

Report to the Steering Committee | October 5, 2021

Actions Taken at Recent Meetings

September 23, 2021

The Associated Students of Michigan State University held a full General Assembly meeting.

Two presentations occurred during the meeting. The first dealing with the developing safety app from the MSU Police Department. They sought comments and suggestions from the representatives. Second was a presentation to inform the representatives of the upcoming Council of Graduates Students Liaison election, which occurred later in the meeting.

The Associated Students of Michigan State University elected College of Arts and Letters representative Carl Austin Miller Grondin as the 2021-2022 COGS Liaison.

The General Assembly passed seven pieces of legislation:

- [Bill 58-25](#) which appointed delegates to the Student Allocations Board.
- [Bill 58-19](#) which reallocated funds within ASMSU's budget.
- [Bill 58-20](#) which amended the General Assembly's Code of Operations to include a "responsible employee" acknowledgement during the "Public Comment" portion of the agenda.
- [Bill 58-21](#) which acknowledges September 15 - October 15 as Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month.
- [Bill 58-22](#) which supports UCUE's proposed code of Undergraduate Academic Advising.
- [Bill 58-23](#) which calls upon the university to address issues on COVID-19 transparency including: disaggregation of data on the university's COVID-19 dashboard, continuation of contact tracing emails, and establishing a set of visible metrics and standards that guide COVID-19 policy changes.
- [Bill 58-24](#) which tasks ASMSU of holding a community forum between Athletic Director Alan Haller and the *Battle for Swimming and Diving* and drafting a letter that will be circulated to the Board of Trustees, President Stanley, and the Athletics Department.

Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings

Two bills are pending through the General Assembly's standing committees as of Wednesday September 29 and will be deliberated on Thursday September 30.

ASMSU is currently planning two awareness weeks for the month of November. Mental Health Awareness Week will be held the week of November 1. First Generation Appreciation Week will be held the week of November 8.

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September 9, 2021

The University Committee on Academic Governance elected Jack Lipton chairperson and Robert Bell vice chairperson.

The committee established a plan for finishing the review of college bylaws. The goal is to complete the reviews and send reports to colleges in roughly four weeks.

In response to a request from the Steering Committee, UCAG formed a subcommittee to consider changing the process by which the chairperson and vice chairperson of the Steering Committee/Faculty Senate are elected. The committee will be made up of three UCAG members, and invitations will be extended to past Steering Committee chairpersons to serve on the subcommittee, with no more than two past chairpersons ultimately joining.

UCAG established a process for filling the at-large member vacancy that involves asking last year's nominees about their interest.

The committee reviewed proposed Athletic Council procedures and corresponding amendments to the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* and agreed to revisit them at the next UCAG meeting.

September 23, 2021

The committee welcomed Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Human Resources Suzanne Lang, who has replaced Associate Provost for Academic Services, Enrollment Management, and Academic Initiatives on UCAG.

UCAG selected three volunteers from the committee—including two faculty members and one undergraduate student—to serve on the Subcommittee on the Process for Electing Academic Governance leadership. Additionally, former Steering Committee chairpersons Deborah Moriarty and Jennifer Johnson have agreed to serve.

The committee continued its review of the proposed Athletic Council procedures and corresponding amendments to the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*.

The committee nominated d'Ann de Simone to fill the at-large member vacancy, the term of which is set to expire on August 16, 2022.

The committee nominated Jason Almerigi to fill a vacancy on the Department of Police & Public Safety Oversight Committee, pending his acceptance of the nomination.

Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings

The review of the various colleges' bylaws is expected to be completed (or close to it) at the October 7 UCAG meeting.

Consideration of the role of the executive vice president for health sciences in the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* is expected to be continued at a future meeting.

