

**Approved: November 14, 2017**

**2016-2017: Meeting # 2**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE APPROVED MINUTES  
OCTOBER 10, 2017 3:15 PM  
115 INTERNATIONAL CENTER**

**PRESENT:** Provost Youatt, R. Abramovitch, E. Appiagyei-Dankah, S. Beceiro-Novo, A. Borcila, G. Breitzer, F. Floyd (for N. Bunge), L. Cloud, J. Ilardo (for S. Counts), J. Dulebohn, B. Dutton, H. Gatlin, J. Goddeeris, J. Goldbort, D. Gould, K. Hampton, L. Harris, M. Morgan (for C. Hogan), G. Hoppenstand, M. Johnson, I. Kovar-Gough, R. LaDuca, G. Lourens, V. Mandrekar, B. Mavis, L. McCabe, M. Metchel, J. Meier, G. Miksicek, K. Miller, D. Moriarty, J. Morningstar, K. Noe, A. Olomu, S. Pager, N. Parameswaran, A. Pegler-Gordon, J. Francese (for R. Quispe-Agnoli), D. Rivera, L. Robbins, A. Ross, E. Rosser, S. Safferman, A. Sanders-Jackson, J. Schwartz, J. Seita, L. Skibbe, J. Smith, P. Soranno, R. Spiro, G. Stone, G. Swain, L. Tortorelli, E. Watts, D. Wilson, B. Zandstra, R. Zegers

**ABSENT:** President Simon, Y. Bolumole, S. Carter, B. Chakrani, R. Cichy, M. Dease, M. Floer, K. Foley, I. Lee, Y. Liu, L. Mansfield, A. McCright, M. Miklavcic, R. Ofoli, C. Piermarocchi, R. Pratt, R. Shwab, W. Spielman, J. Tang, T. Tomlinson, J. Vargas

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda for October 10, 2017**

The **agenda for October 10, 2017** was **approved** as presented.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes for September 12, 2017**

The **minutes for September 12, 2017** was **approved** as distributed.

**4. President's Remarks:** Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon – out of town

**5. Provost's Remarks:** Dr. June Youatt

Provost Youatt reported that last year was the best year Michigan State University has ever had for external contracts, grants, and gifts, raising approximately 600 million dollars, which was a record high for Michigan State University. In addition, she noted that MSU had the lowest percentage of students on academic probation that Michigan State has ever had.

Provost Youatt stated that MSU had a slight increase in graduate student numbers, and that the University is attracting stronger graduate student candidates to campus this Fall Semester. In addition, she noted that MSU continues to do very well in national and international rankings.

Provost Youatt said that MSU is doing well with the capital campaign, having exceeded the 1.5 billion dollar goal. She added that Michigan State University has a higher percentage of

faculty and staff giving than any other faculty or staff in the Big Ten. Provost Youatt stated that even though the University exceeded that 1.5 billion dollars goal, MSU has not achieved several of its sub-goals, including endowed scholarship money, which is very important for MSU's students. She reported that MSU spends an enormous amount of general fund dollars on financial aid for its students, which helps keep the average student debt down. Students leave Michigan State, she said, with the lowest average debt of any other school in Michigan, and fewer students leave with debt. Only 46% of MSU students leave with educational debt.

Provost Youatt noted that as MSU's endowment grows, the University will be able to substitute endowment dollars for general fund dollars, which means that more funds can be applied to the academic mission of the institution. She stated that MSU started the campaign with a goal of 100 new endowed professorships and chairs, and that the University currently has 71 endowed professorships and chairs which, she noted, is good news.

Provost Youatt stated that MSU opened the Grand Rapids Research Center a week ago, which is located on the Medical Mile in Grand Rapids next to the MSU Medical School. She stated that MSU researchers are conducting Parkinson's work, as well as other neuroscience work, and women's health work, in that space.

Provost Youatt noted that MSU's combined counseling and psychiatric services for students unit is up and running on the third floor of The Olin Center. Students are assessed, she said, and then sent to the services that best match their needs when they are seen with shared medical records, a process that makes a considerable difference to the care MSU's students receive. Provost Youatt concluded her remarks by saying that MSU has begun to offer a service now: 24 hour phone counseling in a student's native language, which allows international students to feel more comfortable discussing their situation with a counselor.

## **6. Chairperson's Remark: Dr. Laura McCabe**

Dr. Laura McCabe reported on several issues raised at the Steering Committee, including the modification of RCR (Responsible Conduct of Research) training where degrees are not research-based. This issue, she noted, was directed to the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) to review.

Dr. McCabe stated that SIRS forms are being discussed, and that a subcommittee has been formed with members from the University Committee on Graduate Studies, the University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA), and the University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE), as well as student representatives (and other representatives from other areas of the university) to review the SIRS forms to see if there is a better way to construct the forms to address how student learning occurs.

Dr. McCabe concluded her remarks by citing a report in the Chronical of Higher Education that discusses what universities can do to promote students to be involved in voting and knowing what's going on in their community. She noted that this will be a topic that will be raised at some point in Academic Governance.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1. University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson**

The UCC Report was presented. Four new programs and highlighted a Turf Grass Management Minor were approved (effective Spring 2018). In the Residential College in Arts and Humanities, a new three-plus-three option was approved with the College of Law (effective Spring 2018), and a Global Studies in Arts and Humanities Graduate Certificate was approved (effective spring 2018), as well as a new Molecular Plant and Sciences Dual Major Doctor of Philosophy degree (effective Spring 2018).

