

The Steering Committee

Consent Business
September 6, 2022



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Over the summer, Steering Committee Chairperson Karen Kelly-Blake, Steering Committee Vice Chairperson Stephanie Anthony, Secretary for Academic Governance Tyler Silvestri, and Deputy Secretary for Academic Governance Taylor Thrush met to discuss ways of making the Steering Committee more efficient. Among the ideas proposed was the introduction of a “consent business” section of Steering Committee agendas for the disposition of routine or obvious items.

What is consent business?

The items under the “consent business” heading should be non-controversial items that are routinely addressed, should obviously be referred to a particular committee, or clearly require no action. They are voted on all at once and are not debated.

Process

As usual, at the beginning of the meeting, the chairperson will ask whether there is any objection to approving the agenda. If *any member* wishes to discuss an item that is on the proposed consent agenda, *any member* can unilaterally move a consent item to new business, in which case that item will be moved, seconded, debated, and voted upon in the ordinary way.

If there are no objections to approving the overall agenda, the chairperson will proceed with the meeting. When the consent business portion of the agenda is reached, the chairperson will ask if there are any objections to taking the actions the secretary for academic governance has recommended (as outlined in each attachment and usually in parentheses next to the item on the agenda) for each of the consent items. If there is no objection, the actions will be taken. If there is an objection, the committee will vote on approving the consent agenda without debate. If a majority of the committee votes “yes,” the actions will be taken. If a majority of the committee votes “no,” all items will be moved to “new business” to be discussed individually.