University Student Government

Dinner at Vangos Friday at 7 (6:00 p.m.)
927 North 3rd Street
Marquette, MI 49855-3503

Saturday September 24th

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

Lunch at The Market Place

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

Dinner at Temaki and Tea Saturday
1422 Presque Isle Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855

Sunday September 25th

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

Adjournment



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NMU Conference Agenda

DAY ONE

September 24th

- Roll Call
- Approval of agenda
- Brief recap of the last conference
 - Executive Board Audit
- Guest Speaker- Michael Rotundo, Director of Financial Aid for Northern
 - State and Federal Financial Aid Programs
- Guest Speaker- Gavin Leach VP of Business
 - Performance Based funding
- Officer Reports
 - President Gage
 - Vice-President Tatulyan
 - Secretary Thoune
 - Treasurer Khobier
 - Director Helsel
- University Open Forum (*time permitting*)

- **Break for Lunch (Featuring Dr. Wong, President of NMU)**

- Tour of NMU's Campus
- Committee Reports
 - LRC Chair Moretz
 - UAC Chair Karttunen
- Introduction of Proposals
 - H.B 4980 Strategic Plan
 - Voter Registration
- University Open Forum cont. (*time permitting*)
- Nominations for delegate to the USSA
- Adjournment



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NMU Conference Agenda

DAY TWO

September 25th

- Roll Call

- Final Discussion and voting on Proposals
 - H.B 4980 Strategic Plan
 - Voter Registration

- Election of the delegate to the USSA
- University Open Forum
- Finalizing the conference calendar
- Setting goals, assigning homework
- Closing remarks from President Gage

- Adjournment



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Minutes from the Sept Conference at FSU

- Roll Call
 - GVSU
 - WMU
 - OU
 - UM
 - FSU
 - LSSU
 - MTU
 - NMU
 - UM Flint
 - WSU
 - SVSU
 - ABSENT- EMU, CMU, MSU, UM Dearborn
- Begin at 9:14
- Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - There was an oversight and they have been addressed
 - official and professional minutes are now being taken
 - UM/MTU
 - unanimously approved
- Dr. Bertram
 - 8% fewer people than we had last year (FSU population)
 - flatten out organization
 - there is no hierarchy, there are directors that run it all
 - use students as employees
 -
- SAM overview
 - Chairman Moretz
 - The powerpoint will be online later
 - Create dialog to make change
 - We meet once a month
 - Successes



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- Helping CMU with their Teacher's Union debacle
 - Advocate for pro student issues
 - Promise Scholarship
 - SGA of the Year
 - President's Council
- Introductions
- Presidential Recap
 - Lansing
 - 8 Student Government presidents attended
 - shared common concerns
 - WSU
 - great summit!
 - every school is different, but we all worked together and became politically active and accomplish things
 - President Gage
 - it was refreshing to see every becoming engaged
- President Gage: Policy
 - if you do something at night that will affect your performance in the morning, other delegates may need to attend in your place
 - we need to represent ourselves in a positive manner.
- Campaign Selection Criteria
 - Within SAMs mission?
 - Is it of statewide or profound importance?
 - Can SAM make a difference on this issue?
 - ...
 - LSSU
 - what campaigns would we pursue?
 - President Gage: things we can work on as a State or what one campus can do with support from the rest
 - HB 4980



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- GVSU: use these guidelines as a common sense way to look at things
 - Similar to their campus?
 - None...
- Pre Packet?
 - Beneficial?
 - OU: great to be prepared, but update e-mails
 - MTU: very useful and discuss how they were going to vote
-
- Updates:
- President Gage- conference calls almost every week
 - done many things to help fight with CMU, NMU and WSU
 - cement our position in Lansing
 - mid July attended a rally with 4,000 students
 - Hopes:
 - First semester- Plot out and plan campaigns and initiatives
 - Second semester- implement
 - OU- clarification on funding cuts
 - if any university had tuition above 7.1%
 - CMU, NMU, and WSU losing a lot of \$\$
 - sent a letter to Nixon, and found in favor of these schools
 - MSU SG President introduced HB 4980 to close loopholes
 - GVSU: there will be a breakdown later
 - WSU: add SVSU to quorum
- Secretary Thoun- going to commit to goals of transparency and communication
- Khobier- we have our names on the bank account
 - submit budget to SAM later
 - Dues are \$200
 - they are due at next conference
 - if you don't pay, you don't vote



