



MSU Academic Governance At-A-Glance

Major Governance Bodies

These committees work together to ensure effective governance, with the Steering Committee playing a central role in coordinating activities and communication among these and other governance bodies.

Academic Congress

Composition

- Voting members: Voting-eligible faculty, president, provost
- Honorary members: honorary faculty (voice but no vote)
- Chair: chair of the Faculty Senate
- Vice chair: vice chair of the Faculty Senate
- Secretary: secretary for academic governance

Functions

- Deliberates and endorses or rejects items, referring them back to the originating body.
- Acts as a forum for the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information between faculty and administration.

Methods of Calling

- Can be called into session by a majority vote of the Steering Committee or by the president.
- Must be called into session upon specific referral by the Faculty Senate, University Council, or a petition by 20% of its voting members.

Quorum: 10% plus one.

University Council

Composition

- Chair: president
- Vice chair: provost

- Secretary: secretary for academic governance
- Voting members: Faculty Senate members, Appointed Council members (deans, dean of the Libraries, director of FRIB, president, provost), chairs of College Advisory Committees, chair of the Athletic Council, ASMSU representatives, COGS representatives, chairs of University-level Standing Committees, Steering Committee members
- Ex-officio members: various vice presidents, associate provosts, university registrar, faculty grievance official, secretary for academic governance, ombudsperson, faculty emeriti representative

Functions

- Discusses issues involving the entire university.
- Considers and acts upon matters within its purview brought by the Steering Committee, president, or provost.
- Provides a forum for the dissemination of information and exchange of views regarding university policy.
- Can refer items to the Academic Congress for consideration and action.



Quorum: 50% plus one of its voting membership.

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Faculty Senate

Composition

- Chair: Elected from at-large faculty representatives on the Steering Committee
- Vice chair: Elected from at-large faculty representatives on the Steering Committee
- Secretary: secretary for academic governance
- Voting members: Elected faculty representatives from each college, at-large faculty representatives on the Steering Committee, chairs of University-level Standing Committees
- Ex-officio members: president, provost, executive vice president for health sciences, one elected member from ASMSU, one elected member from COGS, chair of Athletic Council, faculty emeriti representative

Functions

- Deliberative, representative, and legislative body for faculty.
- Communicates its position to the administration on curricular issues, faculty tenure and promotion, and faculty salary and benefits.
- Acts on issues referred by the Steering Committee.
- Can refer items to the Academic Congress for consideration.

Steering Committee

Composition

- Chair: Elected annually from at-large faculty representatives of the Steering Committee
- Vice chair: Elected annually from at-large faculty representatives of the Steering Committee
- Secretary: secretary for academic governance
- Voting members: At-large faculty members, chairs of University-level Standing Committees, vice president of academic affairs of ASMSU, president of COGS, one undergraduate student from ASMSU, one graduate student from COGS
- Ex-officio members: president, provost, executive vice president for health sciences

Functions

- Advises the provost on appropriate governance bodies to consult on proposals.
- Acts on behalf of the University Council and Faculty Senate when immediate action is needed.
- Prepares agendas for meetings of the University Council, Faculty Senate, and Academic Congress.
- Facilitates communication between faculty and administration.
 - **Quorum:** 50% plus one of its voting membership.



Relationships and Interactions

- Academic Congress: Acts as a forum for faculty and administration, deliberates on items referred by the Faculty Senate or University Council.
- University Council: Discusses university-wide issues, acts on matters brought by the Steering Committee, president, or provost, and can refer items to the Academic Congress.
- Faculty Senate: Focuses on faculty-related issues, communicates positions to the administration, and can refer items to the Academic Congress.
- Steering Committee: Prepares agendas, advises the provost, acts on behalf of the University Council and Faculty Senate when necessary, and facilitates communication.

Standing Committees

These committees collectively ensure a robust system of shared governance, allowing for diverse representation and collaborative decision-making across various aspects of university operations.

University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG)

Function:

- Reviews and recommends amendments to the *Bylaws*.
- Interprets *Bylaws* and reviews college bylaws for consistency.
- Nominates faculty to university-level governance bodies, boards, and committees.
- Reviews unit appeals in cases of conflict and considers appeals of department or school bylaws.

Composition:

- Faculty members from each college and non-college faculty.
- Three undergraduate student members from ASMSU.
- Two graduate student members from COGS.

- Provost and secretary for academic governance are ex-officio members.

Relationships:

- Reports to the University Council.
- Chair serves on the Steering Committee, Faculty Senate, and University Council.

University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE)

Function:

- Exercises delegated authority on grading policy for undergraduate students.
- Reviews changes in undergraduate academic programs.
- Consults with the provost on undergraduate program policies.
- Consults with the provost on admissions, retention, financial aid,



and resource distribution for undergraduates.

