

Approved: March 21, 2017

2016-2017: Meeting # 5

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE APPROVED MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2017 3:15 PM
115 INTERNATIONAL CENTER**

PRESENT: President Simon, Provost Youatt, R. Abramovitch, Y. Bolumole, C. Borchgrevink, N. Bunge, B. Chakrani, L. Cloud, M. Dease, J. Deller, B. Dutton, R. Edozie, R. Fernandez, R. Fisher, M. Floer, P. Floyd, K. Forrest, J. Francese, J. Goddeeris, D. Gould, R. Harold, B. Sternquest (for G Harrell), C. Hogan, H. Hong, G. Hoppenstand, E. Hunter, M. Johnson, A. Kepsel, I. Kovar-Gough, D. Kramer, L. Lapidus, J. Lipton, Y. Liu, M. Mechtel (for G. Lourens), R. Manderfield, V. Mandrekar, B. Mavis, L. McCabe, M. Miklavcic, R. Miksicek, K. Miller, D. Moriarty, J. Morningstar, K. Noe, R. Ofoli, A. Pegler-Gordon, R. Quispe-Agnoli, J. Rankin, D. Rivera, L. Robbins, E. Rosser, S. Safferman, A. Sanders-Jackson, J. Schwartz, L. Skibbe, R. Spiro, M. Crimp (for M. Sticklen), G. Stone, M. Mechtel (for G. Urquhart), C. Warren, D. Westrin, B. Zandstra, R. Zegers

ABSENT: G. Breitzer, S. Carter, J. Dulebohn, J. Fitzsimmons, L. Harris, I. Lee, L. Mansfield, S. Pager, A. Ross, W. Spielman, J. Tang, J. Torrez, J. Vargas, S. Yoder

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda for February 21, 2017

The **agenda for February 21, 2017** was **approved** as amended.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for January 17, 2017

The **draft minutes for January 17, 2017** were **approved** as distributed.

4. President's Remarks: Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon

President Simon is attending a meeting with a State legislator in downtown Lansing, Michigan.

5. Provost's Remarks: Dr. June Youatt

Provost Youatt stated that President Simon is in downtown Lansing having a conversation with a State legislator. She noted that other university presidents are spending the afternoon there, trying to help those who make decisions about appropriations understand the impact of a reduction in state income tax on higher education funding. She said that if the proposal, as is, was enacted, that it would be approximately a billion-dollar loss to the budget and MSU's portion of that budget. Provost Youatt added that this financial support loss would be difficult to make up. Thus, President Simon's meeting is not political lobbying; it is part

of an attempt to advocate for higher education in the State of Michigan and the students who are part of our institutions.

Provost Youatt reported that on the Friday Board of Trustee's meeting, President Simon began the meeting by making a statement about MSU's real concern about for victims of any kind of sexual violence or abuse. President Simon reiterated her absolute commitment to not only support victims but also to make sure there is complete transparency in any investigation of reported sexual abuses. President Simon wants to assure the MSU community that the University will do whatever is necessary to know what happened with reported abuses, and to make sure that those people who were hurt in any of these circumstances are supported. Provost Youatt added that she believes that it is very important for MSU to continue to do the good work that we do every day and make sure that our work is shared.

Provost Youatt noted that we have all been involved with the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) training and development of materials. She reemphasized what MSU now requires of our students, including what has been expected in the student residents halls, so any suggestion that MSU has created a place where abuse is overlooked or "winked at" is offensive to her. Provost Youatt concluded her remarks by thanking MSU faculty and staff for everything that they are doing to help address this situation.

Professor Moriarty added that she read the Faculty Senate statement at the MSU Board of Trustees meeting and made it clear that the Faculty Senate had passed this statement unanimously at their January 17th meeting. Professor Moriarty noted that work had begun on this statement at the end of last semester. Thus, the Faculty Senate statement was not just simply a reaction to recent events, but instead was a genuine concern that MSU faculty has to constantly make sure that the improvement and monitoring of the campus climate with our students is, and has been, ongoing.

