

**Approved: October 10, 2017**

**2016-2017: Meeting # 1**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE APPROVED MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 3:15 PM  
115 INTERNATIONAL CENTER**

**PRESENT:** R. Abramovitch, Y. Bolumole, A. Borcila, N. Bunge, S. Carter, R. Cichy, M. Dease, J. Dulebohn, M. Floer, H. Gatlin, J. Goddeeris, J. Goldbort, D. Gould, K. Hampton, L. Harris, Mindy Morgan (for C. Hogan), G. Hoppenstand, M. Johnson, I. Kovar-Gough, R. LaDuca, Y. Liu, V. Mandrekar, L. McCabe, A. McCright, M. Mechtel, J. Meier, M. Miklavcic, K. Miller, D. Moriarty, J. Morningstar, K. Noe, R. Ofoli, S. Rayamajhi (for A. Olomu), S. Pager, N. Parameswaran, A. Pegler-Gordon, C. Piermarocchi, R. Pratt, J. Francese (for R. Quispe-Agnoli), D. Rivera, A. Ross, S. Safferman, A. Sanders-Jackson, J. Schwartz, J. Seita, P. Simon, L. Skibbe, P. Soranno, R. Spiro, G. Stone, G. Swain, L. Tortorelli, E. Watts, D. Wilson, J. Youatt, B. Zandstra, R. Zegers

**ABSENT:** G. Breitzer, B. Chakrani, S. Choi, L. Cloud, B. Dutton, Lee, G. Lourens, L. Mansfield, B. Mavis, R. Miksicek, E. Rosser, R. Schwab, W. Spielman, J. Tang, J. Tang, T. Tomlinson, J. Vargas

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda for September 12, 2017**

The **agenda for September 12, 2017** as **approved** as presented.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes for April 18, 2017**

The **minutes for April 18, 2017** were **approved** as distributed.

**4. President's Remarks:** Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon

President Simon reported that MSU begins this academic year coming off of a number of record years. Regarding enrollment, and employing yield as a measure, MSU's yield rates increased slightly, which President Simon suggested is a good sign in terms of the uncertainty of enrollment and financial stability among many other universities.

President Simon noted that student success numbers are also slightly higher, adding that MSU had 100 more newly enrolled graduate students, which is also a very good sign in terms of the profile of other universities. She said that MSU is also coming off a record year in generating research dollars; the University has enjoyed its second-best year in fundraising, topping the previous year's number of \$270 million, which set the previous high mark. She stated that MSU has a great deal of work to do with respect to the end of the Capital Campaign, in order to achieve success in a number of projects and fundraising goals for some MSU Colleges as well as for the University.

President Simon said that, regarding DACA and the resulting legal challenges, the MSU community has to push for a resolution of that issue with the Congress so that MSU can recognize people who, by all definitions, believe they were Americans. This situation is part of the broader legislative agenda, she noted. The academic year started with a number of social and political (as well as real hurricanes). President Simon said that the U.S. may remain a country that is more divided on some issues than not, and that it is MSU's collective role (working with our students and our stakeholders) to find common ground and find a way of having difficult ideas discussed, in a way that embodies the strong tradition of academic institutions. Our model, as an academic community, will be tested, she said. It has been tested, and will continue to be tested. She stated that there is a very important role for MSU faculty leadership at this moment in those conversations.

President Simon reported that posted on D2L is a set of comments that were made on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, in a discussion about free speech that involved lawyers and legal experts. She added that it was posted on D2L for the MSU community to view, and she recommended that everyone concerned should see it.

President Simon stated that she was pleased with MSU student statements at the recent Board of Trustee meeting with regard to their expression about how they must support one another, and about how they must reach out to peer groups in difficult situations, because some of the issues will not be resolved by policy or edict, but by very real and genuine human interactions. MSU's students have pledged to do that.

President Simon urged that the MSU community finds something that can help bring groups together that otherwise would not have a common moment, because in those common moments there will come greater understanding. If MSU can model more of this inclusive community attitude, she noted, then there may be strength for everyone to deal with the points that cause disagreement.

President Simon reported on the City of East Lansing income tax proposal. She stated that this proposal would put a significant burden of all of the City of East Lansing's tax revenue on the MSU community, because their proposal reduces East Lansing property taxes. If the proposal passes, residents of East Lansing will pay an additional 1% income tax, and non-residents will pay an additional 1/2 % on their income tax. This tax increase proposal means that a significant portion of all the new City of East Lansing revenue comes from MSU. President Simon stated that "they might see that as eminently fair and necessary. I personally did not."

## **5. Provost's Remarks: Dr. June Youatt**

Provost Youatt reported that there are approximately over 12,000 new MSU students on campus between the undergraduate entering class, transfer students, and professional and graduate students. She added that MSU welcomed about 100 new tenure stream faculty to campus this fall, which includes some of MSU's global impact initiative hires.

