

**Approved: April 17, 2017**

**2017-2018: Meeting # 6**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE APPROVED MINUTES  
MARCH 20, 2018 3:15 PM  
115 INTERNATIONAL CENTER**

**Present:** Interim President Engler, R. Abramovitch, E. Appiagyeyi-Dankah, Y. Bolumole, A. Borcila, N. Bunge, S. H. Choi, L. Cloud, M. Dease, J. Dulebohn, K. Foley, J. Francis, J. Goddeeris, J. Goldbort, D. Gould, K. Hampton, M. Morgan (for C. Hogan), G. Hoppenstand, M. Johnson, I. Kovar-Gough, R. LaDuca, L. Lapidus, Y. Liu, G. Lourens, V. Mandrekar, L. McCabe, M. Mechtel, J. Meier, M. Miklavcic, G. Miksicek, K. Miller, D. Miner, D. Moriarty, J. Morningstar, K. Noe, R. Ofoli, A. Olomu, N. Parameswaran, A. Pegler-Gordon, R. Quispe-Agnoli, D. Rivera, E. Rosser, S. Safferman, A. Sanders-Jackson, J. Schwartz, L. Skibbe, P. Soranno, R. Spiro, E. Strangas, G. Stone, G. Swain, R. Tegtmeier, E. Torrez, L. Tortorelli, J. Vargas, E. Watts, D. Wilson, B. Zandstra

**Absent:** Provost Youatt, R. Bellon, G. Breitzer, R. Cichy, S. Counts, B. Dutton, M. Floer, S. Gasteyer, L. Harris, L. Mansfield, B. Mavis, R. Pratt, A. Ross, R. Shwab, J. Seita, J. Tang, T. Tomlinson, P. White, R. Zegers

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda for March 20, 2018**

The **agenda for March 20, 2018** was **approved** as amended, adding Reclaim MSU.

Professor Andaluna Borcila motioned to add Reclaim MSU. A motion to approve the agenda was made and first and seconded. **The motion carried.**

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes for February 13, 2018 and February 20, 2018**

The **minutes for February 13, 2018** were **approved** as distributed.

The **minutes for February 20<sup>th</sup>** were **approved** as distributed.

**4. President's Remarks: Interim John Engler**

President Engler stated that the second report of two reports from Husch Blackwell was just released, and its continuing review of the Title IX Program. He noted that this report was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of the semester, adding that Phase I of the Husch Blackwell Report has been posted for some time on the MSU website.

President Engler said that the Report is important, identifying the key statement from the executive summary: "While MSU scored high marks on compliance, legal requirements of Phase I, we believe it's been less successful implementing some of its education and prevention programs, and in particular promoting awareness of and trust in policies and procedures. Based on discussions we found significant misunderstandings and

misinformation about policies and procedures, including what specific objectives the policies were designed to address.

President Engler reported that MSU is not only trying to fix resources that are necessary, because in some cases there is simply resources that are not there, but that MSU is also trying to fix how the University communicates, educates and informs. He added that the University is progressing with these initiatives. Interim President Engler stated that he hopes to provide a comprehensive overview to the Board of Trustees regarding everything that has been done as it relates to how MSU would handle patients, particularly minor patients over in the medical schools, including how MSU is making progress with prevention efforts, and significantly, what MSU had done to address what the response will be if there is an allegation of sexual misconduct or sexual assault.

President Engler reported that he was before the Senate Appropriations Committee of the State of Michigan talking about Michigan State's budget. He took the opportunity to discuss some of the historic funding gaps at MSU that have existed for a number of years, relative to research funding in relation to Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. He spoke about what could be done to address that gap in funding.

President Engler stated that it has been his goal since arriving at Michigan State (employing his past extensive experience with the State of Michigan legislature) regarding how MSU finds resolution to the financial and legal problems facing the University. He noted that the difficulties facing MSU are a community-wide challenge for all of us and stated: "Are we ever going to be perfect? I'd hope so, but everybody's human so there will be mistakes. Let's hope we don't make one."

Professors Rob LaDuca, Andaluna Borcila, and Rand Spiro spoke about why the MSU Board of Trustees have not said anything about the MSU Faculty Senate's vote of no confidence. President Engler replied that he did not think faculty would want him to not continue to work on trying to get these lawsuits resolved while they are working on the governance question.

Discussion ensued about how other Big Ten Universities worked with their Board of Trustees, and how these relationships can be applied with the MSU's faculty relationship with its Board of Trustees. This included the rethinking of the Board of Trustees' membership that would include members of the MSU community itself, such as students and faculty. Additional discussion ensued about how to move forward with the Board of Trustees.

Professor Andaluna Borcila remarked that the MSU Faculty Senate members should not spend so much time being talked at by the MSU administration during Faculty Senate meetings, but should instead focus on faculty deliberations and discussion, including Bylaw issues with the Board of Trustees and Academic Governance.

**5. Provost's Remarks:** Dr. June Youatt (out of town)

**6. Chairperson's Remarks:** Dr. Laura McCabe

Dr. McCabe reported on the MSU Library policy, saying that there was a University Committee on Libraries that approved Library Policy changes two years ago. She also stated that there was a February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding Title IX, and there was a large group (that included faculty) that showed up for that meeting to discuss reviews about its preliminary report. She added that faculty can now have input on the Title IX website.

Dr. McCabe also reported that there is also an RVSM Policy Review Workgroup where individuals from the Faculty Senate are being solicited to serve. Dr. McCabe stated that the Academic Advancement Network has sent out information about awards for recognition and appreciation of dedicated academic leaders, which include department chairs, school or unit directors, assistant deans or associate deans.

