

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

September 6, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Steering Committee

FROM: Tyler Silvestri
Secretary for Academic Governance

SUBJECT: Schedule of Annual Guests to Faculty Senate and University Council

In the summer of 2019, an independent group of seven faculty senators developed a document titled "Report on Improving the Effectiveness of MSU Faculty Senate." Among other things, the group recommended developing a schedule of guests to be invited the same month each year to present to the Faculty Senate on stated subjects.

Since the report was submitted, the Steering Committee has attempted to schedule presentations from the recommended guests (with occasional changes) annually. However, after three years of using the recommended schedule, a number of factors have led me to believe that a major revision is necessary. First, the schedule includes presentations on subject matter that is better suited for University Council than Faculty Senate (e.g., undergraduate support services). Second, the schedule calls for presentations from guests at times that have proved unworkable (e.g., a presentation on the next year's budget in March of year, which administration representatives have indicated is far too early). Finally, the descriptions of the presentations requested are often too vague to be useful to the invitees (e.g., "research").

I have consulted Steering Committee Chairperson Karen Kelly-Blake and Provost Teresa K. Woodruff and found that others share my concerns about the current schedule. Accordingly, I request the Steering Committee's permission to consult the anticipated invitees and draft a revised schedule that includes new guests (e.g., the chief of police and representatives from our Title IX office), better aligns with the actual timing of university activities, and includes guests for both Faculty Senate and University Council.¹ If the Steering Committee agrees, I will plan to submit a revised schedule at its October 4, 2022 meeting.

If any individual members (or the committee as a whole) has suggestions it would like me to consider as I develop the new schedule, please feel free to reach out to me at acadgov@msu.edu.

¹ Note that not every meeting will necessarily have a guest associated with it.



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