

The Steering Committee

Minutes

September 7, 2021



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Present: S. Anthony, M. Donahue, M. Fulton, D. Hershey, A. Iturralde, K. Kelly-Blake, A. Kepsel, G. Leininger, M. Mechtel, T. Silvestri, C. So, A. Tickner, T. Woodruff

Absent: S. Stanley

Others Present: M. Amey, N. Beauchamp, W. Gebreyes, S. Lang, M. Largent, R. Yang, K. Yermak

The Steering Committee of Michigan State University held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom with Chairperson Karen Kelly-Blake presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The draft minutes of the April 6 and June 15, 2021 meetings were approved as presented.

Provost Teresa K. Woodruff, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Norman J. Beauchamp Jr., and the chairperson gave remarks.

The chairperson led the committee and the meeting's guests in introducing themselves.

Reports were given by Associated Students of Michigan State University Vice President for Academic Affairs Aaron Iturralde, University Committee on Academic Governance Chairperson Amanda Tickner, University Committee on Curriculum Chairperson Marci Mechtel, University Committee on Faculty Affairs Chairperson Mick Fulton, University Committee on Graduate Studies Chairperson Denise Hershey, Secretary for Academic Governance Tyler Silvestri on behalf of the University Committee on Student Affairs, and University Committee on Undergraduate Education Chairperson Gina Leininger.

The chairperson led a discussion of whether the Steering Committee should attempt to hold the Spring Semester meetings of the Steering Committee, Faculty Senate, and University Council in person by authorizing Secretary Silvestri to book the rooms. At-Large Member Megan Donahue moved to let each body decide for itself. The motion was adopted by consent following debate. The committee agreed by consent to hold Steering Committee meetings via Zoom for the duration of the academic year.

The chairperson led a discussion of whether the remarks of the president, provost, executive vice president for health sciences, and chairperson should be delivered live at Faculty Senate, University Council, and Steering Committee meetings or by some other mechanism. After debate, no

The Steering Committee

Minutes

September 7, 2021



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

committee member made a motion to change the status quo, thereby leaving live remarks in place.

Following discussion, the committee agreed by consent to submit committee reports at Steering Committee meetings in writing one week in advance of the meetings. Each agenda will include time allocated for questions and answers regarding the committee reports, including the reports of ASMSU and COGS.

Hershey moved to refer the question of whether there is a better alternative to the term “regular faculty” in the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* and other university policies to the Faculty Senate. The motion was adopted by consent following debate.

The provost presented a proposal outlining the procedures by which the search for the next dean of the Graduate School would be conducted and the composition of the Search and Rating Committee associated with that search. The chairperson moved to 1) send the proposed structure and composition to Faculty Senate for consultation and 2) after receiving Faculty Senate’s feedback, hold an electronic vote of the Steering Committee by September 17 to either endorse the proposal or develop new advice at the October 5 Steering Committee meeting. The motion was adopted by consent following debate.

The chairperson introduced a request to create an ad hoc committee to develop principles and best practices by which academic governance participants—including faculty, students, and administrators—collaborate. No member moved to take any action, thereby closing the matter by default.

The chairperson introduced two emails from faculty senators describing concerns with the implementation of policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic. No action was taken.

Fulton moved to place a letter from the Engineering College Advisory Council to the Faculty Senate on the October Steering Committee agenda rather than the September Faculty Senate agenda; the purpose of the delay was to give the provost and ECAC time to discuss the letter, which involved questions about the implementation of diversity, equity, and inclusion elements in the reappointment, tenure, and promotion process.

By consent, the committee adopted the following agendas for the September 21 Faculty Senate and September 28 University Council meetings:

The Steering Committee

Minutes

September 7, 2021



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Tentative Agenda for Faculty Senate — September 21, 2021

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
2. Remarks
3. University Committee on Curriculum Report | Marci Mechtel
(Attachments FS-A & FS-B forthcoming)
4. Regular Faculty Terminology (Attachment FS-C)
5. Venue for Spring Meetings
6. Comments from the Floor

Tentative Agenda for University Council — September 28, 2021

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
2. Remarks
3. Proposed Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Office of Academic Governance (Attachment UC-A)
4. Ethical Investments
5. Venue for Spring Meetings
6. Comments from the Floor

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

TA Silvestri

Tyler Silvestri
Secretary for Academic Governance

Approved: October 5, 2021