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- OU- invoice out to schools
 - President Gage- bank is far away
- Helsel- Press releases and newsletter
 - One per delegation
 - Michigan Student- Newsletter
 - positive feedback from member schools, USSA, and outside sources
 - if you want anything in the newsletter or publicized, contact Director Helsel Helsel
 - Brochure
 - Trying to find printing prices
 - Press Release about conference
 - Has template, and make changes
 - Schools can send it to their newspaper for an update
 - LSSU: very good idea, great for self promotion
 - WMU: great to show our schools what we are accomplishing
 - UM: great job Director Helsel!!!
- Moretz- very productive summer!
 - LRC – Legislative research committee
 - Asses current and past legislation that can affect students
 - documents will be up and
 - 501 (c) 4 instead of 3
 - incorporation research guide book
 - Restructure LRC for max benefits
- UAC Chair Report
 - Alys Diebolt (Presented by Cardi DeMonaco)
 - Presentation:
 - Electing a whole new committee
 - 5 members and a chair
 - Duties:
 - University related issues
 - monitor budgets
 - improve academic processes



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- Worked on:
 - Roadmap
 - Voting best practices
- Elections:
 - Care about student life
 - word of mouth marketing
- Questions?
 - None
- Introduction of proposals
 - Student Action Committees
 - LSSU: would this be an existing student concerns initiative or a think tank...?
 - It is more than okay to use an existing structure, engage every day students to become involved
 - OU: is that document a proposed bylaw to come back to be voted on? Can we add to the resolution that other universities can adopt
 - LSSU: impression was that it was just a suggestion to adopt
 - GVSU: our delegation proposed it and supported it, SAC now does all the things in the resolution to build a network of students
 - UM AA: elected or appointed in proposal (second page)
- Non Conference Voting
 - Derek: conference every month and this way we can accomplish things on a faster basis
 - Cardi: this is great so we can accomplish more
 - SVSU: requiring unanimous executive decision, would prefer 4/5
 - UM: hard with not responding schools, we need to commit!
 - You must have attended the conference to vote...
 - Teleconference
 - President Gage: presidential committee
- LRC Restructure
 - An additional member will help with analysis and a vice chair with help with hierarchy



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- OU: regulations to Vice chair roles?
 - They will be included in the bylaws
- Members will have roles and responsibilities
 - This will hold them accountable for their actions
 - There are 6 members including Chair, but the chair is non voting so there can't be a tie
 - GVSU: since vice chair takes over for chair, there will be an even number voting
 - we will fill seat, and if a vote comes to a tie, no action will be taken.
- Shared Governance
 - LSSU: assessment, this allows the university to have that constant presence reminding them that they have students with demands
 - WSU: have it, they sit on the committees, any issue that comes up gets voted with 8 staff/faculty and one students, so every time there is a student influence
 - UM Flint: most committees have a student seat, some allow students to vote
 - OU: 2 liaisons on Board of Trustees, students on every committee
 - MSU chair brought up this topic in April
 - They have a lot of voting power
 - GVSU: Wisconsin system
 - UM: speaking right at Board, but no vote
 - There were many directions we could take, but we are hoping to push our time and talents to have Michigan students sitting on voting committees at their universities
 - OU: seems like many schools have shared governance , is there an issue?
 - Some schools are farther along than others and it may be in our best interest to help schools along
 - FSU: it is mandated in our constitution that each representative sits on at least one committee



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- SVSU: there are a few committees with a seat, but there are some that have voting rights
- OU: seems like people are still saying how great they have it going
- UM: there is so much going on that policy makers don't have the time or space for students.
- SVSU: many universities have something, but it could be great to shoot for and try to achieve more
- LSSU: a great initiative could be informing administration that there should be room for a student voice or even a vote
 - Straw pole vote: 7pro and 4 neg
- GVSU: can we get clarification on what shared governance should be? A voice or a vote?
- SVSU: we have some say
 - are there schools that are having issues?
 - SVSU
- Honorary Member Toms: this falls under UAC, taken and dissected by committee and it comes back more researched and thorough
 - UM: we want to have a say, but our administration in the past has laughed at our requests
 - With enough support backing up, administration may have a harder time laughing at us
- Open forum
 - GVSU: just passed Gender Neutral, what is the progress at universities
 - WMU: nothing in place, but trans students allowed to have single room for price of roommate, but they have to have biological sex if rooming
 - OU: family apartments, mixed floors
 - UM: working with them
 - SVSU: they can stay in the same dorm, not room
 - UM Dearborn: No dorms yet...
 - WSU: floor, but not room



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- UM Flint: only has one residence hall, fame floor and hall, but not room, but has private living that you can live in the same room, things get signed for legality reasons
- FSU: suite is gender based, work with people, but not a policy
- LSSU: freshmen have completely separate buildings, grades are separate but building is mixed, and town houses are male or female, freshmen male must have escort after 10 to enter
- MTU: married can live with spouse, apartments can be male or female, and housing can be both, Dean of Students answers case by case
- NMU: halls are co-ed, suites are exact, apartments are also gender specific
 - MTU: policy vagueness is by 26% female population
- OU: What are other schools doing for diversity outreach
 - NMU: SG doesn't address, but multicultural committee does
 - MTU: parade of nations
 - LSSU: don't really have diversity, GLSA, implemented outreach to bring in diversity
 - FSU: office of multicultural, they have events that pertain to different groups
 - UM Flint: International center, interact with students and teach about cultures, GAP Program, international taste fest
 - WSU: global festival, study abroad office holds events
 - SVSU: diverse campus, every semester there are members that cook from their heritage
 - UM: several different office to deal with issues, ton of orgs that put on events
 - OU: e-board had multicultural affairs director, many office on campus
 - WMU: offices on campus, sg works closely with them, creating scholarships (2) for diversity purposes, diversity lock in, people come in to talk about areas, LGBT panel



