



Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The University Council of Michigan State University held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom with President Kevin Guskiewicz presiding. The agenda was approved after item 5.4. was moved to the beginning of New Business. The draft minutes of the February 20, 2024, meeting was approved as presented.

Remarks

President Guskiewicz, Interim Provost Thomas D. Jeitschko, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Norman J. Beauchamp Jr., M.D., MHS, and Faculty Senate Chairperson Jack W. Lipton, Ph.D. gave remarks.¹

Ad Hoc Committee on Free Speech and Hate Speech

Faculty Senate Chairperson Jack W. Lipton presented the slate of faculty members selected to serve on this ad hoc committee.

Citation Regarding Former Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff

Senator Danielle Devoss presented an honorary citation for former Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff and moved to approve the citation. The motion was adopted.

Resolution Regarding Miller & Chevalier Report

A resolution regarding Trustee conduct² was introduced to the University Council and a motion was made for its adoption by the University Council. The motion was adopted.

Undergraduate Enrollment and Student Success

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Mark A. Largent, Ph.D. presented on undergraduate enrollment and student success at Michigan State University. Discussion followed.

Graduate Enrollment and Student Success

Associate Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Pero Dagbovie, Ph.D. presented on graduate enrollment and student success at Michigan State University. Discussion followed.

Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance at MSU

Vice President for Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance & Title IX Coordinator Laura Rugless, J.D. presented on matters regarding civil rights at Michigan State University. Discussion followed.

¹ A recording of the remarks (and the rest of the meeting) is available at <https://acadgov.msu.edu/universitycouncil>

² See page 8 for the full resolution

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Secretary for Academic Governance

Approved:

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Attendance	
Present	78
Absent	3
Total	111
Quorum	57

Constituency/Title	Name	Attendance
Academic Specialist Advisory Committee	Megan Stevenson	Present
Administration	Ann Austin	Absent
Administration	Laurie Van Egeren	Absent
Administration	Doug Gage	Present
Administration	Vennie Gore	Present
Administration	Interim Provost Thomas Jeitschko	Present
Administration	Mark Largent	Present
Administration	Steve Shablin	Absent
Administration	Dave Weatherspoon	Present
Administration	Dean of Students Anthony Williams	Absent
Administration	Melissa Woo	Absent
Administration	Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Carmen Bueche	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Nur A. Halim	Present
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Sydney Logsdon	Present
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Jairahel Price	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Om Nair	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Cecilia Branson	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Samuel Murillo	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Harshita Rathod	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Lucero Castro	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Destiny Kanning	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Gabrielle Diaz	Absent

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Constituency/Title	Name	Attendance
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Eric Mercure	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Isabella Gentilozzi	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Alexis Barroso	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Laura Tran	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Akshith	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Asmaa Hasbini	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Margaux Smith	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Cixian Yang	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Chirag Bhat	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Aastha Patel	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Diya Patel	Present
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Noor Ghazali	Absent
Associated Students of Michigan State University	Justin Pecora	Absent
At Large	d'Ann de Simone	Present
At Large	Justin St. Charles	Present
At Large	Angela Wilson	Present
At Large, Chairperson	Jack Lipton	Present
At Large, Vice Chairperson	Rebecca Malouin	Substituted: Mitch Goldsmith
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Satish Joshi	Present
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Dean Kelly Millenbah	Present
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Matt Raven	Absent
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Jeff Swada	Present
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Lorraine Weatherspoon	Present
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Cimberly Weir	Present
College of Arts and Letters	David Medei	Present
College of Arts and Letters	Brahim Chakrani	Present
College of Arts and Letters	Danielle DeVoss	Present
College of Arts and Letters	Zach Kaiser	Present

