

University Committee on Student Affairs

Nominees

University Committee on Academic Governance

April 8, 2021

Background

The University Committee on Student Affairs is a University-Level Standing Committee that advises the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services on all policies of the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services and on other University policies as they affect the academic achievement of students.

The term will begin on August 16, 2021 and expire on August 16, 2024.

Current Members

1. d'Ann de Simone | College of Arts and Letters | 2020–2023
2. Linda Keilman | College of Nursing | 2019-2022
3. Stephen Gasteyer* | College of Social Science | 2019–2021
4. VACANT

Action Required

Faculty Senate must elect two of the four nominees to the University Committee on Student Affairs. The applicants' submissions appear verbatim on the following pages.

* Term expired

Dustin Petty

College: Agriculture and Natural Resources

Department: Bailey Scholars Program

Academic Appointment/Rank: Academic Advisor | Academic Specialist

Years of Continuous MSU Service: 8

Previous Academic Governance Service: University Committee on Curriculum



Please explain why you are interested in serving on UCSA and why you are qualified to do so.

My entire career is based in student affairs and creating environments and circumstances for student success to exist. There are few things I'm more passionate about as helping my students become the leader and learner they aspire to be.

Please provide a brief statement about your past activities and/or future plans that have advanced or will aim to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, using your own understanding of those terms.

I'm an academic advisor for one of the most diverse academic units on campus and have worked to recruit from programs that encourage equity across campus. I helped create a partnership with my program and the Office of International Students and Scholars to create opportunities for leadership training for international undergraduate students. I've also completed multiple trainings and learning experiences focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This led me to developing a class in my program that focuses on "Developing Intercultural Competencies and Confronting Prejudice".

Nicolas Gisholt

College: Social Science

Department: Center for Integrative Studies in the Social Sciences

Academic Appointment/Rank: Academic Advisor | Academic Specialist

Years of Continuous MSU Service: 15

Previous Academic Governance Service: None



Please explain why you are interested in serving on UCSA and why you are qualified to do so.

I have worked as an Academic Advisor for 15 years and I see the big impact that the policies and regulations have on our students' academic careers. I am interested in discussing issues that will set the tone and determine the direction of the challenges we face like student retention and graduation rate differences based on race, student and faculty rights. In my experience, I've seen the impact of these programs: Go Green Go 15; Flat Rate tuition; transfer credit eligibility.

Please provide a brief statement about your past activities and/or future plans that have advanced or will aim to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, using your own understanding of those terms.

I am the Specialist representative for the Chicax/Latinx Association; I am the advisor for different minors: Chicano Latino Studies; Asian Studies; African Studies; Latin American and Caribbean Studies. I have also participated in different initiatives offered by MSU - I3Dialogues - 7 week training; Understanding Implicit Bias Certification. I've attended conferences and seminars offered by MSU faculty and at our local community.

As for the advancement of DEI, I believe if at all possible, the university should make an effort to go beyond on-line DEI training and promote all faculty and staff to take advantage of the more in-depth courses - Dialogues, certifications. It is also important to have enough staff through Dr. Bennett's office in charge of consulting with upper management - Deans, Directors - about ways they can promote DEI in their units - hiring, daily interactions, correct language to use, etc.

Finally, in terms of the MSU community, not sure if there are current efforts to do so, but it could be a good opportunity to try to bring together people from different racial or ethnic groups to work together, not just as part of committees, but in common causes - food drives...

Joyce Meier


College: Arts and Letters

Department: Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures

Academic Appointment/Rank: Associate Professor | Fixed-Term Faculty

Years of Continuous MSU Service: 11

Previous Academic Governance Service: Faculty Senate, University Student-Faculty-Staff Hearing Board



Please explain why you are interested in serving on UCSA and why you are qualified to do so.

I am highly interested in serving on UCSA. For the past 10 years, I have been working as Associate Director of the First-Year Writing Program, which serves some 7500 incoming freshmen every year; I anticipate that my job and UCSA will align, each informing the other. I am deeply invested in undergraduate education, inclusive pedagogies, and supporting students both in and out of the classroom. In my job, I recognize the complex aspects of students' lives, and so regularly connect with my colleagues in a range of student service offices: OCAT, TRIO, CAPS, the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative, Resources for Persons with Disabilities office, and the English Language Center, among others. Serving three years (2017-2020) on the Faculty, Staff, and Student Hearing Board, I learned to apply a restorative justice lens to the cases we reviewed; this experience also sensitized me to the complex realities of students' lives. Now in my fourth (and final) year as a Faculty Senator (as an elected CAL rep), I collaborated with others on a DEI initiative, and another involving discussion of the post-Nassar Office of Civil Rights report (collaborations that ended in Senate resolutions). Currently, I am a co-faculty advisor to both the Black Book Initiative, a student-led project that is resurrecting this book of Black-friendly resources for incoming Black students; and the Multilingual Learners Project, whereby a group of international students are researching and creating videos on linguistically and culturally inclusive pedagogies, that will be housed on MSU's iteach@msu.edu website.

Please provide a brief statement about your past activities and/or future plans that have advanced or will aim to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, using your own understanding of those terms.

Please see what I wrote earlier. As I say there, current projects include serving as co-faculty advisor for both the Black Book Initiative and the Multilingual Learners Project.

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In addition, I am in multiple groups examining anti-racism as pedagogy and as practice: the university's Anti-Racist Pathway, my college's Anti-Racist Pedagogy Learning Community, and my program's Anti-Racist Pedagogy Subcommittee (of the First-Year Writing's Advisory Council). I am in another Learning Community that focuses on the challenges faced by international students on-campus. I am in diversity-related initiatives through my professional organizations. For instance, I participate as sessions on anti-racism, as connected to my work as an Advisory Council member of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature; and I co-chair the Community Writing Special Interest Group of CCCCs, the national organization in my field. This group examines the intersection between the academy and surrounding communities, by looking at the intersection of service learning and public rhetoric.

Most of all, I am and remain committed to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in relationship to students, and on levels that are both practical (as in student support) and pedagogical (through my teaching).

Holly Flynn

Unit: Non-College

Department: Libraries

Academic Appointment/Rank: Librarian II | Continuing

Years of Continuous MSU Service: 19

Please explain why you are interested in serving on UCSA and why you are qualified to do so.

In my capacity as outreach librarian, I work with Student Affairs and units such as Admissions and REHS on student events, orientations and resource fairs around campus. Information literacy and critical thinking are crucial to the success of students, and I am interested in being more involved and knowledgeable about the policy side of issues.

Please provide a brief statement about your past activities and/or future plans that have advanced or will aim to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, using your own understanding of those terms.

I have worked on many events in the library that focus on diversity equity and inclusion, including the MSU-East Lansing One Book One Community committee, Banned Books Week films and exhibits with the LGBT Resource Center, films with the Student Veteran's Resource Center, and more.