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- GVSU: senate has committee, office on campus, international center, international housing, student organizations, Greek life, Love is Louder campaign for LGBTQ support
 - LSSU- feels ashamed of their lack of diversity, you can do more at your campus but simply encouraging your school
 - WMU- look into CMU's study abroad swap
 - GVSU- has partnerships with other schools
 - UM Flint- residence halls also has culture exposure
 - OU- has study abroad through different departments/colleges
 - SVSU- faculty lead trips
 - LSSU- thanks for all the input!! Lake State is still a good school though
- Motion to reconvene at 1:15
 - Flint/Tech
-
- Started at 1:58
- Nominations:
 - VP
 - UM/Flint- Kevin Tatulynn
 - Sophomore at Wayne
 - NMU/GVSU- Dani Thoun
 - Senior, education, NMU, likes photography and long walks on the beach
 - GVSU/ OU- Nessma (Decline)
 - SVSU/MTU- Jeremy Jones
 - Senior at SVSU, graduate next december, Education major
 - UAC Chair
 - SVSU/NMU- Daniel Chapman
 - Junior, second year at SM
 - LSSU/WSU- Eli Karttunen
 - Junior



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- If you don't change your direction, you might just end up where you are headed. Ancient Proverb
- UAC Members
 - LSSU/GVSU- Lonie Donald III
 - Detroit, Junior at Ferris, Campus affairs Chair
 - FSU/NMU- Cameron Penny
 - LSSU, scuba's really involved, wearing blue today
 - MTU/UM- Dan Chapman
 - SVSU
- LRC Members
 - LSSU/UM- Kate Beson
 - Wayne State Law, LRC member 2 years
 - GVSU/NMU- CJ Murphy
 - Senior at GVSU, International relations, Rugby team
 - MTU/NMU- Jeremy Jones
 - SVSU
- USSA Seat for Board
 - WSU/GVSU- Aysha Fazaou- WSU
 - WMU/GVSU- Collin Mays
 - UM/NMU- Nessma Bashi
- Guidebook for Incorporation and 501 (c)4 status
 - Moretz
 - 501 (c)3 means that you have non profit status
 - organizations can only do a limited amount of lobbying or only spend 6% of their budget and SAM spends 90%
 - Khobier: it has been hard putting everything together, but it is coming
 - 501 (c)4 allows us to lobby as much as we want
 - OU- (c)4 benefits, what are they?
 - Exempt from taxes, it is still non profit
 - Working with USSA Lawyers
 - UM- how much will it be?



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- We estimate around \$300 or so
 - Cardi- What is lobbying defined as?
 - Support for something
 - Any contact with legislative branch
 - UM – what are the regulations on fundraising?
 - -There are usually stipulations about how.
 - FSU- how would that conflict with universities with 501 (c) 3?
 - It may affect it, but the amount that dues are, it shouldn't affect anything
 - MTU- SAM has been an organization for a while... what have the roadblocks been in the past?
 - We have had a lack of continuity, there needs to be a path from the past to the future.
 - We will get it done this year
 - SVSU- have we already paid the filing fee?
 - We did fro (c)3, and we believe we can transfer that fee to (c)4
- Calendar Proposal
 - October 22-23 NMU
 - November 19-20 UM
 - May be a weekend before
 - January 7-8 GVSU (Break)
 - February 18-19 SVSU
 - April 14-15 UM Flint
 - NMU: 14, 15, 16
 - Ferris has homecoming
 - Wayne wants more time
 - OU has a big weekend
 - UM fall break
 - NMU will pick up at hotel
 - UM Flint- Placard Vote



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- Unanimous approval
- HS 4980 and 5000
 - Chairman Moretz
 - HB 4980
 - Honorary Member Toms: is this bill a “punishment” for the schools?
 - This is just that, it makes the words more specific and this situation won’t happen again
 - SVSU- Why not Northern?
 - Gave students a tax rebate from federal stimulus money and they said it was wrong, but they understood
 - WSU changed tuition from fall to summer some and then up more in the fall so from fall to summer was 7%, but from summer to fall was 9%
 - HB 5000
 - GVSU: what every party has power controls power of universities
 - OU: would just set up a committee to restructure board of trustees
 - Open Forum
 - NMU- how many rooms did you reserve?
 - 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2= 25
 - FSU- What did you see at FSU that you liked, what do you have?
 - Student Union, University Center, Student Center
 - LSSU- Building seems advanced, and theirs is smaller, but so is their university, meeting rooms that are close together
 - MTU- confusing, theirs has a ballroom and more tech advanced
 - NMU- meditation room in their, large meeting rooms that have pull out walls to make smaller, has eatery and book store and bank



