

# Faculty Governance Newsletter

At-Large Members of the Faculty Senate are pleased to share with you a brief review of business addressed during the month of September.

## Financial Overview

Mark Haas, Vice President of Finance and Treasurer of Michigan State University, [presented an overview](#) of the University's financial scenario to Faculty Senators. Vice President Haas sought faculty input regarding recent financial decisions and explained the circumstances around key financial decisions such as employee salary reductions. Thorough and willing to continue providing financial insight far beyond his allotted time, Vice President Haas was comprehensive and detailed in throughout the presentation.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Faculty Senate remains committed to the concepts of diversity, equity and inclusivity. In September, [a series of motions](#) was put forth to ensure that these key concepts remain in the forefront for the MSU community as we all work to implement a university culture change. The four motions were geared toward the improvement and development of DEI best practices for the University Committee on Academic Governance, faculty members, departments, colleges, and the administration.

## Amendment to Previous Statement on Diversity

In November 2019, an ad hoc committee of Faculty Senators drafted a statement of support for students and other members of the MSU community, which Faculty Senate approved. In response to a request at the start of the Fall 2020 academic year from a faculty member in the Religious Studies department, Faculty Senate adopted a motion to replace the phrase "religious subversion" with "religious freedom." The full statement is available [here](#).

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**"Faculty Senate is committed to ensuring that all MSU community members feel safe."**

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## Civility in the MSU Community

Faculty Senate considered a Code of Professional Standards and Behaviors for faculty and academic staff that was developed by the University Committee on Faculty Affairs. The document aimed to serve as a guideline for civility on campus. The document was comprehensive and thought provoking. Upon its presentation, it immediately became clear that UCFA worked diligently to produce a high-quality product.

There was a great deal of discussion amongst Senators. Many questions were posed, and Senators made several additional points that should be included in the document. At the conclusion of the discussion, UCFA's chairperson agreed to return to the table to incorporate senator suggestions. The document will be presented to Faculty Senate again in the near future.

## Policing

The issue of policing on the MSU campus continues to be a strong area of interest. This interest stems in part from recent changes in the MSU Police Department in terms of staffing and its leadership, as well as from a university-commitment to ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of all Spartans. Policing, as well as the professional engagement of all constituents by officers on campus, will continue to be an area of focus for the Senate. This matter has been made more crucial by a rallying cry around the country of many citizens to defund local police departments.



**Dr. Stephanie Anthony**  
*At-Large  
Member of  
The Steering  
Committee*

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Faculty Senate is committed to ensuring that all members of the MSU community feel safe and that our police department personnel have the necessary tools to continue to professionally engage community members.

### Welcome to New Faculty Senators

Various colleges across campus had new representatives join the Senate in September. If you are unsure who your college or division's representative is, we urge you to contact the Secretary for Academic Governance or the appropriate personnel in your department or college. You can also check the [Academic Governance website](#).

New Senators received an orientation to assist each of them in learning the basics of representation of Faculty Senate and a host of other pertinent items related to their new roles. The orientation was open to all Senators. The orientation also allowed members to meet new colleagues, to learn new information, and to have any outstanding questions answered about the governance process.

### Goodbye to Outgoing Senators

Those Senators whose terms ended officially returned to their responsibilities as faculty within their respective colleges. Academic Governance as a body owes a large debt of gratitude to each of these individuals for their service. On behalf of all of Faculty Senate and the entire Academic Governance structure for the University, we wish to acknowledge their hard work and collaborative efforts to make academic governance work for everyone. Best wishes to all!

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### Change in the Secretary for Academic Governance

Faculty Senate is pleased to announce the recent hiring of its new Secretary for Academic Governance, Tyler Silvestri. We welcome Tyler to his new position, which he began on August 10, and say goodbye with warm wishes to our former Secretary, Gary Hoppenstand, who has returned to teaching.

### Change of Faculty Senate Leadership

Faculty members Jennifer Johnson and Anna Pegler-Gordon each stepped into their new roles as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Faculty Senate, respectively, at the start of the academic year. Professor Deborah Moriarty stepped down from her role as Chairperson of Faculty Senate as it was the end of her term and returned to concentrate upon her teaching responsibilities within the MSU College of Music. Her service and professional engagement of members of the MSU community in the academic governance process is appreciated.



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