# **Approval** of Agenda and Minutes

The University Council of Michigan State University held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom with President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The draft minutes of the April 26, 2022 meeting were approved as presented. 

# Remarks

## President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.

I’m sure that everyone is aware that last week I submitted a 90-day notice of my resignation to the Board of Trustees, per the stipulation of my contract. That would be to January 11 that I would remain at the university. I just want to start out today by expressing my deepest gratitude for the many messages of support I’ve received from members of the university community and beyond. And I’m truly humbled by this. And, again, I thank you.

At this point, I don’t have any further details to add to the video message I sent to the university community announcing my decision, but I want you to know this is a very difficult decision. I’m so proud of what we’ve accomplished together over the past three years, and I want you to know that I truly believe that we go forward with a strong foundation provided by our 2030 Strategic Plan, our DEI, and our RVSM plans with all the advances we’ve made in those critical areas of concern, again over the past three years. As we enter our semester with another record-setting incoming class, a total cohort of more than 9,600 for Fall ‘22, I think there is much to look forward to in the future. I know there’s still much work to be done, but I’m confident that we as a university will continue to address our priorities.

As I said in my previous comments, presidents and boards might come and go. The MSU community, represented to a great extent by University Council, will always be the heart and soul of the university. I intend to cooperate with the board on a transition to an interim president and ensure as much stability as I can. And I’m so grateful for the partnership and the engagement of academic governance in my three plus years at MSU. I ask all of you now to carry on with the work of this great university because the important things have not changed: chiefly ensuring the success of all Spartans and increasing our excellence and impact on campus across the state and around the world.

Something else that hasn’t changed is the priorities of exercising our duties as citizens in democracy and our responsibilities for the safety of all members of our university community. So I’ll conclude first by urging all who are or can be eligible to prepare a plan to vote on November 8 if you haven’t already secured an absentee voter ballot. Second, make sure you take advantage of the newest COVID-19 vaccination boosters and this year’s flu shots as well. These viruses remain serious threats and your safety and wellbeing remain my top priorities. With that, I will ask Provost Woodruff to give her remarks.

## Provost Teresa K. Woodruff

Thank you, President Stanley, and thank you for those remarks on behalf of all of us in this University Council setting. It is wonderful to begin another academic year, and it has, since we’ve last met, it’s been some time. And I look forward to a year of engagement and collaboration with all of you as we work together to support and advance the MSU academic mission, as I have reiterated in my memo earlier this week—or last week—and won’t have much more to say on that. But of course, the educational continuity of the university remains my top priority and focus and the top priority and focus of the work across the Office of the Provost. And I very much appreciate all of your continued commitments to academic excellence and to student success.

Last week at Faculty Senate, I elaborated on some of the ongoing work that has occurred since this school since this semester began. And this includes two ribbon-cutting ceremonies that opened new places and spaces, the Invigorated Arts Initiative—and some good news—and work that remains to be done on our enrollment numbers. And I concluded with some exemplars of excellence as measured by outside groups, including the improvement of six places from last year, tied for number 77 in the US News & World Report ranking, and also the progress we’ve made toward the United Nations’ sustainable development goals. These sustainable development goals are critical, not just to Michigan State, but really to the globe. And I’m very proud on your behalf that we are number two in the country overall in these UN sustainability goals. We’re number one in the U.S. for zero hunger, number four in the U.S. for sustainable cities and communities, number one in partnership for goals, and number one in no poverty. We certainly have more to do, but as we do that good work, I hope we can celebrate what is excellent as we build toward a brighter future.

Finally, I want to note that today’s agenda includes the action item on proposed amendments to the religious observance policy. I’d like to take a moment to thank the many individuals and groups that played a part in moving these proposed agendas forward towards the University Council meeting today. This includes Yael Aronoff, director of Jewish Studies, and the entire working group that consulted with relevant stakeholders on campus, including the directors of Muslim Studies and the Asian Studies Center, as well as the department chair and relevant members in the Department of Religious Studies. This working group examined dozens of policies at different universities, noting areas that would strengthen MSU’s policy.