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- GVSU- liked the first ladies clothing, theirs has movie space, student org offices
- WMU- student organization center is within
- OU- game room
- UM-
- SVSU-eating, space to host rooms
- WSU- basement to hang out, Barnes and Noble, CAP (counseling), religious centers, tranquility room
- UM Flint- top floor has food, tutoring services, psych services, student organization center, campus activity board
 - GVSU- will the building be LEAD certified
- LSSU- Do schools have ways that they promote the school by student skills
 - UM Flint- students painted murals for walls, Operation Smile
 - WSU- students work at clinic
 - SVSU- student art work up, students work clinic
 - UM- paintings, submit photos
 - OU- cement blocks that can be painted
 - WMU- arts, app designed by students
 - GVSU- Build residential halls, every hallway is student art, students volunteer for athletic training, smartphone apps
 - NMU- construction management does remodeling, “trick” students into creating promotional pieces through a competition for some reason
 - FSU- painting “The Rock”, it can change hour to hour or month to month, any student can change it
- GVSU- Michigan Tuition Tax Credit: if a school raises tuition less than the rate of inflation there is a discount for schools
- SVSU- Alcohol Policy
 - Wayne- Freshmen halls are alcohol free, towers has alcohol, but 21 can bring it in
 - UM Flint- no alcohol on campus



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- FSU- if you are over 21 and in a private room you can have it or if you are over 21
- LSSU- campus policy says that they can't do anything off campus, freshmen and sophomore dorms are dry, but apartments with one person under 21 there can't be alcohol, issue with Canada's legal age of 19, no alcohol paraphernalia
- MTU- Wet hall, 1gallon in room with form filled out, alcohol at events with risk management and licensed bartender
- NMU- no alcohol unless in apartment or singular permitted dorm
- GVSU- no alcohol accessible to minors in apartments
- WMU- over 21 in dorms with one open beer per 21 year old
- OU- dorms and over 21, roommate has to be over 21
- UM- freshmen dorms are dry, over 21 is "good to go"
-
- DAY 2
-
- Order at 9:11
- Campaign Selection Criteria
 - LSSU- What does paragraph 3 mean?
 - It allows universities to not participate in initiatives
 - Vote: unanimous
- Student Action Committees
 - LSSU- add "or" to the section 1
 - LSSU/NMU
 - Vote: unanimous
- Non Conference Voting
 - GVSU- change every 2 months to once a month
 - GVSU/MTU
 - SVSU- what does 1D mean?
 - If a school brings us a resolution, we must do something with it unless the member schools vote otherwise



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- LSSU- would this allow schools to send resolutions over the summer or strictly emergency based
- NMU Motion to strike clause d
 - NMU/MTU
 - Not passed
- UM Flint- the language is clear and should be included
 - UM- Agrees
- SVSU- Still confused about wording
 - GVSU- proposed some word changes
- LSSU- “may not remove a resolution without consideration without a vote”
 - LSSU/MTU
- Vote: Unanimous
- LRC Restructure
 - Vote: unanimous
- Shared Governance
 - FSU- does this ask for a seat or a right to vote
 - It isn't specific, we would like to vote, but this only proposes a seat
 - Vote: Unanimous
- 501 (c) 4 Status
 - GVSU- Lobbying are activities to persuade legislation
 - UM- only concern is revenue generation, (c)4 stops other organizations from giving to us as a tax write off, the category is correct, but concerning
 - We haven't gotten donations from sources other than schools
 - UM- This would take \$400 from our slim budget
 - We are hoping to transfer the \$300 from our (c)3 application
 - UM Flint- with dues we get a restored budget
 - GVSU- 501 (c) 3 wouldn't happen with our current expenditure amounts
 - UM- when will we know if we get that \$300?
 - We don't know yet, but SAM will know once the information is available
 - Vote: Unanimous
- HB 4980



