

The Steering Committee

Minutes

October 4, 2022



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Present: J. Alan, S. Anthony, S. Barman, d. de Simone, A. Dobbins, M. Donahue, C. Grondin, A. Halvorsen, A. Iturralde, K. Kelly-Blake, J. Kovach, J. Lipton, R. Malouin, T. Silvestri, A. Tessmer, T. Woodruff

Absent: H. Jeffery, S. Stanley

Others Present: A. Austin, N. Beauchamp, B. Gross, M. Largent, T. Thrush

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Steering Committee of Michigan State University held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom with Chairperson Karen Kelly-Blake presiding. The agenda was approved following amendment. The draft minutes of the September 6, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Reports

The committee received reports from the university-level standing committees and student governments present at the meeting.

Consent Business

The committee agreed by consent to:

- Refer a request for a change in the course fee policy to include part-time employees to the University Committee on Faculty Affairs.
- Refer a request for changes to the sick leave and bereavement policies to the University Committee on Faculty Affairs.
- Refer a request to discuss the use of artificial intelligence for monitoring of students to the University Committee on Student Affairs.

Annual Faculty Senate and University Council Guests

Secretary for Academic Governance Tyler Silvestri gave a brief overview of the [proposed schedule](#). He explained that additional guests were added, presenter titles were updated, and that guests will be invited to present at University Council in addition to Faculty Senate. The committee approved the schedule by consent.

Hosting Board of Trustees Candidates Debate

Chairperson Kelly-Blake discussed the possibility of hosting a debate for the MSU Board of Trustees candidates. Members agreed that hosting the candidates for a forum or debate would be beneficial to MSU community members. The committee agreed that Secretary Silvestri and the Office of Academic Governance would contact the candidates and work on planning and scheduling a forum or town hall to be held after regular business hours.

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Purpose, Role, and Efficacy of the Steering Committee

Secretary Silvestri explained that he frequently receives questions regarding the efficiency and purpose of the Steering Committee, mostly involving complaints that the Steering Committee needs to review matters at its monthly meetings before they can be referred to committees, even when it is obvious which committee is responsible under the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*.

The committee discussed possibly changing the Steering Committee to consist of a more strategic planning meeting as opposed to that of the current ministerial role. Discussion included how the current structure is beneficial to transparency, but an improved process could be better balanced by increasing efficiency. Provost Woodruff noted that “the informality of leaders meeting” at Steering Committee meetings was an asset and a reason to keep regular Steering meetings.

After extensive discussion, the committee agreed by consent to give the secretary for academic governance the authority to refer items to the relevant standing committees between Steering Committee meetings, subject to a report at each Steering Committee meeting. This authority was granted on a trial basis for the 2022–2023 academic year, and the committee agreed that it would retain the power to overrule the secretary on any given referral.

Faculty Liaison Group to the Board of Trustees

Chairperson Kelly-Blake requested volunteers for October’s Faculty Liaison Group to the Board of Trustees. UCAG Chairperson Jack Lipton and At-Large Member Rebecca Malouin volunteered to join Chairperson Kelly-Blake, Vice Chairperson Stephanie Anthony, and UCFA Chairperson Jamie Alan.

Board of Trustees Matters

Following extensive debate about recent developments regarding the Board of Trustees, its lack of communication, and its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the resignation of ex-Dean Sanjay Gupta, the committee agreed by consent to place an item titled “Acceptable Engagement of the Board of Trustees when Reviewing Administrative Decisions” on the agendas for both Faculty Senate and University Council. Members of the committee noted that they anticipated resolutions stating no confidence in the board at both meetings.

Setting Upcoming Faculty Senate and University Council Agendas

Following discussion, the committee agreed by consent to set an agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate and University Council meetings with the following new business:

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Tentative New Business for Faculty Senate — October 11, 2022

1. University Committee on Curriculum Report | UCC Chairperson Alison Dobbins (Attachments FS-A & FS-B)
2. Caregiving Report Update [2021-31]
3. Title IX Forum | Title IX Coordinator Nicole Schmidtke, Presidential Advisor on RVSM Rebecca Campbell, and Presidential Advisor on RVSM Detective Lt. Andrea Munford
4. Title IX Certification Process | General Counsel Brian Quinn
5. Acceptable Engagement of the Board of Trustees When Reviewing Administrative Decisions

Tentative New Business for University Council — October 18, 2022

1. Proposed Amendments to the Religious Observance Policy [2122-25] | Yael Aronoff (Attachments UC-A & UC-B)
2. Presentation on Ethics of University Investments and Sustainability [2122-20] | Rex LaMore
3. Voting Encouragement Resolution [2223-11] | ASMSU Vice President for Academic Affairs Aaron Iturralde (Attachment UC-C)
4. Proposed Bylaws Amendment Adding EVPHS to Steering Committee [2021-23] | UCAG Chairperson Jack Lipton (Attachment UC-D)
5. Proposed Bylaws Amendment re: Changing UCSA Name and Composition [2223-04] | UCAG Chairperson Jack Lipton (Attachment UC-E)

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Tyler Silvestri
Secretary for Academic Governance

Approved: November 1, 2022