Thanks also goes to [the University Committee on Faculty Affairs] and [the University Committee on Undergraduate Education], as well as the incredible leadership of Jabbar Bennett, who is the vice president and chief diversity officer in the Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. And he and his team, including Terrence Frazier and Henry Mochida, have been extremely helpful. And a final thank you to Mohammad Khalil, the director of the Muslim Studies Program and professor of Religious Studies for his support as well. And then within the Office of the Provost, Kara Yermak, the director of the Office of Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs, and the entire FASA office for their dedicated work. What this represents is the way that we are working. We’re all in, we’re all together, and we work across many different parts of the organization in order to bring these policy changes forward. So we have a very full agenda of important topics, and I’ll end my remarks here.

## Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Norman J. Beauchamp Jr.

Thank you, President Stanley, for all you’ve done for us. Your leadership that you’ve displayed has really brought us to where we are together. You recruited, you empowered, and you established teams that are resilient, skilled, and collaborative. We have co-created a roadmap in our strategic plan that will help us move forward together as I move through my Kübler-Ross stages of grief. One of the things that’s uplifting is really the work that you’ve done, and you’ve told us in small groups and large, that we need to really build on what you’ve put together as we move forward and really committed to do that. And as a caring and accountable, inclusive community.

I’ll just share a few stories. Two weeks ago, I participated in a student- and faculty-run outdoor clinic that provided care for the homeless and for the pets that bring them so much necessary comfort. To get the chance to work with the students in [the College of Osteopathic Medicine] and [the College of Veterinary Medicine] and learn of their inspiration, to see the hope in those serve, it was a reminder of the struggles that need lessening and the effectiveness of results when we come together and solve them. We began treating patients with prostate cancer at our recently opened Doug Meijer Medical Innovation Building with combined molecular imaging tools that attach selectively to metastatic prostate cancer cells and then have a beta emitter. And were able to eradicate cancers that were previously one stage. We had a patient who came in on a wheelchair on day one on morphine, day two, returned and walked into the clinic. And so, again, this work of bringing together our strength is making a difference. And this came together in a way that ultimately also creates new businesses that elevate social determinants of health. Our collaborative work with Henry Ford is moving forward. Great thanks go to Doug Gage. We’ve welcomed new students from [the College of Nursing], COM, and [the College of Human Medicine] to the Ford campuses.

We’ve also welcomed 88 of their research-intensive faculty into MSU. We’re hosting forums that help connect our strengths campus-wide here in East Lansing in research, education, and teaching. And I have an upcoming meeting with the Council of Research Deans. And certainly, the strategic plan will help us connect. And then, finally, all of these efforts are guided by a [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice] committee that make sure that the efforts in research, education, and clinical care are advancing towards health, hope, and healing for all people. So thank you again for all you’ve done, President Stanley, and I turn the mic back to you.

## Faculty Senate Chairperson Karen Kelly-Blake

So good afternoon. So first of all, I want to thank you, President Stanley, for everything that you’ve done to move the university forward and guiding us through the pandemic. Your leadership did not warrant the board’s self-serving, embarrassing actions, and you did not deserve the stress I am sure you must have been going through. If there are any opportunities for academic governance or for its leaders to help make the transition easier for you and the Spartan community, please do let us know.

I know it feels like chaos is uprooting everything at the university. We will 1) keep doing the work we do to further the mission of this institution, and 2) we will engage in robust academic governance. To that end, we have achieved no-confidence votes in ASMSU, CHM’s College Advisory Council, and the Faculty Senate. We will participate in the academic governance teach-in on Friday, October 21, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. I hope to see most of you there. We will host a trustee candidate forum on October 27, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We have successfully convened the Academic Congress, and we’ll be seeking a vote of no confidence in the board.