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- UM- Add UM as a co-sponsor
 - UM/GVSU
- UM- this is the second reading, so we feel comfortable
- Vote: 10 Y and 1 Abstain
- UM/NMU- move to table election for USSA until October
 - Vote Unanimous
-
- VOTING
 - VP
 - Kevin wins
 - UAC Chair
 - Eli Karttunen
- Motion to vote with unanimous consent MTU/NMU
 - UAC Committee
 - All Approved
 - LRC Members
 - All Approved
- President Gage Speaking
 - Please us SAM/e-board as a resource. Please try to bring back information to your school and communicate with us any concerns. Thanks for coming.
- GVSU- Thank you Ferris
- FSU- the newsletter had the Big Event information, adopted from Texas A&M, if you have any questions about applying it at your university, please contact Danielle or Brennon.
 - LSSU- They are looking at bridging the gap between their university and community so they are looking at something like the Big Event
- NMU- Looking forward to hosting the next conference
- MTU- having an issue with tenant/leaser agreements, looking for law students to do a forum with their students to learn more
 - FSU- start with what the neighborhood can do
 - WMU- Every Thursday you can ask a lawyer questions, contact us



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- UM- Student legal services at our school started at our student government and slowly moved out and up!

Motion to adjourn and approved at 12:15



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H.B. 4980 Strategic Plan

Background: As part of the Higher Ed budget for the 2011-2012 school year, a cap was placed on the amount that any University could increase tuition.

Problem: Over the summer months, a House Fiscal Agency report showed that three Universities had allegedly violated the tuition restraint language (WSU, MSU, and NMU). According to the budget, the ultimate decision on whether or not there was a violation ultimately lied with the State Budget Director John Nixon who found in favor of all three Universities. Rep. Bob Genetski (R-Saugutuck), Chair of the higher education appropriations committee, wasn't satisfied with the decision and introduced H.B. 4980. Genetski's argument is that the administrations of WSU and MSU "got cute" with the definition of an academic year. The bill, 4980, clarifies the definition of academic year while taking 18 and 13 million dollars from MSU, and WSU respectively.

Solution: It is SAM's hope that a resolution can be reached that satisfies the requirements of the Higher Ed funding bill, without pushing the burden of the financial ramifications these cuts would have on to the students.

Goal: Our goal is to either amend H.B. 4980 to remove the negative supplemental to MSU and WSU, or to have the bill defeated entirely.

Target:

- Rep Bob Genetski and his colleagues on the higher education appropriations committee
- The Administrations of Michigan State University, and Wayne State University

Strategy:

To show that these cuts are going to be a lot deeper then anticipated by the legislature, and that we need to be the top priority on campus to the administration. Both sides are so fixated on battling each other that we as students are being forgotten.

Tactics:

-Grassroots:

SAM will create a Petition that can be signed by students, faculty, administrators, parents, local VIP's, etc. These petitions will then be sent to Lansing to be delivered to Rep Genetski.

We will also encourage campus leaders to write letters to the editor, letters to their members of the legislature, and specific letters to Rep Genetski.

Lastly, the Student Governments of SAM will vote to support SAM's resolution concerning 4980.

-Organization-wide:

The LRC will create a report that outlines the effects that these cuts will have. We will then circulate this report to our member Universities, administrations, and the legislature.

Kevin Tatulyan will work in conjunction with Steve Marino and Chairman Moretz Moretz to set up a meeting with Rep. Genetski to see what it is going to



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take to remove the negative supplemental from this legislation. Like wise, efforts will be made to determine what concessions can be made on the side of the campus administrations.

Director Helsel Helsel will compile as many articles on the legislation that are available and compile them into an easily accessible document. We will then circulate these through the member Universities in an effort to inform our campus classmates.

Timeline

(incomplete as of 10/18/11)



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Student Association of Michigan - Voter Registration Strategic Plan

Background:

SAM's greatest strength has been and will always be in our numbers. As an organization that stands for students, SAM is at a unique disadvantage in traditional advocacy methods due wholly to our lack of expendable money. It is our belief that to strengthen our voice in the state wide dialogue, we must engage our constituency and mobilize them to take part in the electoral process. Furthermore, it is our belief that the following plan will benefit all groups involved in many ways:

- SAM will benefit from the heightened profile and mobilized student population in the electoral process. We can then use this to strengthen our voice in Lansing, as well as to rise in support of our fellow students.
- Students as well will benefit from the legislature knowing that they, along with a sizeable number of their fellow students are now a large part of the votes cast in state-wide, and district elections.
- The individual Student Governments will benefit by providing a tangible service for their students, and by creating Student Action Committees that can then be used by the individual Student Governments to work on other grassroots efforts on their campuses.

Problem:

Misinformation, stringent voting laws, and general apathy have made turnout for University students in elections very poor. This gives us a weaker footing to advocate in Lansing and on campus through the knowledge that we as students aren't mobile enough to effect change.