In addition, 23 program changes were approved, and no program deletions. Also, 73 new courses were approved, 126 course changes were approved, and eight course deletions were approved. Moratoriums were placed on the Clinic Laboratory Science Bachelor of Science degree (effective Summer of 2018 to Fall of 2020), a moratorium was placed on the English Disciplinary Teaching Minor for Elementary Certification (effective Spring 2018 through Summer of 2019), a moratorium was placed on the Creative Writing Minor (effective Fall 2017 through Summer of 2018), and a moratorium was placed on the Environmental Sciences and Policy Graduate Specialization (effective Fall 2018 to Fall 2019).

A motion was made to approve the Report and was first and seconded. **The motion carried.**

7.2. **Relationship, Violence and Sexual Misconduct (RVSM) [Annual Report](#) (click on link), Policy Revisions and Emerging Federal Guidance, Jessica Norris, Title IX and ADA Compliance Program Director**

Jessica Norris shared information about MSU's Title IX annual report. She drew attention to MSU's year-to-year comparison of the incidents reported under the Relationship, Violence, and Sexual Misconduct Policy. The chart she outlined illustrated a three-year history of incidents reported to the Office of Institutional Equity, which showed an increase in the number of reports received each year.

Jessica Norris noted that this increase is consistent with the data about the national prevalence of these type of issues, as well as consistent with data from MSU's own National College Health Assessment, which indicates significant increases in the level of awareness of our students in terms of their receipt of information about sexual assault and relationship violence.

She stated that sexual assault continues to be the highest number of reported incidents (with 202 incidents reported this past academic year), followed by sexual harassment incidents. The reports involving multiple co-occurring violations increased this year, as well as reports of RVSM (Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct) retaliation. Another trend this year, she reported, was an increase in sexual exploitation reports.

Jessica Norris discussed MSU's RVSM policy revisions. She stated that there were a number of MSU faculty members, as well as staff and students, who served on a work group to help review our RVSM policy and recommend revisions or updates. She added that some of the highlights for this year include new sanction guidelines. MSU also clarified the roles that different individuals or offices play within the RVSM process to increase understanding of the different roles of individuals involved.

She concluded her remarks by stating that MSU is working on its Title IX external review. The reviewers were on campus last week, and MSU expects to wrap up phase one of the University's external review before the end of the Fall Semester. Discussion ensued.

### **7.3. Faculty Senate Input Results, Dr. Laura McCabe**

Dr. McCabe provided information on the report conducted last month in Faculty Senate. She drew attention to the handouts which provided a list of faculty comments that was received from the two questions that were asked. Dr. McCabe addressed these two items from the survey. The first involved how to increase understanding of Academic Governance, and the second involved how to enhance two-way communication between faculty and Academic Governance.

Dr. McCabe suggested that a way of better understanding MSU's Academic Governance was to go to the Academic Governance website. In addition, she stated that Dr. Hoppenstand will give an overview presentation in University Council in October on highlights of the Academic Governance structure and the key ideas of how this system works.

With regards to enhanced communication between faculty and Academic Governance, Dr. McCabe noted that a "live" faculty input website has been created, so that faculty can go to this site, enter their name, their email, provide faculty input, and then submit. This faculty input will go to the Academic Governance office, and at that point the Steering Committee Members At-Large will review the input and forward agenda items to the different committees to be addressed.

In order to better disseminate Academic Governance information, Dr. McCabe stated that members of the Steering Committee will be attending the various College Advisory Committees at the University during the year to discuss topics of importance and to inform the Colleges about the faculty input option. Dr. McCabe added that a yearly report will be generated that will illustrate what has been accomplished for the year. Discussion ensued.

## **8. Comments from the floor**

Dr. Rand Spiro from the College of Education, thanked Dr. McCabe for her efforts. He stated that the faculty are a great source of wisdom about how to negotiate the changing times that people are facing in higher education, and society at large. With the technology and new ideas about crowdsourcing, it is possible to imagine some sort of almost natural selection-like model in which faculty provide their best thoughts about these changing times and how we may best adapt and react. He noted that the best of these ideas may rise to the top, and then by drawing input from the whole University, MSU faculty can discuss issues of great importance.

Dr. Bill Dutton from the Quello Center congratulated Dr. McCabe on her work. He stated that the tracking system is a wonderful idea and asked how it will be kept as an ongoing "live" document. Dr. McCabe responded that Sherry Lott has been doing a wonderful job is keeping the new tracking system active, including the recent addition of tracking system

links to the various documents involved in the movement of action items through Academic Governance.

Ewurama Appiagyei-Dankah introduced herself as the Vice President for Academic Affairs in ASMSU (Associated Students of Michigan State University). She stated that if anyone has any questions about issues involving the student government and Academic Governance, that they should feel free to contact her.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and was first and seconded. **The motion carried.**

**4:14 p.m.**