

Department of Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee

Nominees

University Committee on Academic Governance

April 8, 2021

Background

The Department of Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee is a legislative creation (Public Act 120) and was created by resolution of the Board of Trustees. Its sole purpose is to receive and address grievances by persons against police officers or the police department and may make recommendations to the Chief of Police that disciplinary measures be taken by the department against any police officer who is found responsible for misconduct in office.

The Oversight Committee is an impartial body through which any citizen can make a complaint about the actions of an MSUPD officer. The committee will review the investigation of complaints received to ensure that responsible procedures have been followed and actions are taken in a timely manner, when warranted.

The committee deals only with concerns about police conduct and department policy. The committee has no power to change or modify state law, university ordinance, contracts with duly recognized bargaining units, or department policies and procedures. If, in the judgment of the committee, changes in policies or procedures are necessary, it is the responsibility of the committee to recommend such to the appropriate body.

The term will begin on August 16, 2021 and end on August 16, 2023.

Current Members

1. Kelly Brittain | College of Nursing | 2020–2022
2. Melinda Hall | College of Social Science | 2020-2022
3. Andy Boyles-Petersen * | College of Veterinary Medicine | 2019-2021

Action Required

The Faculty Senate must elect one representative from among the two nominees.

* Term expired

Jason Almerigi

College: Social Science

Department: Center for Integrative Studies in the Social Sciences

Academic Appointment/Rank: Academic Specialist | Fixed-Term Faculty

Years of Continuous MSU Service: 8

Previous Academic Governance Service: None



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

As a former student and current staff member of the University, I'm familiar with the importance of our police officers and the Department's outreach efforts. In terms of qualifications, I can bring a non-law enforcement perspective while having the experience of serving on statute-mandated committees and a police advisory board - I currently serve as a Bath Township Board of Trustee and committee member for the ZBA, Planning Commission, and Police and Fire Board. I have experience in ordinance creation and complexity of interpretation, negotiation between competing interests and sensitive 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.

In my current position, I support the College of Social Science's efforts to reduce educational opportunity gaps for students from diverse backgrounds. I'm also supporting assessment and curriculum efforts at creating creating inclusive courses that support learning for all students - whether based on race, gender, sexual identity, ability status, learning style preferences, etc.. Finally, I have a long standing partnership with K-12 schools on promoting student voice and agency in educational decision making on programs and services designed to meet the needs of students.

Catherine Grosso

College: Law

Academic Appointment/Rank: Professor | Tenure System - Tenured

Years of Continuous MSU Service: 13

Previous Academic Governance Service: Faculty Senate



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

I have taught the constitutional law of police investigation for many years. In the last decade, I have included lessons on the experiences of policing and of being policed in an effort to close the gap between the constitutional law and the law as practiced. I am impressed by a great deal about the MSU police, the trauma-informed expertise, and the long effort to find a path to community policing in a constantly changing and young student community. I recognize and teach my students that the police work for the communities in which they operate. Citizen involvement in these kinds of committees is important and I would welcome an opportunity to participate.

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.

My expertise is on the influence of race on criminal justice. I am the co-chair of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council at the law school and the co-chair of the joint faculty-admin committee on the same for next year. More importantly than any of that, I recognize that we must seek to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion at every opportunity and in every juncture or not at all. My classes center these important issues. I am sure I fall short, but I continue to learn.