Solution:

SAM will make it a priority to recruit, register, and compel students to vote and get their classmates to vote. Furthermore, we want to make it easier to vote while away at school. It is our belief that through these two steps we will have a strong voice in the statewide dialogue,

Targets:

- Students
 - SAM hopes to register no less than 10% of the students on each of Michigan's public Universities. With this in mind we will need to recruit a lot of volunteers to reach our voter registration goals.
- Administrators and Faculty:
 - Administrators and faculty members carry a heightened sense of legitimacy with the legislature. Our efforts will be more successful if we can create a unified message that encompasses all members of the campus community.
- Legislators/Secretary of State Ruth Johnson:
 - Ultimately our primary hope for making it easier to vote while away at school would be a change, or new specialized statute to Michigan voting laws. While many different things must happen to have any affect on this issue, the first step is the Michigan Legislature and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson. Ideally if we can gain their support in this effort, the following steps will be incredibly easier to navigate.

Goals:



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- Register 10% of the students on our campuses to vote
 - SAM represents roughly 300,000 students. If our goal is to get 10% of all students registered we must register roughly 30,000 students.
 - Assuming that any given student volunteer can register roughly 50 of their fellow students we will need 600 volunteers from the 15 campuses.
- Get 10 of the 15 University Presidents to sign on to a plan we believe will increase voter turnout for students
 - We will work with University Presidents to help with 4 key components
 - Place a voter registration link on the University homepage, or other highly trafficked campus websites.
 - Stand with the SAM as we work to change voting laws in the State of Michigan for away-from-home students
 - Write a letter of support/call for SAM to Secretary of State Ruth Johnson
 - Write a letter of support/call for SAM to the legislators that represent their campus
 - Work a registration booth 1-2 instances at peak times student traffic times with students from the Student Action Committees
 - An emphasis will be put on taking pictures that will be sent in subsequent, positive, press releases throughout the state.
 - Work to either secure a polling location on campus, or to provide transportation to and from the polls for students all day for even year General or Primary elections.
- Establish Student Action Committees on 10 of the 15 campuses with the initial campaign of registering students to vote.
- Contact 10% of the students on our campuses to remind them to vote

Strategy (timeline):

- October/November
 - Create an informational pamphlet about voting laws in the State of Michigan
 - Run Recruitment drives on 10 of the 15 campuses to get students involved with the Student Action Committees, informed on the voting laws in the State of Michigan, and begin preliminary registration
 - Create a “Presidents pledge” that we can use to engage University Presidents to stand with the SAM
 - Create a similar document for students to sign to called the “Students pledge”, which is a promise to vote in November
 - Begin preliminary contacts with University Presidents
- December
 - **Begin the first swing** of Voter Registration
 - Have a total of **2-3 University Presidents** signed on to the “Presidents pledge”, and working to help SAM’s efforts.
 - Additionally, have **10-20 faculty members, community VIP’s, etc. PER UNIVERSITY** to sign on to the pledge



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- *(These times will be a great opportunity to also mention Shared Governance, and SAM's campaign to get students place on crucial decision making committees)*
- Have **2-4 fully established Student Action Committees** actively working on voter registration
 - *(Additional campaigns brought by the SG of that respective campus will also be worked on)*
- By the end of December, have **1-2% of the students we represent registered to vote** *(3,000-6,000 students registered)*
 - Have a total of **1,500-3,000 "Students pledge" Signatures**
 - *(An effort will be made to keep records of the student's name, email, and phone number to help with SAM's effort to remind these students about pending elections).*
- ***END OF MONTH TOTALS: 2-3 Presidents, 150-300 faculty/VIP, 2-4 Action Committees, 3,000-6,000 registered, 1,500-3,000 Student Pledge***
- January
 - **FULL SWING VOTER REGISTRATION**
 - Bring best practices ideas to help with registration drives to the January SAM Conference.
 - Have a total of **5-6 University Presidents** signed on to the "Presidents pledge", and working to help SAM's efforts.
 - Get an additional have **10-20 faculty members, community VIP's, etc. PER UNIVERSITY** to sign on to the pledge
 - Have **5-7 fully established Student Action Committees** actively working on voter registration.
 - By the end of January, have **3-4% of the students we represent registered to vote** *(9,000-12,000 students registered)*
 - Have a total of **4,500-6,000 "Students pledge" Signatures**
 - Begin preliminary contact with Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's office to work on voting rights for away-from-home University students.
 - Similar contact with allies in the Michigan Legislature
 - ***END OF MONTH TOTALS: 5-6 Presidents, 300-600 faculty/VIP, 5-7 Action Committees, 9,000-12,000 registered, 4,500-6,000 Student Pledge***
- February
 - **CONTINUED FULL SWING VOTER REGISTRATION**
 - Implement best practices, and set up bi-weekly conference calls with SAM Leadership to discuss progress and request/give resources into places that need them.
 - Have a total of **7-9 University Presidents** signed on to the "Presidents pledge", and working to help SAM's efforts
 - Get an additional have **10-20 faculty members, community VIP's, etc. PER UNIVERSITY** to sign on to the pledge
 - Have **8-9 fully established Student Action Committees** actively working on voter registration