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Constituency/Title	Name	Attendance
College of Arts and Letters	Dean Christopher Long	Absent
College of Arts and Letters	Kristen Mapes	Present
College of Communication Arts and Sciences	Dan Hiaeshutter-Rice	Present
College of Communication Arts and Sciences	Interim Dean Teresa Mastin	Present
College of Communication Arts and Sciences	Rabindra "Robby" Ratan	Present
College of Communication Arts and Sciences	Alexandra Thrubis Stanley	Present
College of Education	Amelia Gotwals	Absent
College of Education	Dean Jerlando F.L. Jackson	Present
College of Education	Matthew Pontifex	Absent
College of Education	John Carlson	Absent
College of Engineering	Chengcheng Fang	Absent
College of Engineering	Dean Leo Kempel	Absent
College of Engineering	Nizar Lajnef	Present
College of Engineering	Mark Worden	Present
College of Engineering	Neil Wright	Present
College of Human Medicine	Scott Counts	Present
College of Human Medicine	James (Jim) Anthony	Present
College of Human Medicine	Cristian Meghea	Present
College of Human Medicine	Dean Aron Sousa	Present
College of Human Medicine	Michael Williams	Present
College of Human Medicine	Hua Xiao	Present
College of Law	David Favre	Absent
College of Law	Dean Linda Greene	Absent
College of Law	Noga Morag-Levine	Present
College of Music	Jane Bunnell	Present
College of Music	Dean Jim Forger	Present
College of Music	Guy Yehuda	Absent
College of Natural Science	Gustavo de los Campos	Absent
College of Natural Science	Dean Phillip Duxbury	Absent
College of Natural Science	Francois Greer	Absent
College of Natural Science	Brian Gulbransen	Present

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Constituency/Title	Name	Attendance
College of Natural Science	Min-Hao Kuo	Absent
College of Natural Science	Aaron Odom	Present
College of Nursing	Gayle Lourens	Absent
College of Nursing	Dean Leigh Small	Present
College of Nursing	Chastity Warren	Present
College of Osteopathic Medicine	Dean Andrea Amalfitano	Absent
College of Osteopathic Medicine	Jason Bazil	Present
College of Osteopathic Medicine	Janice Schwartz	Present
College of Osteopathic Medicine	Terrie Taylor	Absent
College of Social Science	Laurie Bulock	Present
College of Social Science	Guo Chen	Present
College of Social Science	Dean Brent Donnellan	Present
College of Social Science	James Dulebohn	Absent
College of Social Science	Raymond Jussaume	Present
College of Social Science	Zeenat Kotval Karamchandani	Absent
College of Social Science	Patricia Macheemer	Absent
College of Veterinary Medicine	Stephan Carey	Absent
College of Veterinary Medicine	Sean Crosson	Present
College of Veterinary Medicine	Dean Birgit Puschner	Absent
Council of Graduate Students	Samara Chamoun	Present
Council of Graduate Students	Hannah Jeffery	Present
Council of Graduate Students	Harkirat Kaur	Present
Council of Graduate Students	Annabelle Miller	Present
Council of Graduate Students	Sohee Park	Present
Eli Broad College of Business	Ayalla Ruvio	Present
Eli Broad College of Business	John Spink	Absent
Eli Broad College of Business	Interim Dean Judith Whipple	Absent
Eli Broad College of Business	Quan Zhang	Absent
Emeriti Faculty	David Long	Absent
Facility for Rare Isotope Beams	Thomas Glasmacher	Present
Facility for Rare Isotope Beams	Chris Wrede	Present

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Constituency/Title	Name	Attendance
Faculty Grievance	Francisco Villarruel	Present
Graduate School	Dean Pero Dagbovie	Present
International Studies and Programs	Dean Steven Hanson	Present
James Madison College	Daniel Ahlquist	Present
James Madison College	Russell Lucas	Present
James Madison College	Dean Cameron Thies	Present
Libraries	Tad Boehmer	Present
Libraries	Dean Neil Romanosky	Present
Libraries	Kathleen Weessies	Present
Lyman Briggs College	Peter White	Present
Lyman Briggs College	Samantha Cass	Present
Lyman Briggs College	Dean Kendra Spence Cheruvelil	Absent
Ombudsperson	Shannon Burton	Present
Residential College in the Arts and Humanities	John Aerni-Flessner	Present
Residential College in the Arts and Humanities	Interim Dean Glenn Chambers	Absent
Residential College in the Arts and Humanities	Tama Hamilton-Wray	Present
University Committee on Academic Governance	Dean Rehberger	Present
University Committee on Curriculum	Valeta Wensloff	Present
University Committee on Faculty Affairs	Jamie Alan	Absent
University Committee on Faculty Tenure	Susan Barman	Present
University Committee on Graduate Studies	Trixie Smith	Absent Tom Sharkey
University Committee on the Libraries	Jackeline Iseler	Absent
University Committee on Undergraduate Education	Antoinette Tessmer	Present
University Committee on Student Life and Engagement	Connor Le	Absent



