



Council Communique



PRESIDENTS COUNCIL, STATE UNIVERSITIES OF MICHIGAN

March 2010

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Student Association of Michigan (SAM) Higher Education Rally

The Student Association of Michigan (SAM) will be holding a higher education rally at the Capitol on Thursday, March 25 starting at 12:30 p.m. SAM has written a Student Declaration of Grievances to symbolize and put to paper the pent up frustration of students with our state's continued disinvestment in higher education. The Grievances will be signed by students across the universities and given to the legislators.

To obtain more information about the rally, contact Cardi DeMonaco Jr. (cdemonac@umd.umich.edu) or your university's SAM representative. You can learn more about SAM at <http://www.mistudents.org>

The Great Debates

The Great Debates 2010 offer Michigan citizens an in-depth, issues-oriented look at the candidates for governor and legislature.

The Presidents Council is one of 19 partners from across the state to provide:

- Three, one-hour gubernatorial debates
- 50, half-hour legislative debates
- Several multi-candidate legislative forums

The Great Debates program is expected to run from July through Election Day. The Debates will be broadcast on public television and freely distributed in video format for "on demand" online viewing across the state.

The crucial issues to be covered by the Debates are 1) economic growth, 2) talent and education, and 3) efficient, effective, and accountable government.

We will keep you posted on when these Debates can be viewed.

It's MLife Web Site Launches

Your Child, a coalition of Michigan-based education stakeholders, is preparing for the public launch on March 23 of a new social networking site for teens and college students -- www.ItsMLife.com.

Designed to help foster a culture of education in our state, this initiative is a direct response to Your Child survey results in which students in Southeast Michigan asked for additional online resources.

Upcoming Dates

State Relations Officers Meeting

March 16, 2010

Analytical Studies Committee Meeting

March 24, 2010

Legal Affairs Officers Meeting

April 8, 2010

This unique, community-based site provides a non-intimidating forum where teens can talk to other teens and ask questions about the future. With all content driven by the teens themselves, the site promotes crucial first steps in an important dialog about higher education.

The site will also provide one-on-one career advice from a wide spectrum of volunteer professionals; links to college help websites; and of course -- some cool prizes.

The goal is to help students -- as early as possible -- begin planning for the future, as well as to equate education with opportunity.

Motivate Michigan Project

In previous Communiques we have highlighted the Motivate Michigan project, and we have asked that you promote the competition on your campus. Jo Mathis from The Center for Michigan wrote about the success of this project, [Motivate Michigan contest sparks new ideas](#).

The deadline for entries is today, March 12 and thus far, over 90 ideas have been submitted.

To learn more about the competition, please check out the [Motivate Michigan web site](#).

PCSUM Testimony to Senate Higher Education Subcommittee

Mike Boulus kicked off this year's testimony to the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee on February 19 at Saginaw Valley State University. You can read Mike's testimony by going to the [PCSUM home page](#) and download the .pdf from the home page.

The House Higher Education Subcommittee will be holding hearings at the Capitol and across the state in April.

Presidents Council Legislative Luncheon

The Presidents Council held its Legislative Luncheon in late February with guest speaker Brenda Bautsch from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The luncheon was held at the new Troppo's restaurant in downtown Lansing and was a huge success attracting over 100 legislators and staff. Brenda focused her talk on her new report, *The Path to a Degree: A Legislator's Guide to College Access and Success*.

Later in the day, Brenda spoke to the House and Senate Higher Education Subcommittees on trends in state financial aid programs.

Wade H. McCree, Jr., Scholarship Induction Ceremony

On February 23, over 120 ninth graders from Detroit Public Schools were inducted into the Wade H. McCree, Jr., Scholarship Program. The program has been in place for 24 years and is named in honor of Wade H. McCree, Jr., the former Solicitor General of the United States and distinguished Professor at the University of Michigan. Eleven of our four-year public universities sponsor students.

The program reflects a unified commitment by Michigan's public universities to further increase and enhance opportunities in higher education for all qualified

students regardless of financial aid. The program offers opportunities for these students to receive additional tutoring, participate in summer enrichment programs, and network with other like-minded students while preparing for college.

PCSUM Committee Meeting Reviews

Board of Directors

The Board met on March 4 to elect officers of the Presidents Council effective July 1, 2010 for a two-year term:

Chair, President Glenn Mroz, MTU
Vice-Chair, President Susan Martin, EMU
Secretary-Treasurer, President Eric Gilbertson, SVSU
At-Large, President Mary Sue Coleman, UMAA
Immediate Past Chair, President Thomas Haas, GVSU

In addition to covering several legislative and state matters, the Board listened to a presentation by Dan Gilmartin, the Executive Director and CEO of the Michigan Municipal League, and then, discussed creating cities where people want to live and work.

Student Affairs Officers

The Student Affairs Officers met on February 19 at the PCSUM Offices. The committee discussed over 30 agenda items including a budget and legislative update by Mike Boulus, a possible NASPA/ACPA merger, what graduates from student affairs programs should know and have experience in, student health care insurance, and student fees.

Business Affairs Officers

The Business Affairs Officers met on February 24 to receive the MUSIC annual report, and discuss the PCSUM health care cost study, a draft proposal of an Ideal State Grant Program, and other legislative issues. The BAOs then joined legislators and media for the Presidents Council Legislative Luncheon.

Public Information Officers

The Public Information Officers for the universities met March 5 at the PCSUM offices. The PIOs heard from Jill Woodward and the unveiling of It's MLife website, Student Association of Michigan representatives and their planned March 25 rally at the Capitol, and engaged in conversation on the current state and future of newspapers and how to work with newspaper reporters with Dave Eggert, the City Editor of the Lansing State Journal.

Financial Aid Officers

The Financial Aid Officers met March 11 at the PCSUM offices. The FAOs talked about the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver, their financial aid program for Michigan students concept paper, and FY2011 proposed state funding for financial aid programs.

PCSUM Welcomes

The Presidents Council welcomes [George E. Ross](#) back to Michigan. Dr. Ross became President of Central Michigan University on March 1. President Ross served as the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer at CMU from 2002-2008 before moving to Alabama to become president at Alcorn State University.

The Presidents Council also wants to congratulate and welcome [Max J. Seel](#), who is now the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Michigan Technological University. Dr. Seel, a professor of physics, was previously the interim provost.