

The Steering Committee

Minutes

January 10, 2023



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Present: J. Alan, S. Anthony, S. Barman, N. Beauchamp, d. de Simone, A. Dobbins, M. Donahue, C. Gomez, C. Grondin, A. Halvorsen, A. Iturralde, H. Jeffery, T. Jeitschko, K. Kelly-Blake, J. Kovach, J. Lipton, R. Malouin, T. Silvestri, A. Tessmer, D. Thompson

Absent: T. Woodruff

Others Present: A. Austin, B. Gross, M. Largent, T. Thrush, R. Yang, K. Yermak

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Steering Committee of Michigan State University held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom with Chairperson Karen Kelly-Blake presiding. The agenda was approved following amendment. The draft minutes of the December 6, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Reports

In addition to submitted written reports, the committee received verbal reports from Council of Graduate Students Chairperson Hannah Jeffery, Associated Students of Michigan State University Vice President of Academic Affairs Aaron Iturralde, University Committee on Faculty Affairs Chairperson Jamie Alan, and University Committee on Student Affairs Chairperson Carl Austin Miller Grondin.

Secretary for Academic Governance Tyler Silvestri reported that, on behalf the Steering Committee, he had referred a proposal to amend the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* such that “all faculty and academic staff be afforded the right to vote in their units, colleges, and in governance matters, regardless of their HR classification (UNTF, specialist, tenure system)” to the University Committee on Academic Governance.

Desired Qualities of the Next Board of Trustees Chairperson

At the request of Faculty Liaison and Trustee Rema Vassar, the committee discussed the various qualities that were desired in the next chairperson of the Board of Trustees. The committee agreed to send a summary of the discussion to the Board of Trustees prior to its next meeting, at which the new chairperson would be elected. The summary read:

- **Strong communication skills:** The chairperson should be able to effectively communicate with all members of the board, as well as with other stakeholders and the community, conveying complex information in a clear and concise manner and actively listening to feedback.
- **Ongoing commitment to governance training:** The chairperson should be dedicated to ongoing education and training in governance and higher education matters and willing to admit when they don't know something and actively seek training.

- **Strong understanding of higher education:** The chairperson should have a good understanding of the current issues and challenges facing higher education and should be able to apply this knowledge to the governance of the university.
- **Willingness to communicate with other leaders in higher education:** The chairperson should be open to communicating with faculty, staff, and student leaders.
- **Good understanding of university's governance and management, including legal responsibilities:** The chairperson should understand the university's governance structure, policies, and procedures and the legal responsibilities of being a board member.
- **Availability and presence:** The chairperson should be approachable and available to the faculty, students, staff, and other stakeholders.
- **Ability to maintain equanimity and navigate difficult situations:** The chairperson should be able to maintain a sense of equanimity and calm in difficult situations and when dealing with difficult personalities.
- **Wisdom and decision-making abilities:** The chairperson should be wise, be able to navigate complex situations, and make the most ethical decisions for the university.
- **Commitment to transparency and open communication:** The chairperson should be committed to transparency and open communication with board members and other stakeholders to foster trust and understanding.
- **Being new to the board is not necessarily a disqualifying characteristic:** Having fresh perspectives and ideas can bring new energy to the board. However, they should understand the governance process and be willing to learn through training.

9-Month Faculty Supervising 12-Month Staff

University Committee on Academic Governance Chairperson Jack Lipton discussed difficulties surrounding faculty and academic staff with nine-month appointments supervising employees who work throughout the year. Following discussion, the committee agreed by consent to refer the issue to the University Committee on Faculty Affairs and the University Committee on Graduate Studies, with UCFA designated as the lead committee.

Setting Upcoming Faculty Senate and University Council Agendas

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

Faculty Senate — January 24, 2023

1. Bereavement Policy | University Committee on Faculty Affairs Chairperson Jamie Alan
2. Develop Proposed Procedures for Faculty Involvement in the Presidential Search
3. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Efforts at MSU | Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Jabbar Bennett

University Council — January 31, 2023

1. Ethics of University Investments | Dr. Rex LaMore
2. Athletics Update | Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff
3. Develop Procedures for Faculty and Student Involvement in the Presidential Search

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.



Tyler Silvestri
Secretary for Academic Governance

Approved: February 7, 2023