Whereas, ASMSU passed a resolution of no confidence in the Board of Trustees³, citing among other factors, Trustee Scott's allegations of Trustee Vassar's misconduct; and,

Whereas, The Faculty Senate passed a resolution⁴, calling on the Board of Trustees to remove Trustee Vassar as Chairperson, calling on Trustee Vassar to resign, referring her to the governor for removal per MCL 168.293, and authorizing the filing of a complaint with the university's accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission, that outlined Trustee Vassar's transgressions of Criterion 2C4 and 2C5, including:

- inappropriately interfering with matters delegated to the administration;
- appearing in an advertisement for the private wealth management firm founded and managed by a former trustee;
- traveling on a donor's private jet, accepting courtside tickets from an MSU donor, dismissing suggestions that her conduct was not consistent with the board's ethics standards; and,

Whereas, The Miller & Chevalier report⁵ substantiated several allegations against Trustee Vassar including all allegations cited in the October 26th Faculty Senate Resolution and new findings against Trustee Denno, that included, among others;

- interference in the final draft of the after-action report from February 13th, 2023;

³See ASMSU Bill No. 60-35 (November 2, 2023), <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14CrIZL7NaZgC5GoD0wxX7HV4iKlwu5IA/view>.

⁴ See Faculty Senate Resolution FS2324R03 (October 26, 2023), <https://acadgov.msu.edu/-/media/assets/academicgovernance/docs/faculty-senate/fs-2023-2024/fs-resolutions/fs2324r03-board-chairperson.pdf?rev=602ffa45d20e40aea2e1f8c637f3ac47&hash=EFB61BCD74BC6F471A0DDEECE1379EE>.

⁵ See *Michigan State University Independent Investigation Report* by Miller & Chevalier (February 28, 2024), <https://msu.edu/-/media/assets/msu/docs/issues-statements/msu-independent-investigation-report--feb-28-2024--redactedupdated-links.pdf?rev=6e36cfca79374c28b9d81e4baacc0706&hash=483929D1FD6EC34599D00C3B77E870A2>



- providing students with confidential information against university interests;
- Trustees Vassar and Denno retaliating against the Faculty Senate Chair through the manipulation of students; and,

Whereas, The Board of Trustees voted on March 3, 2024⁶, to censure Trustees Vassar and Denno, remove them from all current and future appointments during the Board's term ending December 31, 2024, except those activities and duties required as an elected official, and refer them to the governor for review and potential removal under MCL 168.293; therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Academic Congress endorses the actions laid out by the previously cited Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees Resolutions, and the Miller & Chevalier Report, calls for the resignation of Trustees Vassar and Denno, and endorses the removal of Trustees Vassar and Denno by the governor under MCL 168.293; and,

Resolved, That the Academic Congress condemns the retaliatory behaviors of Trustees Denno and Vassar, for exploiting students for political gain, inducing a culture of fear, weakening academic governance, jeopardizing the free, open expression of civil discourse, risking the accreditation of the university, unnecessarily dividing the Spartan community, and carelessly exposing the university to potential litigation; and,

Resolved, That, although censured by the Board of Trustees for revealing confidential information regarding ongoing litigation, the Academic Congress lauds Trustee Scott's courage for exposing transgressions substantiated by the Miller & Chevalier investigation including violations of the Board of Trustees Code

⁶ See the Board of Trustee's Executive Action Summary (March 3, 2024), [Miller and Chevalier Report Resolution.pdf](#)



of Ethics, Board policies, and Criterion 2 of the university's accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission; and,

Resolved, That the Academic Congress commends those who bravely came forward to sit for interviews and provide information to the Miller & Chevalier investigators; and,

Resolved, That the Academic Congress calls for mandatory, comprehensive Trustee onboarding and annual training, designed by internal and external experts, to prepare them for the rigors of the role and to restore confidence in the Board from the university community.