

# Faculty Governance Newsletter

## Improved Transparency in Academic Governance

In an effort to demystify the academic governance system and to increase transparency, video or audio recordings of all Steering Committee, Faculty Senate, and University Council meetings will be provided alongside the minutes of each meeting whenever possible (see, e.g., [the November 17 Faculty Senate meeting](#)). Find recordings at [acadgov.msu.edu](http://acadgov.msu.edu) by mousing over the relevant academic governance body and selecting “Minutes.”

## 10-Month vs. 12-Month Pay

At the November 24 University Council meeting, President Stanley shared that, following faculty input, General Counsel Brian Quinn, Vice President for Planning and Budgets Dave Byelich, and Professor Frank Ravitch (Law) are working to determine whether MSU can legally pay faculty on a 12-month basis instead of the current 10-month schedule. Interested faculty members are encouraged to [reach out to Professor Ravitch directly](#)

## Upcoming Elections

Many faculty have expressed interest in getting involved in academic governance but feel unsure of how to do so. My office has developed a new, streamlined election system to make this process clearer.

Keep an eye out for an email from [acadgov@msu.edu](mailto:acadgov@msu.edu) with instructions for being considered for vacancies on academic governance bodies.

## Faculty Senate Passes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Motions

As part of its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion at MSU, Faculty Senate passed three DEI-related motions on November 17.

[The first](#) encourages faculty to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into their teaching practices and commit to personal development on DEI. [The second](#) urges colleges and departments to consider taking a number of steps that could advance DEI, including clearly identifying and publicizing their current and future efforts to do so.

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## “A new, streamlined election system will make joining governance bodies easier.”

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[The third](#) encourages the administration to consider a number of similar actions, including conducting a study of faculty and staff salaries to identify inequities that negatively impact underrepresented groups.

## Elections to Workplace Bullying & Administrator Review Committees

At its November 17 meeting, Faculty Senate elected Lydia Tang of the Libraries to serve on the University Council’s [Ad Hoc Committee on Workplace Bullying](#).

Senators Jane Bunnell (Music), David Ewoldsen (ComArtSci), and Karen Kelly-Blake (CHM) were elected to the [Ad Hoc Committee on Administrator Review](#), which is charged with considering how faculty and students can best participate in the reviews of administrators above the level of deans.

## Faculty Senate Special Meeting re: Nassar & Strampel

Faculty Senate will hold a special meeting on December 15 at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom. Dr. Stephanie Nawyn has graciously agreed to moderate this discussion of MSU’s responses to the Office for Civil Rights regarding the employee action reviews of Larry Nassar and William Strampel. The agenda, attachments, and link to join are available [here](#).



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