

Campus Times

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URAC Holds Protest During Mangelsdorf Event, Demands Action

By Henry Litzky and Haven Worley
PHOTO EDITOR and NEWS EDITOR

On Thursday, the UR Abolition Coalition (URAC) staged a protest at the in-person Casual Conversations with President Mangelsdorf event.

During the event, students repeated their demands for changes to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to Mangelsdorf directly.

This move follows last semester's overnight occupation of the DPS parking lot where URAC protestors voiced their demands to University President Sarah Mangelsdorf and DPS chief Mark Fischer, who promised further discussion.

"[President Mangelsdorf] had promised us that night [...] that she would be starting to actually have progress with this mental health task force to institute Daniel's [Law] on campus, and ensure that cops [...] and campus police do not respond to mental health calls on this campus," URAC organizer and senior Antoinette Nguyen said. "However, there's been no update regarding that."

The protest began at the steps of Rush Rhees Library, where many of their actions have started in the past. At around 4:30 p.m., organizers went over the plans to the group of roughly 30 people around the steps.

They departed the steps at 4:36 p.m. and walked down Eastman Quad chanting, "What do we want? Care, not cops! When do we want it? Now!"

They soon arrived at the Wilson Quad tent where President Mangelsdorf and various sophomores were talking.

Protestors lined the fence around the tent while URAC demonstrator and sophomore Andre Tulloch read a prepared speech to the President.

"You and your administration behave as though you actually support radical change for the University, but all you have for us is empty promises and fruitless committees," Tulloch told the President. "We, the students, are fighting hard to actually see change. Last fall, we slept outside in the cold in front of DPS in order to get the attention of those who say they hear us and want to make the changes. Our meeting with you has been thwarted by bureaucratic red tape time and time again. We demand that if you really care about these issues and the students here, that you prioritize this meeting."

Tulloch went on to read the URAC's demands before the demonstration moved on into Wilson Commons. The large group, which had gained some sophomore supporters, swarmed into Wil-



HENRY LITZKY / PHOTO EDITOR

son Commons and then Rush Rhees, armed with hundreds of paper flyers that listed The Students' Demands and included two QR codes for students to read more about the movement.

Sophomore Courtney Jung and first-year Mira Chaskes, who were in the library during that time, were "taken aback" and "caught off guard" when they saw the large group enter the library, but appreciated their conduct.

"They definitely made their presence known, but without being too disruptive," Chaskes said.

Jung, who was in the middle of completing a calculus problem on a whiteboard, stopped her work to look into the movement briefly. "I like how they were being respectful and knowing it's a library," Jung said. "They wanted to prove their message in a way that is not benign, but more subtle, so you feel more accepting [of] their message."

URAC organizers expressed optimism after the protest and stressed the importance of pressuring the administration.

"It's important that we made her feel uncomfortable and not only her, but everybody that's in her circle, because that feeling of being uncomfortable is something that is kind of rare on this campus, espe-

cially for admin," URAC member and junior Katie Hardin said. "Bringing it to her instead of letting her hold all the cards in this situation [...] was one of the best things we could have done."

"They did feel physically unsafe but that is something they can . That's how students feel on this campus with DPS," URAC member and junior Indy Marring said.

URAC plans to hold another virtual town hall sometime in the future, although the date is unknown at the time of this article's publication. Though the future of their demands is uncertain, what remains certain is that URAC is here to stay.

"I believe the president saw us and heard us. Whether or not she was listening, I don't know. I didn't feel like it," Marring said. "But she definitely saw and heard us. And we will meet with her later this month to see if she's listening."

To follow for more updates, make sure to check out URAC's Instagram here.

Worley is a member of the Class of 2023.

Litzky is a member of the Class of 2023.

Mass resignation leaves SA with 11 senators

By Corey Miller-Williams
MANAGING EDITOR

Mass resignation leaves SA with 11 senators
12 senators have resigned from the Students' Association (SA) over the past two weeks, citing their belief that SA's bureaucracy makes it difficult to affect real change.

Senior and former senator Amanda Liang spearheaded the mass resignation in a speech she delivered during the senate [meeting](#) on Feb. 22. In this speech, she described SA as a "gatekeeper" that softens student activism until it becomes ineffective.

"I refuse to continue participating and legitimizing a bureaucracy that was built to fail," she said. "This is a machine where not only are there scapegoats and snakes, but a systemic lack of responsibility. Policy-making may not be opaque by design but it

is opaque by default."

In a later interview with the Campus Times, Liang referenced an incident last year when a student harassed a group of Tibetan students and monks meeting in [Starbucks](#), which sparked a campus-wide debate on the autonomy of regions that China claims as part of their country.

"This is sort of what drove me to run for student government, was just that whole incident, and how everyone fucking did nothing. Didn't say anything, didn't have the balls to stand up for anything, or release a statement," she said.

Senior and former senator Sakhile Ntshangase, who was previously an Opinions Editor for CT, said he agreed with Liang, and called on his fellow senators to become more unified and assertive in their dealings with the administration.

"Accountability is not sucking up to admin," he said. "Accountability is not coming here and saying

that, 'Oh, everything is okay,' or saying that they're doing the best that they can, because they're really not. So if we have to be aggressive in our method of advocacy, then so be it. If we have to show up to protests, if we have to show up as a collective."

Referencing an hour and a half meeting planning the resignation the night before, Ntshangase called out his fellow senators for not being able to come to a consensus on whether to resign en masse, as well as for making little effort within their roles and sometimes not showing up to senate meetings.

"I think we're lying to ourselves," he said. "I don't think we're honest to ourselves. So either we're all going to resign, which I'm totally down for, or we start impeaching some people in student government that are not doing their job."

Sophomore and former senator Andre Tulloch
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