Composition:

- Faculty member from each college, including the Honors College.
- Four undergraduate student members, including the vice president of academic affairs of ASMSU.
- Two graduate student members from COGS.
- Provost is a non-voting member.

Relationships:

- Reports to the University Council.
- Chair serves on the Steering Committee, University Council, and Faculty Senate.

University Committee on Curriculum (UCC)

Function:

- Exercises delegated authority in reviewing, approving, or rejecting changes in undergraduate and graduate curricula and degree requirements.
- Advises the provost on criteria for course and curriculum establishment and deletion.

Composition:

- Faculty member from each college.
- Five undergraduate student members, including one from ASMSU.
- Two graduate student members.
- Provost and university registrar as non-voting members.

Relationships:

- Reports to the Faculty Senate.
- Chair serves on the Steering Committee, University Council, and Faculty Senate.

University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA)

Function:

- Makes recommendations on the University budget and advises on faculty-related policies.
- Shared responsibility with the provost in formulation of faculty grievance procedures, rights, and responsibilities.
- Participates in the university's Discipline and Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Cause policy.

Composition:

- Faculty member from each college and non-college faculty.
- At least two non-tenured regular faculty and two full-time fixed-term faculty.
- Provost and director of the Office of Planning and Budgets are non-voting members.

Relationships:

- Reports to the Faculty Senate.
- Chair serves on the Steering Committee, University Council, and Faculty Senate.

University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT)

Function:

- Advises on rules for the award and revocation of tenure.
- Hears and acts on cases for exceptions to the rules of tenure.
- Participates in the university's Discipline and Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Cause policy.

Composition:

- Faculty member from each college and non-college faculty.
- At least three non-tenured faculty.
- Two undergraduate student members from ASMSU.
- One graduate student member.



- Provost is a non-voting member.

Relationships:

- Reports to the Faculty Senate.
- Chair serves on the Steering Committee, University Council, and Faculty Senate.

University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS)

Function:

- Exercises delegated authority on grading policy for graduate students.
- Reviews changes in graduate and professional academic programs.
- Consults with the provost on graduate program policies and resource distribution.

Composition:

- Faculty member from each college with a graduate program.
- Five graduate student members from COGS.
- Dean of the Graduate School is a non-voting member.

Relationships:

- Reports to the University Council.
- Chair serves on the Steering Committee, University Council, and Faculty Senate.

University Committee on Student Life and Engagement (UCSLE)

Function:

- Advises on policies affecting student life and academic achievement.
- Reviews amendments to Student Rights and Responsibilities and General Student Regulations.

Composition:

- Four faculty members selected by the Faculty Senate.
- Twelve student members from various student organizations.
- Several administrative members as non-voting members.

Relationships:

- Reports to the University Council.
- Chair serves as a voting member of the University Council and Faculty Senate.

University Committee on the Libraries (UCL)

Function:

- Provides broad-based participation in library policy-making.
- Monitors faculty and student concerns about library resources and services.

Composition:

- Faculty member from each college.
- Two undergraduate members chosen by ASMSU.
- Three graduate student members chosen by COGS.
- Dean of the Libraries and a representative from the Libraries' internal faculty Steering Committee as ex-officio members.

Relationships:

- Reports to the University Council.
- Chair serves on the Steering Committee, University Council, and Faculty Senate.

"Standing Committees shall establish their own rules and procedures, as long as they are not in conflict with these Bylaws."

Quorum: 50% plus 1.

Updated: September 2024



These committees collectively ensure a robust system of shared governance, allowing for diverse representation and collaborative decision-making across various aspects of university operations.

Other University-level Governance Bodies

University Council Advisory-Consultative Committees

Functions:

- Advise and consult with administrators of university-wide programs, recommend policy changes to the University Council.
- Current advisory-consultative committees are the University Military Education Advisory Committee and University Committees on Honors Programs and International Studies and Programs.

Membership:

- Composition determined by University Council, with faculty and student members serving 2-year and 1-year terms respectively.

Relationships:

- Report to the University Council through the Steering Committee.

Athletic Council

Functions:

- Serve as the faculty voice in the intercollegiate athletic program, advise the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics on policies and procedures.

Membership:

- 8 faculty, 3 alumni, 3 students (voting members), and some ex-

officio non-voting members like the Athletics Director.

Relationships:

- Reports to the University Council, faculty members nominated by Faculty Senate.

Faculty Healthcare Council

Functions:

- Act as the faculty voice on matters related to healthcare and healthcare benefits.

Membership:

- 9 faculty members representing diversity of appointments.

Relationships:

- Consults with University Committee on Faculty Affairs, members appointed by Steering Committee.

Student-Faculty Judiciaries

Functions:

- Hear grievances and appeals related to academic integrity, student rights, etc.

Membership:

- Faculty members appointed by the President from nominees by University Committee on Academic Governance.

Relationships:

- Faculty cannot serve concurrently on these judiciaries and University Council