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Actions Taken at Recent Meetings

April 29, 2021

- Approved the following program request 6 new, 18 changes, and no deletions.
- Highlight on new programs are
- Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism Spectrum Disorder, Master of Arts, effective Fall 2021 Criminal Justice, Master of Arts, effective Fall 2021
- Education Policy and Social Science, Graduate Specialization, effective Fall 2021
- Sport Leadership and Administration, Graduate Certificate, effective Fall 2022
- Writing, Minor, effective Fall 2021
- With this we approved course requests 22 new, 14 changes, and 1 deletion.
- For moratoriums we have the following report
- Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, Disciplinary Teaching Minor, UCUE consultation 4/8/21; Provost approved 4/13/21 – Effective Spring 2021.
- Applied Behavior Analysis in Special Education, Graduate Certificate, UCGS consultation 4/12/21; Provost approved 4/30/21 – Effective Summer 2021 through Summer 2022.
- Media and Information, Bachelor of Arts, UCUE consultation 4/8/21; Provost approved 4/30/21 – Effective Summer 2021 through Spring 2024.
- Quantitative Biology, Dual Major Ph.D., UCGS consultation 4/12/21; Provost approved 4/30/21 – Extension Effective through Spring 2024.
- Finally, new full chair and sub chairs were elected for the 2021-2022 academic year.

September 2, 2021

- Approved the Academic year report for 2020-2021
- Orientation to the committee

September 30, 2021

- Approved the following program requests: 0 new and 24 changes.
- With this we approved course requests: 27 new, 73 changes, and 3 deletions.
- There are no moratoriums or discontinuations to report.

Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings

The committee is planning to continue to review the curriculum changes from the colleges through the work of college curriculum committees, UCUE, and UCGS.

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Actions Taken at Recent Meetings

September 14, 2021

- Associate Provost Mark Largent led a discussion of the university's COVID-19 policies
- Mick Fulton was elected chairperson and Pete White was elected vice chairperson for the 2021–2022 term
- Members volunteered/were assigned to the Personnel Policy Subcommittee and the Budget Subcommittee
- The following were appointed to the Dismissal for Cause Review Officer Panel: Melanie Helton and Frank Ravitch (alternate) for Fall Semester 2021; Mick Fulton for Spring 2022
- Allison Berg, John Fitzsimmons, and Pete White volunteered to be on the UCFA Serious Discipline Panel; David Hickey, Michael Wahman, and Laura Walesby agreed to serve as alternates
- The committee accepted the Faculty Grievance Official's 2021 Spring/Summer report
- The chairperson informed the committee that further consideration of the proposed Code of Professional Standards and Behaviors remains delayed because the court case holding it up had been returned to district court

September 28, 2021

- Received an updated from Associate Provost Suzanne Lang on COVID-19 notification policy; specifically, Associate Provost Lang shared that the Provost's Office has decided to stand by its original decision to no longer notify instructors who are "informal contacts" of those who test positive for COVID-19
- Associate Provost Lang shared that Provost Teresa Woodruff was still reviewing UCFA / Library's proposed policy on faculty-authored works and hoped to have feedback by the next UCFA meeting
- Approved the revocation of one retired faculty member's emeritus status
- Established subcommittee to develop recommendations regarding the possibility of no longer automatically granting emeritus status to retirees
- The OIE Subcommittee is waiting on a response from General Counsel regarding recommendations made at a Spring Semester meeting concerning the filing of a "no finding" in the personnel file of an accused individual and will reach out to General Counsel shortly

Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings

1. Clarification concerning adding a COVID Impact Statement to the annual review and promotion and tenure document as the previous year.
2. Current status of twelve-month pay for nine-month academic year appointees.

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Actions Taken at Recent Meetings

September 15, 2021

- Members were reminded of the responsibilities of the UCFT and a need to select a chair and vice chair. A Chair (Susan M Barman) and Vice Chair (Ann Annis) were selected.
- Associate Provost Lang reported on the need for new members for Dismissal for Cause Review Officer Panel; UCFT are invited to identify potential members of this panel.
- Associate Provost Lang noted that it is likely that UCFT and UCFA will be asked to provide feedback later this term on recommendations brought from a task force on Discipline Process and Sanction Review. No action needed at this time.

Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings

See note above regarding the Task Force on Discipline Process and Sanction Review.

We expect to review requests for extension of the tenure clock at future meetings.

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Actions Taken at Recent Meetings

UCGS held its first meeting of the 21 – 22 Academic Year on:

September 20, 2021

- Sub-committees and Chairs for the subcommittees were elected the subcommittee chairs are:
 - Curriculum and Program Review – Thomas Sharkey
 - Academic Research Policy – Co-chairs Anne-Lise Halvorsen & Lorraine Weatherspoon
 - Graduate Instruction, Employment and Mentoring Policy – Co-chairs Bruno Takahashi and Tomas Hult
- Recommendation to Provost – changes related to slate implementation the following motion was approved: Programs can petition the Dean of the Graduate School to suspend/amend certain university admissions requirements in the process of implementing Slate. Upon review and consideration, the dean will consult with the implementation team and use her/his judgement to allow any request for modification to move forward for this year only and will immediately notify the chair of UCGS of any such action. UCGS can veto the permission and (provided it can be undone, given programming/implementation constraints) the dean will be over-ruled. Otherwise the exception is granted for the year during the switch to Slate
- Suzanne Lang presented and discussed process for Dean of the Graduate School Search
- Committee approved 1 new master's program and 1 new graduate certificate program, approved change in requirements for 8 programs, and approved the phase out of 1 master's program.

Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings

The committee is planning to discuss [a] RIO will present his annual report at the October meeting. The Academic Research Policy subcommittee will be conducting a review of the RIO this academic year, The Graduate Instruction and Employment and Mentoring Policy subcommittee will be reviewing the mentoring policy this year.

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Actions Taken at Recent Meetings

September 17, 2021

The University Committee on Student Affairs held its first meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year on September 17, 2021.

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Services Vennie Gore gave a presentation on the COVID-19 situation on campus. The presentation included a review of the COVID-19 dashboard, a document giving instructions for students if they test positive for COVID-19, and the updated Community Commitment.

Vice President Gore gave an update on a task force's recommendations on amendments to the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document regarding off-campus student conduct. Vice President Gore shared that one of the recommendations was to hire a "university complainant," a job description for that position has been developed, and Human Resources has begun the process of posting that position.

The committee discussed the recent announcement that the Office of the Provost would no longer notify instructors of informal contacts that test positive for COVID-19.

Nikunj Agarwal was elected UCSA chairperson for the 2021–2022 term. Carl Austin Miller Grondin was elected UCSA vice chairperson for the 2021–2022 term. Nicolas Gisholt was elected the UCSA faculty representative to Faculty Senate.

Assistant Vice President Shaw noted that, per informal requests from committee members during the COVID-19 discussion, he would invite Provost Teresa K. Woodruff to the October UCSA meeting.

Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings

The committee expects to discuss COVID-19 policies and off-campus conduct policies at its October 15, 2021 meeting.

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Actions Taken at Recent Meetings

The University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) had no policy items to consider for the meeting planned for September 16, 2021. Due to the lack of agenda items, the meeting was cancelled.

Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings

The UCUE is planning to discuss the following 3 curriculum requests at the October 8th meeting:

- Request to phase out and discontinue the Disciplinary Teaching Minor in Journalism available for secondary certification
- Request to change the admission requirements for the minor in Real Estate
- Request for a New Minor in Resource Management From the Individual, Family, and Societal Perspective.

As time permits, the UCUE will discuss the following policy issues:

- Feedback on the Proposed Code for Academic Advising that was solicited from ASMSU, Academic Advising Leads and the Academic Specialist Advising Committee.
- Consider request from University Council of whether there should be a required diversity-focused Course for undergraduate students

UCUE Chairperson Gina Leininger will present the decisions of the curriculum requests and updates on the policy issues at the November 2, 2021 Steering Committee meeting.