Provost Youatt stated that MSU began construction of the new Broad Business School Pavilion. She added that in a week there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Research Building in Grand Rapids, for the College of Human Medicine. In addition, she noted that the College of Music is approaching the halfway mark toward their fundraising goal for their new building addition. Provost Youatt said that at the end of last year the State

of Michigan approved partial funding that would help MSU build a new STEM education building, and a new STEM laboratory building for MSU undergraduate students. Provost Youatt added that a conversation will be held this year about the future of arts and culture on this campus, a conversation that will address the ways in which MSU needs to think about how the arts and culture are integrated into the lives of students and the role the University plays in our community. MSU, she added, wants to be more thoughtful about how resources are used, how those resources are integrated, and how new resources should be invested. Provost Youatt said that if one thinks about what the student experience should be like at Michigan State University, the real liberal arts experience, then thinking about the role of the arts and culture is extraordinarily important.

Provost Youatt reported that MSU is going to take a comprehensive look this year at the science and engineering spaces. MSU is growing, as President Simon has stated. And an examination must be done to see who is growing, where they are growing, and what is in the future, with an eye to how to move people around strategically in ways that help create the most productive environment for faculty and maintaining transparency in the process.

Provost Youatt said that MSU has people taking on new roles in administration, noting that Dean Elizabeth Simmons is leaving Michigan State University to assume the Vice Chancellors role at UC San Diego, which requires that MSU identifies new leadership in the Lyman Briggs College; Dr. Mark Largent will be assuming that role as interim Dean. She added that a new Dean of Graduate Studies and Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies has been announced: Dr. Thomas Jeitschko, who is a Professor in the Department of Economics and also was serving as an Associate Dean in the College of Social Science.

Provost Youatt stated that Dr. Julie Wade, who served for many years as Department Chair in Psychology, is assuming an Associate Provost role, directing Professional Development on the Academic Advancement Network. She added that the search continues this year for a Dean in the College of Natural Science. Dean Kirkpatrick, she stated, has agreed to maintain his responsibility as Dean during the interim period.

**6. Chairperson's Remark:** Dr. Laura McCabe

Dr. Laura McCabe welcomed the faculty to the new academic year. For those new to Faculty Senate, she introduced Gary Hoppenstand, the Secretary for Academic Governance, and Sherry Lott, the Academic Governance Executive Secretary. She noted that both of these individuals are critical in making Academic Governance work, and that Academic Governance is very thankful for their service. She also introduced the current Steering Committee Vice Chairperson (and Past President) Professor Deborah Moriarty. Dr. McCabe presented Professor Moriarty with a Certificate of Appreciation for her past service as Chairperson of the Steering Committee. In addition, Dr. McCabe introduced other currently-serving At-Large Members of the Steering Committee to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. McCabe also recommend that those in attendance review the MSU Academic Governance website, to get gather information about how Academic Governance works at MSU. The Faculty Senate, she noted, is the legislative body at MSU for faculty. The Faculty Senate addressed such issues as University curriculum, promotion, tenure, and salary. The Faculty Senate, she stated, also communicates faculty concerns to the University Administration, and the Faculty Senate speaks on proposals that arise in the different University committees.

Dr. McCabe concluded her remarks by stating three final points. The first was that the Faculty Senate issued a statement in 2017 on embracing different perspectives, diversity and inclusion on campus, which is included the appendices to the agenda. The second point was that the University Committee on Faculty Affairs has handed out a “cheat sheet” on Robert's Rules of Orders so that faculty can understand meeting procedures. And the third point was the information on the City of East Lansing Income Tax. Dr. McCabe noted that during the University Council meeting next week, it will be addressed how faculty can respond to this tax proposal.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1. University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson**

Professor Marci Mechtel reported that the University Committee for Curriculum, met on August 31<sup>st</sup>, and during that meeting four new programs were approved, including a Bachelor of Arts in Global History, Minors in Environmental Health and International Development, and a Graduate Certificate in American Studies. There were 45 program changes, and no program deletions at this time. Regarding course changes, there were 23 new courses added, 46 course changes, and four course deletions.

A motion was made to approve the UCC Report and was first and seconded. **The motion was carried.**

### **7.2. 2018 Health Care Plan Design, Renee Rivard, Director, Human Resources and Joe Galardi, Assistant Director, Human Resources**

Director Renee Rivard presented the 2018 Health Care Plan Design. She reported that MSU is looking at a less than 4% increase in our rates for this year, adding that Health Care Open Enrollment becomes effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Director Rivard stated that one of the issues that MSU pays close attention to are the co-pays for MSU's prescription drug plan. She notes that there will be no increase in co-pays in 2018 for pharmaceutical benefits, but that there will be increased co-pays for 2019.

### **7.3. Faculty Senate Agenda Setting, Professor John Beck, Human Resources and Labor Relations**

Professor John Beck passed out a Welcome sheet and Group Task sheet. Various issues were presented from the working groups regarding issues that might be taken up by Faculty Senate this year. Discussion ensued.

**Note:** These issues and other items of interest to the Faculty Senate will soon be posted on the Academic Governance website along with an Academic Governance comment section entitled Faculty Input.

## **Comments from the floor**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn and was first and seconded. **The motion carried.**

**5:00 p.m.**

## **Standing Committee Reports for 2016-2017:**

**University Committee on Curriculum**

**University Committee on Faculty Affairs**

**University Committee on Faculty Tenure**