Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Michigan State University Faculty Senate held a meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom with Chairperson Jack W. Lipton presiding. The agenda was approved after an amendment to add the item “Approval of the Slate for At-Large Members”. The draft minutes of the February 20, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

Remarks

President Kevin Guskiewicz, Interim Provost Thomas D. Jeitschko, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Norman J. Beauchamp Jr., and Chairperson Jack Lipton gave remarks.[[1]](#footnote-2)

MSU Divestment Resolution

Senator John Aerni-Flessner moved to adopt a resolution that would call for MSU to divest “from all financial holdings that support and profit from Israel’s military campaign and plausible acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip divestment.”[[2]](#footnote-3) Following debate, the motion was not adopted.

Ad Hoc Committee on Free Speech and Hate Speech

Chairperson Jack Lipton presented the slate of faculty elected to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee on Free Speech and Hate Speech.

Approval of the Slate for At-Large Members

UCAG Chairperson Dean Rehberger moved to approve the nominee slate for the At-Large Members of The Steering Committee. The committee adopted this motion.

Resolution Regarding Professional Integrity

UCFA Chairperson Jamie Alan moved to adopt a resolution regarding professional integrity.[[3]](#footnote-4) The motion was approved.

Proposed Changes to Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

UCFA Chairperson Jamie Alan presented the proposed changes to the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities and moved to approve them. The committee adopted this motion.

Adjournment

A black and white image of a black object

Description automatically generatedThe meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
Secretary for Academic Governance  
**Approved:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attendance** | |
| **Present** | 59 |
| **Absent** | 22 |
| **Total** | 81 |
| **Quorum** | 41.5 |

| **Constituency/Title** | **Name** | **Attendance** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Academic Specialist Advisory Committee | Kelly Hodges | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Satish Joshi | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Matt Raven | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Jeff Swada | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Lorraine Weatherspoon | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Cimberly Weir | Present |
| Arts and Letters | David Medei | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Brahim Chakrani | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Danielle DeVoss | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Zach Kaiser | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Kristen Mapes | Present |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Connor Le | Substituted: Kathryn Harding |
| At Large | Jack Lipton | Present |
| At Large | Rebecca Malouin | Present |
| At Large | Justin St. Charles | Present |
| At Large | Angela Wilson | Absent |
| At-Large, Arts and Letters | d'Ann de Simone | Absent |
| Business | Ayalla Ruvio | Present |
| Business | John Spink | Present |
| Business | Quan Zhang | Absent |
| Communication Arts and Sciences | Dan Hiaeshutter-Rice | Present |
| Communication Arts and Sciences | Rabindra "Robby" Ratan | Present |
| Communication Arts and Sciences | Alexandra Thrubis Stanley | Present |
| Council of Graduate Students | Hannah Jeffery | Present |
| Education | Amelia Gotwals | Present |
| Education | Matthew Pontifex | Absent |
| Education | John Carlson | Absent |
| Emeriti Faculty | Peter Berg | Absent |
| Engineering | Chengcheng Fang | Absent |
| Engineering | Nizar Lajnef | Present |
| Engineering | Mark Worden | Present |
| Engineering | Neil Wright | Present |
| Executive Vice President for Health Sciences | Norman Beauchamp | Present |
| Faculty Grievance | Francisco Villarruel | Absent |
| FRIB | Chris Wrede | Present |
| Human Medicine | Scott Counts | Present |
| Human Medicine | James (Jim) Anthony | Present |
| Human Medicine | Cristian Meghea | Absent |
| Human Medicine | Michael Williams | Present |
| Human Medicine | Hua Xiao | Present |
| Interim President | Teresa Woodruff | Absent |
| Interim Provost | Thomas Jeitschko | Present |
| James Madison | Daniel Ahlquist | Present |
| James Madison | Russell Lucas | Present |
| Law | David Favre | Present |
| Law | Noga Morag-Levine | Present |
| Libraries | Tad Boehmer | Present |
| Libraries | Kathleen Weessies | Present |
| Lyman Briggs | Samantha Cass | Present |
| Lyman Briggs | Stef Shuster | Absent |
| Lyman Briggs | Peter White | Absent |
| Music | Guy Yehuda | Present |
| Music | Jane Bunnell | Present |
| Natural Science | Gustavo de los Campos | Absent |
| Natural Science | Francois Greer | Absent |
| Natural Science | Brian Gulbransen | Absent |
| Natural Science | Min-Hao Kuo | Absent |
| Natural Science | Aaron Odom | Present |
| Nursing | Gayle Lourens | Absent |
| Nursing | Chastity Warren | Present |
| Osteopathic Medicine | Jason Bazil | Present |
| Osteopathic Medicine | Janice Schwartz | Present |
| Osteopathic Medicine | Amit Sachdev | Present |
| RCAH | John Aerni-Flessner | Present |
| RCAH | Tama Hamilton-Wray | Absent |
| Social Science | Laurie Bulock | Present |
| Social Science | Guo Chen | Present |
| Social Science | James Dulebohn | Absent Patricia Machemer |
| Social Science | Raymond Jussaume | Present |
| Social Science | Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani | Present |
| UCAG | Dean Rehberger | Present |
| UCC | Valeta Wensloff | Present |
| UCFA | Jamie Alan | Present |
| UCFT | Sue Barman | Present |
| UCGS | Trixie Smith | Substituted: Kyonghee Kim |
| UCL | Jackeline Iseler | Absent |
| UCSLE | Jeffrey Tsang | Present |
| UCUE | Antoinette Tesmmer | Present |
| Veterinary Medicine | Stephan Carey | Absent |
| Veterinary Medicine | Sean Crosson | Absent |
| Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies | Mark Largent | Present |