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- By the end of February, have **6-8% of the students we represent registered to vote** (*18,000-24,000 students registered*)
 - Have a total of **9,000-12,000 “Students pledge” Signatures**
- ***END OF MONTH TOTALS: 7-9 Presidents, 450-900 faculty/VIP, 7-9 Action Committees, 18,000-24,000 registered, 9,000-12,000 Student Pledge***
- ***IMPORTANT DATE: February 28th Presidential Primary***
- March
 - **FINAL STRUCTURED PUSH VOTER REGISTRATION**
 - Weekly conference calls to help with the final push to meet our goals
 - Have a total of **10-15 University Presidents** signed on to the “Presidents pledge”, and working to help SAM’s efforts
 - Get an additional **10-20 faculty members, community VIP’s, etc. PER UNIVERSITY** to sign on to the pledge
 - Have **10-15 established Student Action Committees** actively working on voter registration
 - By the end of March, have **10-15% of the students we represent registered to vote** (*30,000-45,000 students registered*)
 - Have a total of **15,000-22,500 “Students pledge” Signatures**
- April
 - Setup meeting with SAM leadership, outstanding members of the Student Action Committees, and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson to discuss voting rights for away-from-home University students
 - An emphasis will be put on the number of students SAM was able to register/have sign the pledge to vote, the number of University Presidents we had sign on to the pledge to make voting easier, and the number of students we had involved with Student Action Committees.

END OF DRIVE TOTALS:

**10-15 Presidents,
600-1,200 faculty/VIP,
10-15 Action Committees,
30,000-45,000 registered,
15,000-22,500 Student Pledge
1-change to Michigan voting laws...**



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Student Association of Michigan Press and Media Plan

2011-2012

- Branding and Naming
 - Pushing Logo
 - Establishing goal and Audience
- Outreach (tools)
 - Press Releases
 - Brochures
 - Social Media/Networking
 - QR Codes
- Contacting Audience
 - Letters
 - Calls
 - Lobbying
- On Campus Messaging
 - Radio Stations/News Papers
 - SG Public Relations
 - Campus Admins, Presidents, Boards of Trustees (Regents)
- Handouts
 - Products
 - Tables
- Rally or Lobby Sessions
 - Timing and Being Prepared
- Website
 - Fresh Look



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Why a Press Plan?

Recently I attended a conference for Student Government Leadership in St. Louis. I attended a session on branding and public relations. They said that one of the main flaws in PR is that many individuals just go and do PR related activities like press release and social networking without a plan.

Forming a formalized and professional plan is the next step for SAM in the PR side of things. With this plan we can begin to enact many initiatives and becoming organized so PR can become the leading voice in the association

How it will work?

With this newly formed plan, we will be able to be more streamlined with our promotion while gaining more outreach then ever by putting more emphasis on contact with Lansing. This will work by having a clearly defined goal, audience, brand, and utilizing press releases, social media, campus media, and contacts.

Branding

Having an image that can be related to our association is key in having people not only see us, but recognize us in future. When utilizing this image (or brand) we can affectively be seen as a leader for student rights in our state.

- **Logo:** Having a solid logo will help people associate something simple to our organization as a whole. Our current logo is in the Header. We also have the logo that is the State of Michigan and says SAM in the middle. I like both and I think the professional one in the header is better for administrators and legislators while the Michigan logo is better for students.
- **Press and Media Goal:** To be viewed as a serious, professional, and powerful organization representing the students of Michigan.
- **Audience:** Our primary audience should be narrowed down to four: Students, Administrators, Legislators, and Media. By having it narrowed down we can focus on these groups and tailor our marketing towards them.
- **What makes us different:** We are the only state-wide organization representing Michigan's public higher education students (Over 300,000 in total).

Contacting Audience

Our audience is key to having our name advertised. If we don't have a target audience and we push our name to everyone, we are spreading our attention to thin and not getting as much attention as we can get. With focusing on these four groups we will have more attention brought to us with the individuals that we need to gain attention to.



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- **Letters:** Contacting lawmakers is the key if we want to have a voice in Lansing. Sending letters is the old fashion way of letting Legislators know how we feel about a stance. Although aged, I feel that it is still a vital tool that can be capitalized and can be another voice to Lansing and administrative decision makers.
- **Calls:** Calling decision makers can be another great way to have contact. Calls are a more interactive approach that, if the conversation goes well, can have great implications.
- **Lobbying:** This is our biggest tool in Lansing. Face-to-face conversation is the most effective device with Legislators. Stating our ideas to these lawmakers is going to show our strength and development as an organization and also develop relationships that can help with other issues down the road. Another plus to lobbying is that legislators respect you more. They know that you are affected by their decisions and that you care.

Outreach (Tools)

It is a necessity to have powerful tools to use in the public and media. Being able to be seen and heard about our stances and have people know who we are is the main reason to have PR.

