

Faculty Senate

Minutes

June 15, 2021



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Present: M. Abel, S. Anthony, S. Barman, J. Bazil, J. Beck, A. Borcila, J. Bunnell, S. Carey, D. Carnahan, B. Chakrani, J. Cholewicki, A. Contreras, M. Crimp, L. Davenport, D. DeVoss, D. Dixson, M. Donahue, D. Ewoldsen, D. Fitzpatrick, R. Fulton, E. Gardner, S. Gasteyer, M. Ghamami, D. Gould, C. Grosso, J. Guzzetta, A. Hauser, J. Johnson, M. Juzwik, K. Kelly-Blake, A. Kepsel, D. Kirk, J. Kovach, R. LaDuca, K.S. Lee, S. Logan, L. Lorenzo, L. Martin, M. Mazei-Robinson, M. Mechtel, J. Meier, S. Moore, A. Odom, A. Olomu, N. Parameswaran, A. Pegler-Gordon, C. Poitra, K. Prouty, C. Scales, R. Scrivens, D. Sheridan, T. Silvestri, M. Smania, N. Smeltekop, G. Stone, P.N. Tan, V. Thronson, A. Tickner, V. Watson, W. Wong, R. York, J. Yun

Absent: A. Bernstein, H. Cho, A. Corner, P. Crane, S. Griffis, D. Hershey, J. Jiang, R. Jussaume, S. Konstantopoulos, T. Li, S. Lone, K. Miller, R. Root, B. Roth, A. Ruvio, K. Salvador, J. Spink, S. Stanley, B. Teppen, S. Valberg, T. Woodruff, N. Wright, A. Zeleke

A special meeting of the Michigan State University Faculty Senate was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom with Chairperson Jennifer E. Johnson presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The draft minutes of the April 20, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting were approved as presented.

Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Norman J. Beauchamp Jr. and Chairperson Johnson gave remarks.

EVPHS Beauchamp gave a presentation on campus re-opening, during which he announced that the administration had decided there would not be a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for students, faculty, and staff outside of some settings such as international and domestic university-related travel, medical school, nursing students, and some health facilities. Significant discussion ensued.¹

Senator Stephanie Anthony moved that the Faculty Senate adopt a resolution reading, "Faculty Senate urges the University's Administration to purchase for 75% or greater of its classrooms portable plexiglass workplace barriers to be used at the discretion the faculty member. The Faculty Senate additionally requests that the Administration place in all classrooms wall hand sanitizer units as an additional protective measure to be used at the discretion of anyone who enters the classroom." The motion was defeated following debate.

¹ A video and transcript of the meeting are available at <https://acadgov.msu.edu/faculty-senate/minutes/june-15-2021-special-meeting> and <https://acadgov.msu.edu/sites/default/files/content/Faculty-Senate/2020-2021/Transcripts/Faculty%20Senate%202021-06-15%20Transcript.pdf>, respectively.

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Controller Greg Deppong and Director of Contract and Grant Administration Evo Pedawi presented on the distribution of federal COVID-19 relief funds and their limitations. During a period of questions and answers that followed, senators requested a written report outlining how the relief funds had been spent, and the controller agreed to provide such a report to the Faculty Senate by July 15.

Senator Megan Donahue moved to adopt a resolution that, after amendment, read:

Whereas, The April 2020 automatic one-year extension of the tenure clock provided important support for junior faculty, but it remains important to identify those who may need more support time than the extension provided; and

Whereas, The administration of Michigan State University has directed academic units to collect optional COVID-19 impact statements in the course of annual reviews;

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate requests that the Provost receive anonymized information based on the COVID impact statements (with the permission of those who submitted the statements) and report to the Faculty Senate on any support or mitigation planned for faculty disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

The motion was adopted following debate.

Consideration of the remaining agenda items—1) a discussion of support for junior faculty, 2) a review of faculty leave policies by Director of Academic Human Resources Kathy Lewless, 3) a discussion regarding reversing cuts to faculty salary and benefits, and 4) a discussion about diversity, equity, and inclusion—was postponed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.



Tyler Silvestri
Secretary for Academic Governance
Approved: September 21, 2021