

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 20, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The University Committee on Academic Governance  
**FROM:** Tyler Silvestri  
*Secretary for Academic Governance*  
**SUBJECT:** *Bylaws Interpretation re: Staff Voting Rights*

Per section 4.3.4. of the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*, the University Committee on Academic Governance has the authority “to interpret these *Bylaws* subject to review by University Council.” I have received a request for UCAG’s interpretation from Professor Pete White of Lyman Briggs College.

### Relevant Bylaws

1.1.2.2. The voting faculty in the election of department, school, or college councils and committees and in elections pertaining to department, school, or college policies and decisions shall include all regular faculty engaged in the academic activities of that unit and may, if so provided by unit bylaws, also include health professions faculty, FRIB/NSCL faculty, fixed-term faculty, honorary faculty, specialists, lecturers, research associates, assistant instructors, or adjunct faculty.

### Question Presented

Does section 1.1.2.2. mean that staff are not permitted to vote in the matters described therein? This bylaw outlines a specific group and then provides a list of categories of people who can be added to voting rights in a given unit. Staff are not listed, and it therefore raises the question of whether — by their exclusion — they are not permitted to have voting rights on these matters.



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