6. Chairperson's Remarks: Professor Deborah Moriarty

Professor Moriarty reported that the poster for the Faculty Senate Statement is completed and is now available on the MSU Academic Governance website. It is available as a PDF and can be printed. She has printed 20 copies and is having these posted at various points on campus.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. University Committee on Curriculum Report, Professor Jerry Urquhart, Chairperson

Marci Mectel, from the College of Nursing, represented the University Committee on Curriculum and presented the UCC report. She stated that two new programs, nine changes, and zero deletions were approved. The new programs that were approved include a minor in Creative Writing and English and a new Ph.D. program in Physiology Environmental Toxicology. In addition, she stated that 19 new courses, 38 changes, and 14 deletions were approved, and that and the full report is available at the UCC website.

A motion was made to approve the UCC report and was seconded. The **motion carried.**

7.2. Athletic Council Slate of Nominees for Endorsement, Professor Moriarty

The Athletic Council Slate of Nominees was presented. A motion to approve the Slate was seconded. **The motion carried.**

7.3. The Steering Committee At-Large Slate of Nominees for Endorsement, Professor Moriarty

The Steering Committee At-Large Slate of Nominees was presented. A motion was made to approve the slate was seconded. **The motion carried.**

7.4. Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) and MSU Patent Policy, Rick Chylla, Executive Director, MSU Technologies

Rick Chylla discussed the implementation of a proposed new patent policy. He said that the policy that is currently in place was last updated in the year 2001. He added that there are three reasons for an update. Because there was a change in the patent law in 2011 called the American Invents Act, he noted that it was prudent to update MSU's policy to reflect that change. In addition, MSU took the opportunity to do some benchmarking of best tech transfer practices and patent policy practices at leading research universities. He explained that MSU looked at about 20 peer institutions and used these institutions as a benchmark, because the practice of tech transfer has evolved over the last 15 years. And lastly, various academic institutions have written "white papers" about what constitutes best practices for university tech transfers.

Rick Chylla also discussed material transfer agreements at MSU. He defined a material transfer agreement as a legal contract, an agreement that allows for the exchange of materials (basically research materials) including such items as chemicals, software, plant/animal derived materials, cell lines, research animals, between universities and other organizations for research purposes. This agreement, he adds, defines the rights of the scientists. He states that work has been done on material transfer agreements to facilitate the process in order to make it more efficient.

This information will be posted on the Academic Governance website. Send any inquiries to chylla@msu.edu.

7.5. Budget, Dave Byelich, Assistant Vice President and Director, Planning and Budgets

Dave Byelich presented the update on the Budget. Dave Byelich stated that there has been a number of recent developments. The first involves the Governor of Michigan's recommendations that have been released, suggesting a 2.5% appropriation adjustment for the University. Second, there has been conversation about other State of Michigan initiatives, most notably a potential reduction in the state income tax, and subsequently, a potential reduction in MSU's revenues. In addition to providing a brief update on MSU's budget material, Dave Byelich presented a PowerPoint presentation, which will be available on the Academic Governance website, and responded to discussion questions from faculty following the presentation.

Provost Youatt added that one of the places where MSU's general fund money is directed is to financial aid. She notes that MSU places additional money every year

into the financial aid pool, so that MSU students can continue to afford to attend here. One of the direct advantages of this capital campaign, she adds, is that it is going to begin to provide some financial relief in that fund, so that much of MSU's general-fund dollars do not have to "float there." Unfortunately, Provost Youatt states, MSU's low return rate on investment has slowed that process down.

Provost Youatt then responded to questions regarding budget and funding issues in their specific units.

The PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the Academic Governance website.

8. Comments from the floor

Provost Youatt responded to a question from a faculty member regarding how the Federal Government travel ban will affect students at MSU. Provost Youatt replied that the MSU Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is working in a focused way with MSU students and faculty. Discussions are also taking place, she adds, with MSU's representatives in Washington, D.C. She notes that MSU is looking at additional resources that the College of Law Immigration Clinic may require. Provost Youatt states that MSU's own legal counsel is looking carefully at each of these issues.

A faculty member then asked to have more practical conversation with the Office of International Scholars and Students. OISS is talking with students, it was claimed, but not with faculty, so it was suggested to invite them to the University Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. **The motion carried.** 4:43 pm.