We will meet with the board tomorrow evening to discuss interim president qualifications. What should we be telling them? Please leave your suggestions in the chat here in this forum, or please feel free to share them at acadgov@msu.edu. We will hold fast and care for this institution because this institution is us. We want to make our stance clear. And I want to make this very clear: the board must complete board training and professional development; must adhere to that work that is in their purview; must leave academic and administrative management of MSU to the Offices of the President and the Provost; and it must abide by its code of ethics.

One last quick reminder is for you all to make sure that you have a plan to vote. Vote, vote, vote! You get the idea. We can all agree that voting is essential to ensuring that our concerns matter. Vote because our lives depend on it. Thank you very much.

# Proposed Amendments to the Religious Observance Policy

Senator Yael Aronoff gave a brief overview of the history of the religious observance policy and the proposed changes. The changes included no longer requiring students to use excused absences for religious holidays, requesting faculty to consult a two-year religious holiday calendar when planning syllabi and other events, and ensuring that no religion is promoted above others. Senator Aronoff moved to endorse the revised religious observance policy. Following debate, the motion was adopted by a vote of 78 to 5.

# Ethics of University Investments and Sustainability

Rex LaMore gave a presentation on the ad hoc working group on university sustainable investments. The presentation offered the following recommendations: 1) define “social conscience” in the university’s investment policy, 2) expand the board’s consultative network, and 3) increase transparency from the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees. Dr. LaMore indicated a related resolution would be brought to University Council at a future meeting.

# Voting Encouragement Resolution

Representative Aaron Iturralde moved to adopt a resolution reading:

*Whereas,* Election cycles in Michigan offer citizens to be engage in civil participation through the elections of elected officials and ballot proposals; and,

*Whereas,* Every election cycle necessitates voting engagement in the MSU community; and,

*Whereas,* There are many avenues for citizens to vote, including no-excuse absentee voting, early voting at clerks’ offices, and in-person voting on Election Day; and,

*Whereas,* This year Election Day will fall on Tuesday, November 8, 2022; therefore be it,

*Resolved,*The University Council supports the voter engagement initiatives that Michigan State University is undertaking for the 2022 elections; and be it further,

*Resolved,* That the University Council encourages all student, faculty and staff who are eligible to vote, be registered to vote and make a plan to vote before Election Day on November 8, 2022; and be it further,

*Resolved,* That the University Council encourages all student, faculty and staff who are registered to vote in the November 8, 2022 elections to vote.

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a vote of 82 to 0.

# *Bylaws* Amendment re: EVPHS on the Steering Committee and Faculty Senate

Secretary for Academic Governance Tyler Silvestri introduced potential amendments to the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* that were approved by the University Committee on Academic Governance. The proposed amendments read:

* + - 1. The President, the Provost, the Executive Vice President of Health Sciences, one elected member from ASMSU, one elected member from COGS, and the Chairperson of the Athletic Council will serve as ex-officio members of the Faculty Senate, with voice, but no vote.

. . .

* + - 1. The President, the Provost, and the Executive Vice President for Health Sciences shall be ex-officio members of the Steering Committee. . . .

Senator Meagan Donahue moved to approve the amendments. Following debate, the motion was adopted by a vote of 76 to 6.

# *Bylaws* Amendment re: University Committee on Student Affairs

Secretary Silvestri introduced UCAG’s second set of proposed *Bylaws* amendments. If adopted, the amendments would change all instances of 1) “Vice President for Student Affairs and Services” to “Senior Vice President for Student Life and Engagement,” 2) “University Committee on Student Affairs” to “University Committee on Student Life and Engagement,” 3) “UCSA” to “UCSLE,” and 4) “Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services” to “Division of Student Life and Engagement.” Additional amendments included:

* + 1. The University Committee on Student Life and Engagement (UCSLE) shall have four faculty members selected by the Faculty Senate. UCSLE shall have twelve student members appointed as follows: six appointees from ASMSU, including the President of ASMSU; two appointees from COGS; one appointee from the Residence Halls Association; one appointee from Fraternity and Sorority Life; one appointee from the University Apartments Council of Residents; and the At-large Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees, as appointed by the Senior Vice President for Student Life and Engagement. UCSLE appointees are expected to reflect the diversity of their constituencies. The Senior Vice President for Student Life and Engagement, Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Assistant Vice President for Student Development and External Relations and Dean of Students, Assistant Vice President of Residence Education and Housing Service, Assistant Vice President for Student Involvement and Leadership, and the University Ombudsperson shall be ex-officio members with voice, but no vote.
		2. The chairperson of the UCSLE shall be a voting member of the University Council. At its first meeting of the academic year, the UCSLE must elect one of its faculty members to represent UCSLE as a voting member of the Faculty Senate.

. . .

Vice Chairperson Stephanie Anthony moved to approve the amendments. Following debate, the motion was adopted by a vote of 78 to 1.

# Vote of No Confidence in the Board of Trustees

Vice Chairperson Anthony moved to adopt a resolution reading, “Resolved, that the University Council has no confidence in the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.” Following debate, the motion was adopted by a vote of 85 to 6.

# Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.



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Tyler Silvestri
Secretary for Academic Governance