Dr. McCabe concluded her remarks by discussing the name change for the Medical College. She said that if anyone has ideas or suggestions, these can be communicated to Dean Beauchamp, or you can submit them to the input box on the Academic Governance website. The suggestions can be forwarded, so that broader input can be provided.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1. University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson ([Long Report](#), [click on Link](#))**

Professor Mechtel reported that one new program was approved, a History Minor, effective Fall Semester of 2018. In addition, 17 program changes were approved, and no program deletions were approved. She stated that 19 new courses were approved, 44 course changes were approved, and 4 course deletions were approved. Only one moratorium was approved, the International Business Master of Science, effective Fall Semester of 2018 thru Fall Semester of 2019.

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

### **7.2. UCC Letter Regarding Difficult Topics, Marci Mechtel, University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Chairperson**

Professor Mechtel reported that a letter was drafted to University colleagues on behalf of the University Committee on Curriculum, basically outlining that “MSU faculty own the curriculum, that it can be a part of the class discussion, understanding it may be more difficult in large classes. This is just a recommendation. It is not mandated because, again, you as faculty own your curriculum, so that for those that felt that they really wanted to say something and weren’t sure there are some suggestions that are located within the letter.” She added that the motion being made is to send the letter out to all faculty so that as faculty we can continue moving forward and that faculty can create this inclusive classroom, no matter what the class size.

The motion was first and seconded. **The motion carried.**

### **7.3. Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Review and Recommend Changes on Board of Trustee and University Bylaws**

UCAG Chairperson Gayle Lourens reported that an ad hoc committee needs to be created that will work throughout the summer. Because the end of the academic year is approaching, there is work that needs to be done on the University Bylaws, as well as considerations for recommendations for the Board of Trustees Bylaws. She requested that what is needed is to hear from the faculty as to potential members who could be on this ad hoc committee, with the understanding that the people who serve on this ad hoc committee will have to be able to work throughout the summer,

and that they should have some work with Governance and an understanding of the Bylaws. She noted that the names that are submitted will be presented to the University Committee for Academic Governance's members, and that they will conduct a vetting process identifying members for this ad hoc committee.

Professor Anna Pegler stated: "I wanted to say that I very, very much support the creation of an ad hoc committee to review and make recommendations to the University Bylaws. However, I do not support a recommendation or an ad hoc committee or an ad hoc subcommittee to review and make recommendations to the Board of Trustee Bylaws.

First of all, as we brought up in the last faculty senate, yes, it is urgent. The Board of Trustee Bylaws question is more urgent than reviewing this over the summer and making a recommendation in the fall. We need to secure a commitment from the Board of Trustees that they will change their Bylaws to include faculty and student representation on a new kind of Board.

Faculty and student representation is pretty much standard practice at board of trustees across the country, and we are very much behind in that. We also need to secure a commitment very quickly from the Board of Trustees that they will include faculty, students, and staff on the Presidential Search Committee, and include MSU community involvement throughout the Presidential search process. Because if we wait until the fall to make that recommendation, that decision on the Committee will already have been made and that process will already be in place.

I also believe, as the couple of proposals one that came before the Faculty Senate as an information item last time and the reclaim proposal, that the MSU community particularly Academic Congress very urgently needs and we should secure a commitment from the Board of Trustees that we have an ability to veto a vote on the presidential, the choice of a President, I don't know what the term would be, the "selection" of the President by the Board of Trustees.

If we don't secure a commitment from the Board of Trustees before we start working on the University Bylaws, we're essentially rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic. This Governance process is sinking under the weight of its own, I think, the burdensome regulations or the processes that I understand we want to change very much on the University Bylaws side, and on the fact that the Board of Trustees refuses to pay attention to any recommendations that the faculty is making.

I really do not see the purpose of faculty spending the summer working intensively on Board of Trustee Bylaws recommendations, and then bringing them to the Board without any commitment that they will make a change."

Discussion ensued.

Professor Deborah Moriarty stated: "I think that there are two different issues here. I think one is the Bylaws of the University and the Board of Trustees, and the other is the Presidential search. I think the Presidential search is very immediate, and it would seem to me that one thing that we could do immediately is come up with what we think are the criteria for a Presidential search and that that would be a very

valuable thing for an ad hoc committee, perhaps, to do rather than trying to run it with input from the Faculty Senate, and then bring that to the Board of Trustees.

The Bylaws, I think, unfortunately, is an extensive extended process, but the Presidential search is going to happen and it's going to happen in academic time relatively soon. It would seem to me that the first thing that we should deal with is coming up with the criteria for a Presidential search that is inclusive and bring that to the Board of Trustees and then make the case for this Presidential search, at the same time working on the other issues, on the Board of Trustees Bylaws and our Bylaw issues.”

Professor Richard Miksicek stated that: “UCAG essentially works on a unifying set of Bylaws, and the thought being that they have to approve the Bylaw changes anyway. If this is incorporated into the Bylaws, then we may be accomplishing both things with a single action.”

Discussion ensued.

Professor Gayle Lourens requested that a motion be made that the Faculty Senate approve the formation of an ad hoc committee that has the flexibility to address both the University and, if necessary, the Board of Trustees Bylaws.

The motion was made and seconded. **The motion carried.**

As an information item, a request was made to give serious consideration to the proposal that was printed and distributed to the Faculty Senate, which includes creation of a University Council that would work with the Board of Trustees, and essentially be part of the governing body of the University. This request will be directed to the Steering Committee for deliberation as an action item.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn and was first and seconded. **The motion carried.** 4:58 pm.