**Draft Divestment Resolution**

*Whereas*, on January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) [found](https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf) it plausible that the state of Israel has committed acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip, ordering Israel to prevent all future acts that fall under [Article II of the Genocide Convention](https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.1_Convention%20on%20the%20Prevention%20and%20Punishment%20of%20the%20Crime%20of%20Genocide.pdf); prevent and punish incitement to genocide; and allow the provision of basic services and humanitarian aid to Gaza’s besieged population; and,

*Whereas*, on January 31, 2024, U.S. Federal Court [concurred](https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2024/01/91_1-31-24_Order-granting-MTD_w.pdf) with the ICJ finding that “the current treatment of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military may plausibly constitute a genocide” and asserted that “[i]t is every individual’s obligation to confront the current siege in Gaza”; and,

*Whereas*, during the week following the ICJ’s order, Israel’s military killed some [1,100 people](https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/live-updates-death-toll-gaza-passes-27000-south-106861226) in Gaza, raising the number of killed to at least [27,000 people](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker), including a staggering [11,500 children](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker); and,

*Whereas*, since the ICJ issued its order, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [reports](https://www.unocha.org/news/todays-top-news-occupied-palestinian-territory-abyei-sudan) that Israel has fired upon a humanitarian aid convey, continued to obstruct most food aid missions to the population, and destroyed numerous residential areas throughout the Gaza Strip; and,

*Whereas*, Human Rights Watch [reports](https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/18/israel-starvation-used-weapon-war-gaza) that the state of Israel is using starvation of the civilian population as a weapon of war, resulting in more than [a quarter of Gazans experiencing starvation](https://abcnews.go.com/International/full-fledged-famine-threat-gaza-continues-rise-aid/story?id=106761709#:~:text=The%20scale%20of%20the%20crisis,%2C%22%20he%20told%20ABC%20News.) as famine conditions spread throughout the Gaza Strip; and,

*Whereas*, since the ICJ recognized a serious and immediate risk of genocide, the U.S. has had the [obligation](https://opiniojuris.org/2024/02/05/the-icjs-provisional-orders-measures-and-the-responsibility-of-third-states/) under international law to prevent and refrain from funding, aiding, and abetting Israel’s plausible acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip; and,

*Whereas*, the Biden administration has supported plausible acts of genocidal in the Gaza Strip, giving Israel billions of taxpayers’ dollars in [military aid](https://www.cfr.org/article/us-aid-israel-four-charts), in violation of the [Leahy Law](https://www.state.gov/key-topics-bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/human-rights/leahy-law-fact-sheet/), and bypassing Congress with [emergency weapons sales](https://apnews.com/article/us-israel-gaza-arms-hamas-bypass-congress-1dc77f20aac4a797df6a2338b677da4f) to Israel; and,

*Whereas*, days after the ICJ’s order, the U.S. [suspended funding](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/01/israel-opt-states-must-reverse-cruel-decision-to-withdraw-unrwa-funding/) to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the single most important humanitarian mission in the Gaza Strip, serving [1.7 million internally displaced people](https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-73-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-Jerusalem) who face increasingly dire conditions; and,

*Whereas*, on February 15, 2024, the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) passed [Bill No. 60-65](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FePjU5Nve-UakXr2LFEy2UtrUzkEj983ZbuF6u1uscg/edit) calling for the MSU Board of Trustees to divest from weapons manufacturers alongside other entities complicit in genocide; and,

*Whereas*, MSU has acted in the past to condemn international human rights abuses with the historic [Board of Trustees vote](https://projects.kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/210-808-6480/ChronologyMSUandlegislatureapartheidFINAL.pdf) on March 31, 1978 to divest the University’s holdings from U.S. corporations with ties to Apartheid South Africa; therefore be it,

Resolved, that MSU’s Faculty Senate calls on the University to divest from all financial holdings that support and profit from Israel’s military campaign and plausible acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip.

**Michigan State University Statement of Professional Integrity**

**Preamble**

The Michigan State University Statement of Professional Integrity is intended to describe and encourage behaviors that will foster an equitable, safe, and respectful workplace at Michigan State University. MSU’s mission statement prioritizes creating an inclusive community that promotes the well-being of the community. This resolution is rooted in many of the standards essential to the mission of the University. The resolution complements rather than supersedes existing policies that address sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or harassment or discrimination against protected classes.

**Principles:**

* Whereas the members of the faculty1 of Michigan State University hold ourselves to the highest standards of professional behavior in our work with colleagues, students, staff, and other members of our various communities;
* Whereas the faculty holds that civility and respect in discourse and interactions are critical to the function of the University community;
* Whereas academic freedom and inquiry, based in mutual respect for differences, identities, and beliefs, is essential to the work we do as teachers, scholars, and citizens;
* Whereas principles of non-discrimination are specified through University policy and law;
* Whereas the faculty are committed to the fostering of an environment in which diverse views, perspectives, beliefs, and identities are valued as essential components of the kind of community we wish to nurture;
* Whereas faculty should commit to these principles in their interactions with colleagues, students, staff, administration, and members of the wider community;
* Whereas the effective functioning of the University community requires a recognition of the importance of both individual rights and responsibilities to others as articulated in the Faculty Handbook;

BE IT RESOLVED that the faculty of Michigan State University expresses its continuing commitment to the fostering of a safe and equitable community, one that is grounded in the principles of robust intellectual engagement, mutual respect, collegiality, and civil discourse in accordance with both University policy and federal and state law.

1For the purposes of this document Faculty are defined in the MSU bylaws 1.1.1

1. A video of their remarks (and the rest of the meeting) can be found at <https://acadgov.msu.edu/facultysenate>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See page 7 for the full resolution [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. See page 9 for the full resolution [↑](#footnote-ref-4)