**Approved:** November 22, 2022

| **Constituency/Title** | **Name** | **Attendance** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Academic Specialists | Grace Pregent | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Dale Rozeboom | Absent |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Cimberly Weir | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Lorraine Weatherspoon | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Satish Joshi | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | Sinem Mollaoglu | Present |
| Agriculture and Natural Resources, Interim Dean | Kelly Millenbah | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Brahim Chakrani | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Danielle DeVoss | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Karthik Durvasula | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Kate Birdsall | Present |
| Arts and Letters | Yore Kedem | Present |
| Arts and Letters, Dean | Christopher Long | Present |
| ASMSU | Courtney Luong | Absent |
| ASMSU | Nadia Dacara | Absent |
| ASMSU | OpokuAduse Amankwah | Absent |
| ASMSU | Aaron Iturralde | Present |
| ASMSU | Benjamin Fox | Present |
| ASMSU | Carl Austin Miller Grondin | Present |
| ASMSU | Claire Smith | Present |
| ASMSU | Duncan Darnell | Present |
| ASMSU | Hannah Hall | Present |
| ASMSU | Harshita Rathod | Present |
| ASMSU | Jairahel Price | Present |
| ASMSU | Jo Kovach | Present |
| ASMSU | Jordan Aliff | Present |
| ASMSU | Joshua Ennis | Present |
| ASMSU | Linda Komis | Present |
| ASMSU | Mallory Debono | Present |
| ASMSU | Manvir Bamrah | Present |
| Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies | Mark Largent | Present |
| Associate Provost of Enrollment and Academic Strategic Planning | Dave Weatherspoon | Present |
| At Large | d’Ann de Simone | Present |
| At Large | Megan Donahue | Present |
| At Large | Rebecca Malouin | Present |
| At Large, Chairperson | Karen Kelly-Blake | Present |
| At Large, Vice Chairperson | Stephanie Anthony | Present |
| Business | Ayalla Ruvio | Present |
| Business | John Spink | Present |
| Business | Quan Zhang | Present |
| Business, Interim Dean | Judith Whipple | Substituted: Richard Saouma |
| COGS | Carly Gomez | Present |
| COGS | Hannah Jeffery | Present |
| Communication Arts and Sciences | Dan Hiaeshutter-Rice | Present |
| Communication Arts and Sciences | Jeffery Searl | Present |
| Communication Arts and Sciences | Rabindra "Robby" Ratan | Present |
| Communication Arts and Sciences, Dean | Prabu David | Present |
| Dean of Students | Anthony Williams | Present |
| Education | Emre Umucu | Absent |
| Education | Amelia Gotwals | Present |
| Education | Matthew Brodhead | Present |
| Education, Dean | Jerlando Jackson | Present |
| Emeriti Faculty | Gary Stone | Absent |
| Emeriti Faculty | David Long | Present |
| Engineering | Wei Liao | Absent |
| Engineering | Chengcheng Fang | Present |
| Engineering | Mark Worden | Present |
| Engineering | Neil Wright | Present |
| Engineering, Dean | Leo Kempel | Substituted: Thomas Voice |
| Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Information Officer | Melissa Woo | Absent |
| Faculty Grievance Official | Francisco Villarruel | Present |
| FRIB | Chris Wrede | Present |
| FRIB, Director | Thomas Glasmacher | Absent |
| Human Medicine | Scott Counts | Absent |
| Human Medicine | Amber Heard-Booth | Present |
| Human Medicine | Cristian Meghea | Present |
| Human Medicine | Hua Xiao | Present |
| Human Medicine | Michael Williams | Present |
| Human Medicine, Dean | Aron Sousa | Present |
| Interim Associate Provost for Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs | Ann Austin | Present |
| Interim Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement | Laurie Van Egeren | Present |
| James Madison | Daniel Ahlquist | Present |
| James Madison | Daniel Kramer | Substituted: Yael Aronoff |
| James Madison, Dean | Cameron Thies | Substituted: Linda Racioppi |
| Law | Jennifer Carter-Johnson | Present |
| Law | Wenona Singel | Substituted: Tiffani Darden |
| Law, Dean | Linda Greene | Absent |
| Libraries | Lisa Robinson | Present |
| Libraries | Rick Stoddart | Present |
| Libraries, Interim Dean | Terri Miller | Substituted: Arlene Weismantel |
| Lyman Briggs | Robert Pennock | Present |
| Lyman Briggs | Samantha Cass | Present |
| Lyman Briggs, Dean | Kendra Cheruvelil | Substituted: Georgina Montgomery |
| Music | Guy Yehuda | Absent |
| Music | Tasha Warren | Absent |
| Music, Dean | Jim Forger | Absent |
| Natural Science | Francois Greer | Absent |
| Natural Science | Min-Hao Kuo | Absent |
| Natural Science | Aaron Odom | Present |
| Natural Science | Thomas Hamann | Present |
| Natural Science, Dean | Phillip Duxbury | Present |
| Nursing | Gayle Lourens | Present |
| Nursing | Katherine Dontje | Present |
| Nursing, Interim Dean | Leigh Small | Present |
| Ombudsperson | Shannon Burton | Present |
| Osteopathic Medicine | Terrie Taylor | Absent |
| Osteopathic Medicine | Jacek Cholewicki | Present |
| Osteopathic Medicine | Kin Sing Lee | Present |
| Osteopathic Medicine | Jason Bazil | Substituted: Robert Wiseman |
| Osteopathic Medicine, Dean | Andrea Amalfitano | Present |
| President | Samuel L. Stanley | Present |
| Provost | Teresa Woodruff | Present |
| RCAH | Eric Aronoff | Present |
| RCAH | India Plough | Present |
| RCAH, Dean | Dylan Miner | Substituted: Terese Monberg |
| Registrar | Steve Shablin | Present |
| Senior Associate Provost | Thomas Jeitschko | Present |
| Senior Vice President for Student Life and Engagement | Vennie Gore | Present |
| Social Science | Pilar Horner | Absent |
| Social Science | Laurie Bulock | Present |
| Social Science | Raymond Jussaume | Present |
| Social Science | Peilei Fan | Substituted: Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani |
| Social Science, Dean | Mary Finn | Present |
| UCAG | Jack Lipton | Present |
| UCC | Alison Dobbins | Present |
| UCFA | Jamie Alan | Present |
| UCFT | Susan Barman | Present |
| UCGS | Anne-Lise Halvorsen | Present |
| UCSA | Jeffery Tsang | Present |
| UCUE | Antoinette Tessmer | Present |
| Veterinary Medicine | Sean Crosson | Present |
| Veterinary Medicine | Stephan Carey | Present |
| Veterinary Medicine, Dean | Birgit Puschner | Present |
| Vice President for Research and Innovation | Doug Gage | Present |