- **Press Releases:** This is a tool that I have been trying to utilize to my full potential in my term. Having the media know about our dealings and stances helps our voice be heard. I am sending press releases to PCSUM, all school newspapers, and LSSU's public relations department so that we can reach as much of the media as possible. I have plans to reach out to all 15 universities public relations departments in the coming months.
- **Brochures:** Currently there is one brochure developed and I am working to get the resources to print this brochure off. At this stage I think development of one is most beneficial, but as the organization grows development of other brochures will be necessary.
- **Social Networking/Media:** We currently are utilizing two forms of social networking: Facebook and Twitter. The twitter account has about 5 tweets a week and Facebook has about 1 to 2 updates a week. MORE! We need to optimize the use of our Twitter and Facebook accounts and push tweets out about Michigan Higher Education numerous times a day and have a Facebook update about 5 times a week. Make sure not to over do our followers, but putting our name out there on the most looked at websites in the world. We also need to gain more followers by putting "Follow us on Facebook and Twitter" on everything. This is the cheapest, easiest, and most influential way to spread our name and gain a strong base.
- **QR Codes:** These are the "matrix barcodes" you see on the back of many products or in the corner of posters. Created by Toyota, it was used for car manufactures but is fast growing in the public due to its speed and



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accessibility. Putting these on many of our products and hand outs will help

On Campus Message

Our message to the students is going to be crucial to having one voice to represent the students. Utilizing student press and media along with our is going to help promote us on a campus wide level. Also, having support of decision makers will show our level of influence on a state-wide level.

- **Radio/News papers:** Having contact with these forms of media are going to necessary if we want to be known on each campus. Running ads in papers or over the air will push students to ask questions, go to our websites and social media, and become involved. Also having contacts with these individuals will be beneficial when needing quick action or strong voice on each campus.
- **Each SG's PR:** Public relations are key to any successful organization. Utilizing each campus' student government PR we can have them help in pushing our organization on each campus.
- **Admins, Presidents, and Boards of Trustees (Regents) and campus decision makers:** Having each schools decision makers know of our organization can be a vital tool that we NEED to pursue. Gaining their support can be used as a serious measure in advocating for students. Having quotes on issues or general support from decision makers can be publicized in our favor. When rallies or lobby sessions are held, delegations bring along decision makers, or have them send letters of support so they can say they have their full universities support.

Handouts

Spreading promotional items out is one of the most effective forms of advertisement. These items can be seen by all when used and with our website on them people can go there and find out more information.

- **Potential Items:**
 - Pens
 - Key chains/Lanyards
 - T-Shirts
 - Water Bottles
 - Magnets
 - Note Pads
- **Promo Tables:** Setting up a promotional table is a good way to hand out brochures and other materials. Setting one up at conferences, new delegates can come and get some items and make them want to come back and get involved. Tables for on campus events can be another great way to promote. An example is LSSU has an event called Lakerpalooza at the



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beginning of the year where many groups, clubs, and departments set up tables where they hand out information and materials.

Rally or Lobbying Sessions

This event, which will take place in March, is our largest of the year. PR for this event is crucial to the success. If the media brings attention to it, then legislators will have no choice but to pay attention to it. If it turns out to be a collective group of lobbying sessions and not a rally this year, then PR materials need to be prepared to push SAM, its stances, and the implications of our decisions.

- **Timing:** Making sure this is publicized in a timely manner is key to getting students to attend and be prepared. Marketing for this event needs to begin in the beginning of February and by March a full campaign needs implemented. Education of what students are going down (or up) to Lansing for is crucial. Education packets should be handed to individual SG members that are in charge of the organization on each campus so that they can educate each school's attendee's on what we are lobbying for and some tips on how to lobby.

Website

Our website is the focal-point of contact to our organization outside of personal interaction. It is helpful to students that want to log-in and view contacts, documents, and dates of next conferences. Our front page gives information about upcoming conferences, publishes press releases, and is a center for our organization.

- **Issues:** It is very unprofessional looking. Not to put it down or say that it's the worst thing that has ever been made, but it desperately is calling for a face lift. We are recreating the image of our organization to be seen as serious and professional, the next step is to update the websites appearance and user friendliness.
- **Incorporation of other media:** Including two boxes, one for our twitter feed, and one for our Facebook wall, we can keep viewers up to date with our social networking. Also having the links to our coalition more emphasized so that they visit their sites is another simple way to tighten our ties with each of them.



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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.



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



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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.

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



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- 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

- 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



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- 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)

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



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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 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.



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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.

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



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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

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.



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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 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.



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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.

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.



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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.

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



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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.

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



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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
- 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)



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- Media
 - o MiVote (www.mivote.org)
- Students
 - o United States Student Association (www.usstudents.org)

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These Bylaws were revised on April 10, 2010.

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These Bylaws were adopted on March 30, 2008.